



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time ~ February 16, 2020



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Rev. Joel Boco	Parochial Vicar
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Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich	Business Manager
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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, Tues, Wed, 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
tnmiller@sssbv.org	
School Telephone	724-929-5143
School Fax	724-929-3038
Website	www.sssbv.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 Wednesday 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.



SCHOOL NEWS

Kindergarten Registration/Screening for the 2020-21 school year will be held **March 20**,

2020. Please contact the office to schedule a time. 724-929-5143 or email EFouch@sssbv.org.

Catholic Schools Week

Two weeks ago we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. It was a wonderful week full of many exciting events at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School. We are grateful to everyone who makes this education possible for our children. I want to thank all who have contributed in any way to Catholic Education in our Parish.

Scholarship for Graduating Seniors

The Knights of Columbus #954 offer a scholarship to graduating seniors whose father or grandfather belong to court #954 in Monessen. If you would like an application you can pick it up in the office.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There is NO class for CCD students tomorrow, Monday, **February 17**, in observance of President's Day. Classes resume on Monday, February 24 at 6:15 p.m.

Adult Ed / Bible Study

Epiphany will start Adult Ed on Monday, **March 9**. This session's topic will be **Panorama of the New Testament** through Little Rock Scripture. This four week study "...invites us into familiar scenes but with a wide-angle lens to capture the big picture."

During this Lenten season, take the time to learn more about Jesus' world and how it still relates to ours. The cost is \$10 to cover the cost of the book.

Deadline for registration is Sunday, February 16. To register, or have any questions, call the office or email Tara at tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org St. Sebastian will offer a course on Forgiveness on Thursdays during Lent, there will be sign up sheets in the back of the Church for anyone interested in attending. The class will start at 6:30 in the Church.

Second Collection next weekend the Utilities & Maintenance collection.

St. Sebastian Travel Group "Queen Esther", Lancaster **April 28/29**. 10 seats available for this new show. **Balance due now.**

"Buddy Holly" on **July 23**, join us at the Mountain Playhouse, Jennerstown. For more information, call Sandy Wawro at 724-938-0865.

Spreading the Good News

During Lent, the decorating Committee from Epiphany will be selling car magnets after Masses, or you can stop by St. Sebastian office to purchase one. This is a great way to spread awareness of Christ during this season. There are a limited quantity of the magnets. They are \$5.00 each and measure 6 1/4" x 6 1/2" inches at the widest point.

Music and Liturgy

Words and music belong together. Sometimes an association between words and music is so strong that we find it difficult to say the words without singing the tune-or to hear the melody without also thinking of the words.



Try saying the words of the "Star-Spangled Banner" without the melody. If you're like most people, you're probably stumbling a bit. Now try it with the tune, Makes a big difference, right? Some texts just don't seem right without music. Have you ever tried gathering around a cake ablaze with candles and just saying the words of "Happy birthday"? Have you ever attended a football game where the crowd only recites the words of the school fight song?

Music has long played an important role in the life of the Church, especially in proclaiming, praying, and responding to the Word of God. The bishops who gathered at the Second Vatican Council recognized the intimate connection between word and music, declaring that the Church's musical tradition is of preeminent value because "as a combination of sacred music and words, it forms a necessary or integral part of the solemn liturgy" (Second Vatican Council, Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, no. 112.) Copyright 2009, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We are all called to fully participate at the Liturgy through prayer and song!

STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE—February 9, 2020

Regular Offertory: \$6,489.00 (292 envelopes out of 1,264 families)

Youth: \$ 15.00

Loose: \$ 783.05

Total Offertory: \$ 7,287.05

Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory \$7,865.38)

Over/(under) budget: (\$1,376.38)

Average adult donation this weekend: \$10.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 50.00
Votive Candles:	\$ 233.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 363.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 5.00
Church in Eastern Europe:	\$ 140.00
Food Bank:	\$ 50.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 5.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 10.00
Catholic Relief Services:	\$ 10.00
Lenten Offering:	\$ 550.00

Total February 8/9 collection: \$ 8,208.05

From the Pastor—We all have the freedom to choose...

Have you ever felt like you didn't have much choice leaving you feeling like a victim? I think that most of us can certainly relate to that. Today our readings are about God's laws and our choices in life. Sometimes it is almost frightening how much power we actually have with our freedom to make choices.

The first reading is taken from the book of Sirach which belongs to the collection of writings known as Wisdom literature. The section we hear today is part of a larger discussion of human responsibility addressed to people who blamed God for the conduct of the wicked. In a religious environment in which God was seen as the ultimate author of every action, some people tended to hold God responsible for evil and suffering, thereby prohibiting us to have faith in God's goodness. Today we hear Sirach responding to those claims by reminding us of personal responsibility, emphasizing that those who choose to do so can keep the commandments. He insists that each of us account for our own choices, reminding us that God's commandments offer the path of true life. By making it clear that the responsibility for our own actions lies solely on us, God cannot be blamed for the injustice and evil in our world. Ultimately the God of such tremendous wisdom gives us the free will to make the choice for life in all the situations we face.

Continuing with the Psalm we are reminded that God's laws are full of wonders, and when followed with all of our hearts and all of our being, life will work out as it should. It is when we use our freedom of choice to go against God's laws that life becomes complicated. Jesus explains at great length in today's gospel how God's laws need to be followed.

The part of the Gospel that we call the Sermon on the Mount is a collection of Jesus' teaching that Matthew puts together in one carefully constructed discourse. In this section, Jesus expresses a great respect for His Jewish tradition as He teaches His disciples on what it means for them to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

The passage for today starts off by telling us how Jesus did not come to abolish the law, rather He came to fulfill or complete it. He then proceeds to take several of the commandments, one after the other, and interpret them in a whole new light. Jesus becomes the new giver of the Law like Moses, by handing down a new series of commandments far more challenging than the first. What Jesus does is take a teaching or law that is well known and takes it to its root meaning. For example, He demonstrates that the sin of murder has its roots in anger and disrespect of another. He broadens the original law to address anger. Anger, including demeaning others by calling them names such as *raqa*, Aramaic for imbecile or idiot, can cause harm to others. This can be just as damaging as murder itself.

Another law or commandment that Jesus speaks of, deals with adultery, which was understood in the day of Jesus as an offense against the husband, whose property had been abused by another. This teaching in Jewish tradition leads directly to the presence of divorce. Under traditional law, only the man could initiate a divorce, and, according to some interpretations, he was free to do so for the slightest of provocations. Jesus redefines this law and promotes the dignity of women, saying they cannot simply be handed off as property.

Jesus calls each of us to seek reconciliation with anyone who is angry with us, otherwise our sacrifice is hollow. We all can control our own behavior and do not have to be dictated to by somebody else. By exercising our freedom of choice we are able to embrace the loving law God puts before us; or we can choose another path and deal with the consequences.

Liturgies of the Week**February 15—Vigil**

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Matthew Canestrone, Jr.—Dilegge Family

February 16—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Matthew Zoppetti, Sr.—Ron & Jackie Novak

Monday, February 17

8:00 am Babe & Clara Tonarelli—Daughters

Tuesday, February 18

8:00 am B. Anthony Bury—Grandma

Wednesday, February 19

8:00 am John & Darlene Lloyd—Helga Lloyd

Thursday, February 20

No Mass Today

Friday, February 21

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Chad Angelo—Grandmother, Mary Hufford

Saturday, February 22

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday, February 22—Vigil

4:30 pm Ralph L. Hufford—Family
Sacrament of Baptism

February 23—Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am (MM) Ashley Schmidt—Stella Marie Kroskie

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Feb. 22 4:30 pm S. Molesky, M. Wasicek
Sunday, Feb. 23 9:00 am J. Pokol, J. Zelenski
11:00 am L. DiPietrantonio, E. Angelo

Lectors**Lit. Coordinators****Ministers****Saturday, Feb. 22**

4:30 D. Free S. Wawro M. Moody, K. Rygiel
M. Free, S. Wawro

Sunday, Feb. 23

9:00 M. Murphy B. Moskovitz M. & R. Smereczniak
B.A. Linskens, B. Moskovitz
11:00 C. Rhodes C. Korber J. Cannizzaro, M. Iacoboni
C. Rhodes, C. Korber
Choir: T. Barger

HOMEBOUND PARISHIONERS

If you are temporarily homebound or unable to come to church, Fr. Joel will come to visit you, to bring you the Sacraments, or just to talk. Please call him at 724-244-2993 to set up a date and time that you would like him to visit.

St. Vincent de Paul Society St. Sebastian Conference will meet on **Tuesday, February 21**, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.