



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg



Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time August 25, 2019

THE NARROW DOOR

LUKE 13:22-30

501 Broad Avenue •~• Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Rev. Elmer Q. Alforque	Parochial Vicar
ealforque@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich	Business Manager
dliovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mr. Scott Martin	Director of Faith Formation
smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mr. Dean Dellamalva	Coordinator of Liturgical Music
ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mrs. Linda Drury	Parish Secretary
ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mrs. Darleen Koury	Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary
dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org	

Parish Telephone Numbers:

Parish Center/Office:	724-929-9300
Parish Fax:	724-930-7611
Faith Formation Office	724-929-9300

Emergency Number for a Sick Call:
724-684-7661

Parish Website: www.saintsebastianchurch.org

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses: Mon.—Fri. 8:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday 3:00—4:00 p.m.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Saint Sebastian Regional School

Mrs. Carol Aiello	Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mrs. Tiffany Miller	School Business Manager
tmiller@ssbv.org	
School Telephone	724-929-5143
School Fax	724-929-3038
Website	www.ssbv.org

Bulletin Deadline: 9:00 a.m. on Monday. Please print or type all announcements.

Ministry to the Homebound: For the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick, call the Faith Formation Office.. Extraordinary Ministers are available for Communion to the Homebound on Sundays.

Catholic Charities: Counseling is available through the Diocesan Catholic Charities Office. Call 724-929-4699.

Religious Education/Formation: Please call the Faith Formation Office at 724-929-9300.

(RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please call the Faith Formation Office.

Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangements are to be made at least six months in advance. Couples must participate in Marriage Preparation sessions.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants: Please call the Faith Formation Office to schedule Baptism and to register for the Baptism Preparation session held at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Parents must attend prior to their child's Baptism.

MISSION STATEMENT We the Parish Family of Saint Sebastian, Belle Vernon, serve people in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties. We are Roman Catholics of various ethnic backgrounds with strong family values demonstrating a variety of skills, trades and professions. The purpose of the parish is to glorify God by assisting the community on the "Journey of a Lifetime" through the Liturgy and Sacraments, teaching and preaching the Word of God, and witnessing to our faith. As a community of faith, we are committed to love of God and neighbor through worshiping together and serving others in caring for their spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Each of us is called to strengthen and reach beyond our parish through being responsible stewards of our time, talent and treasure in the spirit of our patron, St. Sebastian.

Position Available—

Director of Music Ministries

at the Church of St. Anne, 1870 Rostraver Road, Rostraver Township, PA 15012

Applicants will have a thorough understanding of Roman Catholic liturgy, proficient organ and keyboard skills and shall be responsible for the effective planning and execution of music within the liturgical celebrations of the Parish. Other responsibilities include playing three Masses on a weekend, Masses for Holy Days, Weddings, Funerals and Special Liturgies on the Petty Madden pipe organ and directing and playing for choir rehearsals, in addition to forming a youth Christmas choir. Scheduling and working with cantors, producing a weekly cantor notebook and providing a quarterly hymn schedule that coincides with liturgies are requirements. This position provides allowance for NPM and AGO dues and the NPM Annual Convention.

Knowledge of instruments and sound equipment is a plus.

Please contact Pastor, Father David Nazimek, 724-872-3555, for more information.

Second Collection this weekend is for the Catholic University of America and for our diocesan Catholic Schools.



A great big THANK YOU to all who volunteered last week to prepare food for the Parish Festival. Much was accomplished with so many volunteers. On **August 31**, the date set aside for making cabbage rolls, the time has been changed to 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall kitchen.

Secure Drop Box

A secure mailbox is located outside the Parish Office in the breezeway between the church and the Parish Office. If you have any correspondence, church envelopes, etc. you may place them in the secure mailbox if the office is closed. This mail slot for your convenience offers security for items left for the office.

A Message of Thanks

We received a note of thanks from the Friends of the Monessen Public Library for our donation of seasonal items. These were unsold articles from our annual Junque Sale. These items will be for sale at the Monessen Library's fund raiser.

Stewardship of Treasure

August 18, 2019

Regular Offertory: \$ 5,288.50 (283 envelopes out of 1299 families)

Youth: \$ 13.00

Loose: \$ 826.85

Total Offertory: \$ 6,128.35

Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory \$7,986.31

Over/(under) budget: \$ (3,176.06)

Average adult donation this weekend \$10.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance: \$ 129.00

Votive Candles: \$ 93.00

Capital Project/Roof Fund: \$ 69.00

Catholic Accent: \$ 641.50

Assumption: \$ 328.00

Total August 17/18 collection: \$7,385.85

Ministry sign up

In a few weeks we will be offering to you our parish family, the opportunity to share your time and your talent in some of the many ministries we have at the church. Please know that the gift of your time is the greatest way you can share your love of God through our ministries. Just to give you all a heads up we are asking people to share their talents as: Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, Altar Servers, Ushers, Children's Liturgy of the Word, helping with Formation with our youth and adults, singing with our choirs, Cantors and any other talent you may wish to share.

R.C.I.A.

We are looking for people who might be interested in R.C.I.A. This as you know, is the way you can become one with us in faith. Every one of us knows of someone who might have a curiosity about our faith. The question we all need to ask ourselves is: what have we done about it? How have we been inviting to people as far as our faith and church are concerned. We all know people who may not belong to any faith or may be discouraged with their faith. If so, why not invite them to come with you and learn about what our church is all about. We all have questions about our faith and we all can certainly learn more about what "church" is all about. This week, look around and try to recognize the people who might take you up on the invitation. If you need any help or would like to talk about it, please just give me a call in the office and I will gladly help. Also if you might be interested in working on an RCIA "team." please let us know by calling the office.

Volunteer for Faith Formation

Volunteers are needed as **catechists, particularly for 2nd and 6th grades**, substitute teachers, aides, and hall monitors. All clearances are necessary for those who work with children. Please call the Faith Formation Office to volunteer (724-929-9300).

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: **John S. Gira, Jr.** We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

**Ministries****Liturgies of the Week****August 24—Vigil**

4:30 pm Ray & Fosca Frederick & John Jarvis—Mark & Karen Frederick & Sons

August 25—Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Catherine Mendicino—Steve & Regina Angelo

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, August 26

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Peter Bednarczyk—Children

Tuesday, August 27—St. Monica

8:00 am Arthur P. Loera—Randy & Bernadine Seman

Wednesday, August 28—St. Augustine

8:00 am Sarah Bednarczyk—Shelby & Rose

Thursday, August 29—The Passion of St. John the Baptist

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Phillip Seman—Sisters, Francine, Mary & Annie

Friday, August 30

8:00 am Gene Lancas—Pete & Karen Vesely

Saturday, August 31

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday, August 31—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Mary Louise Barger—Sandy & Sam Cover

September 1—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

11:00 am Thomas Hartman—Jon & Lucretia McCrory

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Aug. 31 4:30 pm A. & A. Peden

Sunday, Sept. 1 9:00 am J. & G. Pokol

11:00 am B. Barber, T. Breckenridge

Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers

Saturday, Aug. 31

4:30 D. Free S. Wawro M.A. Cialone, M. Moody
M. Free, S. Wawro

Sunday, Sept. 1

9:00 L. Kapolka B. Moskovitz J. Russell, M.A. McMillen
L. Kibler, B. Moskovitz

11:00 T. Sebetich E. Breckenridge M. Kelly, S. Kroskie
Volunteer Needed, E. Breckenridge

GRACE AND STRUGGLE

The gift of grace increases as the struggles increase.

-St. Rose of Lima

Scripture Study

Join us on Sundays, between Masses from 10:15 to 11:00 am for Coffee/Tea & Reflection in the Parish Hall. The scripture passage of the week will be our focus.. No registration. Door is always open. All are welcome.

Catholic Charities Offers Counseling

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg offers counseling provided by licensed, professional and experienced therapists. For information call 724-837-1840 or email counseling@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Experience the Passion Play of Oberammergau, Germany in 2020

You are invited to join the Diocese of Greensburg as we journey in 2020 on pilgrimage to witness the world-famous Passion Play of Oberammergau, Germany. Pilgrimages are set for May 22 – June 3 and August 25 – September 5. Space is limited. Itinerary includes sites and shrines of Bavaria, Prague, Krakow, and Warsaw in addition to the Passion Play. Contact Father Willie Lechner, Diocesan Pilgrimage Director via email at wlechner@dioceseofgreensburg.org or by landline phone at 724.552.2645 for details and registration information.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will resume on Monday, **September 16** from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. If you have any questions, contact Carol Korber at 724-929-4249.

Theology on Tap

Young adults, 21-40 years of age are invited to Corleones' Bar and Grill, Willowbrook Plaza (near Shop 'n Save) this Thursday, **August 29** from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. The guest speaker will be Fr. David Nazimek, pastor of the Church of St. Anne, Rostraver.

16th Annual St. Sebastian Golf Outing (Proceeds benefit St. Sebastian Regional School)

Saturday, **September 21** at Cedarbrook Red Course. 8:00 a.m. registration and 9:30 a.m. Shotgun start; 4 Person Scramble; Prizes at every hole. Cost is \$ 95/person. The price includes golf, cart, hot breakfast, snacks, lunch at turn, dinner, refreshments and a welcome gift. To participate or volunteer, call or text John Stawovy, 724-323-6425. Flyers are in the church pamphlet racks.

Prayer for a New School Year



"God of wisdom and might, we praise you for the wonder of our being, for mind, body, and spirit. Be with our children as they begin a new school year. Bless them and their teachers and staff. Give them the strength and grace as their bodies grow; wisdom and knowledge to their minds as they search for understanding; and peace and zeal to their hearts. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

(Whitney Hetzel-The Catholic Co.)

Parking When School is in Session—School begins next Monday, **August 26**. For safety reasons, the Parking Lot behind the Church is to remain empty from 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on school days. If you are planning a visit to the school or coming to daily Mass when school is in session, please park in the lot below Henry Street or the lot along Fayette and Henry Streets. Thank you for your consideration and God bless you.

TRAVEL GROUP

ARK ADVENTURE BALANCE MUST BE IN BY AUGUST 30.

Join us on Thursday, **October 10**, to see MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET a musical of the Rock n Roll era.

If you enjoy music from the 50's, 60's and 70's, Elvis, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins, then join us on October 10 to see Million Dollar Quartet. Cost is \$105 and must be paid in full by **August 30 with your reservation.**

Don't miss this fabulous show along with lunch at DeNunzio's Italian Chophouse, a tour of Quecreek Mine Site, and topped off with a free Sundae at Dairy Queen.

For more information, call Sandy Wawro at 724-938-0865.

FROM THE PASTOR**Will all be saved?**

Our readings speak to us today about how God invites the “whole world” to feast in the kingdom. Isaiah tells us that the voice of God beckons people from all nations to come and share in His Kingdom. As the people in the days of Isaiah heard these words, they were hard for them to comprehend, but if we are honest with ourselves, it is just as hard for us today.

As people we too easily forget how amazing and undeserved the grace that brought us to our present privilege and citizenship was. So much so that we begin to feel entitled. This notion of entitlement begins to show in all areas of life. For example, in bumper-to-bumper city traffic when lanes on the freeway are forced to merge, have you ever watched in disbelief as a car is granted access to the open lane by a gracious driver who slows to allow space in front, only to watch that same vehicle so recently grafted into the traffic lane refuse access to another car seeking the same mercy from him. How quickly we forget mercy extended to us when it comes our time to pass it along to another.

Or a toddler, who receives all of her toys freely given from the sacrifice and love of parents, nevertheless learns quickly to angrily hurl the words “MINE” and “NO” when another child wanders into her play area to pick up one of her toys. How quickly today’s gifts become tomorrow’s entitled possessions!

To bring this point even closer to home we can look at the current issues surrounding immigration. Granted, there are a number of complexities with the whole immigration question, but it is still puzzling and ironic to hear so many Americans who are themselves descendants of immigrants to this country, resenting and resisting the next generation of immigrants who seek to come to America. How easy it is to forget that most of us are not too many generations removed from those hearty and hopeful forebears who came to this country by way of Ellis Island, or who were shipped here on slave ships against their will, but who nonetheless helped build and shape the character and strength of this great nation. What if the borders of America had been closed to our ancestors, as some want to do to present day immigrants today? Again, yesterday’s gift can easily become today’s entitlement.

Isaiah speaks of a God who wants divine mercy and favor extended to all nations. God does not want any second class citizens, all are welcome. Jesus carries this same idea in the gospel for today. Basically what he is saying is that we have no right to stop God’s grace and favor from being shared with anyone; no matter where they may be from or how they live. God’s grace is open to all who want to accept it, the invitation is given freely to all people.

Granted, there are many things we take for granted in life and there are many ways that we feel entitled, however we must tread lightly when we speak of our faith and belief in God. That is something that we must never take for granted or feel entitled over. We are reminded today that all of God’s children are in the same position in life and Jesus meant it when he said that the last may very well come first. In answer to the question “will many be saved,” Jesus assures us that we are all given the same opportunity to embrace the salvation offered to us through the grace of God!

Lord, please remember the sick, the homebound and those in nursing homes from our parish and community:

Doreen Abler, Minerva Albert, Donna Biagini, Sally Biava, Anthony Boyle, Dane Breakwell, Brennan Breakwell, Tricia Pelissero Bruenn, Adam Canigiani, Jr., Elizabeth Cannizzaro, Ron Carson, Eric Cecchetti, Josie Cekinovich, Jenna Christner, Albert Cialone, Joe Ciferno, Sr., Elaine Costello, George L. Cowan, Bernadette Dayner, Frank Delia, Betty Eversburg, Jean Ferreri, Autumn Fields, Betty Fisher, John Fisher, Dolores Frazier, Mary Gira, Wayne Granchai, Michael J. Hazy, Betty Jean Henderson, Avery Kazakewicz, John Kelemen, Jr., Bronson Keller, Sr., Jackie Koliscak, Jared Konsugar, Terry Krolik, Lilian Laird, Cole Layhue, Catherine Lennex, James Litterini, Marjorie Lopez, Marge Marek, Stephen McCulloch, Brandon Morris, Tricia Pelissero Narus, Val Novak, Paul Novakovich, Melissa O’Brien, Julia Paholski, Shirley Patten, Jack Pesi, Joy Pozum, Barbara Riffle, Joel Rivera, Dorothy Rodgers, Mary Ann Rocco, Matthew Ross, George Rue, Betty Savarino, Patricia Senko, Betty Smereczniak, Robbie Stout, Ralph Swantek, William Tansmore, Joseph P. Trenk, Debra Vaden, Christopher Valerio, Arlene Vargo, Melvin Walkush, Sr., Jack Welshans, Helene Wozniak, Paul Zoppetti.

Lord, give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Please Note: If you know of someone who has recovered from his/her illness, or perhaps has passed away, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.