



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

Presentation of the Lord—February 2, 2020



801 Broad Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
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Rev. Joel Boco	Parochial Vicar
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Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich	Business Manager
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Mr. Scott J. Martin	Director of Faith Formation
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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
caielo@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.

Decorating Committee

We will meet on Monday **February 3rd** to plan what will be done for Lent and Easter. Everyone who is interested is most welcome to attend. We will meet in the church at 6:00 pm.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Monday, **February 10**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center.

Second Collection this weekend is the diocesan collection for the Church in Eastern Europe

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

St. Sebastian Travel Group

“Queen Esther”, Lancaster **April 28/29**. 10 seats available for this new show.

“Buddy Holly” on **July 23**, join us at the Mountain Playhouse, Jennerstown.

“Canadian/New England Cruise”, **October 3 – 11**, for additional cabins, contact Sandy at 724-938-0865.



ST. SEBASTIAN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Open House
Sunday, February 9
12:30 until 2:30 p.m.
724-929-5143

8th GRADE RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CONTINUES

There will be a meeting for the parents and students in the 8th grade who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on November 7, 2019. The meeting will take place **tomorrow**, Monday, **February 3** in St. Sebastian Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m.

BEST LENT EVER!

You’ve Got 40 Days, Who will You Become

Possibilities are everywhere! Big possibilities. Small possibilities. Amazing possibilities. God sees them all. And the saints are ready to help you see them, too. Join Matthew Kelly and the Dynamic Catholic Team for another incredible journey through our BEST LENT EVER daily video reflections. Because Lent isn’t about what you give up. It’s about who you become. To sign up visit: info@dynamiccatholic.com.

Blessing of Throats

In the Pastoral care of the sick we are told: “Suffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems that trouble the human spirit. Christians feel and experience pain as do all other people; yet their faith helps them to grasp more deeply the mystery of suffering and to bear their pain with greater courage...Part of the plan laid out by God’s providence is that we should fight strenuously against all sickness and carefully seek the blessings of good health, so that we may fulfill our role in human society and in the Church.

Each year on **February 3rd** the Church commemorates the feast of Saint Blaise, who lived in the fourth century and was the bishop of Sebaste in Armenia. Very little is known about his life but according to various accounts he was a physician before becoming a bishop. He was reputed to have miraculously cured a little boy who nearly died because of a fishbone in his throat. Since then, the church has blessed the throats of those who choose to have it done. We ask for the blessings of God through the prayers of St. Blaise to help us stay healthy and free from illness.

We will bless throats tomorrow after the 8:00 am liturgy. If you are not able to come then, just stop by at the office and I would be happy to bless your throat.

THE WELL

Men’s Conference at WCCC

The diocese’s second THE WELL Men’s Conference will be held **March 21** at Westmoreland County Community College, Youngwood. The event includes workshops, discussions, the sacrament of reconciliation and adoration, and it concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Malesic at 4 p.m. Open to men 18 years of age and older. The keynote speaker will be Mike Clark. Doors open at 7:15 a.m. and the conference begins at 8:30 a.m. Register at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/ THEWELL by March 11. Registration includes breakfast and lunch. Francis Fund scholarships are available to cover the \$50 registration fee. Apply at dioceseofgreensburg.org/franciscfund by March 2. Questions? Email THEWELL@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

January 26, 2020

Regular Offertory: \$6,989.00 (317 envelopes out of 1,263 families)

Youth: \$ 4.00

Loose: \$ 966.00

Total Offertory: \$ 7,959.00

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

Over/(under) budget: (\$876.38)

Average adult donation this weekend: \$10.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	65.00
Votive Candles:	\$	228.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	138.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	87.00
Christmas:	\$	50.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	10.00
Food Bank:	\$	332.00

Total January 25/26 collection: \$ 8,869.00

From the Pastor—The Presentation of the Lord

It has been forty days since we celebrated the Nativity of the Lord. It is the final visit to Jerusalem that Jesus made which we all remember, when he was welcomed by cheering onlookers, celebrated the Last Super, was arrested, sentenced, and put to death. Today we celebrate that day when Mary and Joseph, in fulfillment of the Law of Moses, came to Jerusalem and presented Jesus to God in the Temple. This is an important day not only in the life of Christ, but also in our own lives. Our liturgy has Joseph and Mary presenting Jesus to the temple as it was prescribed by law. The Son of God approaches His people in the most vulnerable way. Jesus enters the Temple as a helpless infant in Mary's arms, protected by Joseph. This is not much different than when parents bring their child to be baptized. Every parent wants the very best for their children, and every parent fears what might lay ahead for their children.

When Christ was presented in the temple, Jesus approaches His people in the most vulnerable way. Those in the temple see a poor couple carrying two turtledoves, obviously people of little or no importance. But "there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and a prophetess Anna, inspired by the Holy Spirit who see more. In the infant, they see the salvation of the nations..." He embraced the child and gave thanks to God that he lived long enough to see God's salvation. "...a light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of thy people Israel." Because of the words that Simeon spoke in reference to Jesus being the light to the gentiles, the custom was developed to bless candles on this feast, hence this day also became known as Candlemas day.

As we embrace the promise that Simeon experienced we all are reminded that God has also made a promise to each of us. Through the light of Christ we have all been brought into the glory of God's kingdom. Like Joseph and Mary we are to trust that God's will be done and that God's help will always be there for us if we have faith and believe.

Simeon saw the salvation of all people's in the child Jesus. He recognized Jesus' identity. Do we recognize the Child in others? In the poor and destitute? In the refugee and the immigrant? In the prisoner or the homeless person begging on the street corner? The Light of Christ burns within all of us. As we live our lives we are all called to react the same way as Simeon and Anna did by recognizing the presence of the Divine in others.

It was after Anna's encounter with Jesus that she spoke to "all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem." She was the second witness, but did anyone listen to what this old lady had to say? Or did the people in the temple just dismiss her as just a crazy old lady? Remember that it's women who are first to visit the empty tomb. When they return to the apostles with this great news that Jesus had been raised, the apostles thought "their story seemed like nonsense and they did not believe them." Would Anna have fared any better when telling people that this tiny baby would be the source of their salvation? We all need to be open to the messengers that God puts before us, I am sure there have been many times when we have just dismissed the "messenger" and totally disregarded the message. It is the wonder of God that works in mysterious ways, we must always remember that!

Liturgies of the Week**February 1—Vigil**

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Helen Palli—Ruth Jane Todd & Family

February 2—The Presentation of the Lord

9:00 am (Death Anniv) James V. Bitonti—Wife & Family
11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
Boy Scout Sunday

Monday, February 3—St. Blaise

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Ann Mazurek—Aunt Loretta

Tuesday, February 4

8:00 am (MM) Ella Marion—Christine & Richard Giannamore

Wednesday, February 5—St. Agatha

8:00 am (MM) Jim & Betty Savarino—Bob & Sharon Niccolai and Family

**Thursday, February 6—St. Paul Miki and Companions
No Mass Today****Friday, February 7**

8:00 am Thomas R. Hartman—Rose Ann Geho

Saturday, February 8

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday, February 8—Vigil

4:30 pm Fr. Joseph Kleffner—Brother, John Kleffner

February 9—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Chris Bosch—Family

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Feb. 8 4:30 pm M. Hamed, M. Wasicek

Sunday, Feb. 9 9:00 am J. Pokol, R. Buretz

11:00 am E. & L. Baron

Lectors**Lit. Coordinators****Ministers****Saturday, Feb. 8**

4:30 C. Gorski

J. Moody

M. Grados, L. Santori
T. Rodriguez, J. Moody

Sunday, Feb. 9

9:00 M. Shaughnessy

L. Kibler

R. & M. Smereczniak
B. A. Linskens, L. Kibler

11:00 L. Nallo

H. Baron

G. Rush, M. Strickland
C. Korber, H. Baron
Choir: M. Druciak

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: THOMAS TOLLAN, JULIA PAHOLSKI, ASHLEY SCHMIDT and JUSTINA BARON. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

BOY SCOUTS—Today, Sunday, **February 2**, during the 11:00 a.m. Mass, members of our Boy Scout Troop #1543 will be in full uniform as they attend Mass for this annual celebration of Boy Scouts.