



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 23, 2020



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Rev. Joel Boco	Parochial Vicar
jboco@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
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 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.

Belle Vernon Rotary Annual Pancake Festival

The Belle Vernon Area Rotary will sponsor their annual Sausage and All-You-Can-Eat-Pancake Festival on Shrove Tuesday, **February 25**, from 11:30 am until 7:00 pm in our Parish Hall. Tickets may be purchased from any Rotarian or at the door.

Little Things for Little People

Little Things for Little People program is sponsored by the Belle Vernon Ministerium and is held at our church the 4th Thursday of each month. We are in need any size diapers, wipes, baby lotion, wash, shampoo, baby powder, diaper cream as well as monetary donations. We invite you to come see the room located in parish office and learn more about our program. We are hosting an open house donation day on **Monday, February 24** from 9:00 am-12:00 pm.

St. Sebastian Travel Group
 "Queen Esther", Lancaster **April 28/29**.

Seats are still available.

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.

Second Collection this weekend is the Utilities & Maintenance collection; Next weekend is the annual Catholic Home Missions collection.

EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD LENTEN FISH FRY BEGINS

The Lenten Fish Fry starts on Ash Wednesday and will run every Friday during Lent except Good Friday. Eat in or take out. Fish Fry runs from 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Free local delivery between 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. 724-684-5512.

THE WELL—Men's Conference

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.

DID YOU LEAVE SOMETHING BEHIND IN CHURCH?

The lost and found box will be in the church vestibule by the St. Joseph statue this weekend. Please check to see if your lost item is there.

Regional Lenten Penance Services

The priests of Region 8 and visiting priests will be available for individual Confession and Absolution. All services are at 7:00 p.m.



Church of St. Anne/Holy Family **at Holy Family**, West Newton, **March 24**

Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen, **March 26**

St. John the Baptist Church, Perryopolis, **March 31**

St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon, **April 2**

Ash Wednesday

This week we begin the season of Lent with the celebration of Ashes. The schedule for Ash Wednesday is: 9:00 Mass; 4:00 Service with Ashes only; 7:00 Mass. The schedule at Epiphany will be 8:00 Mass; 12:00 Mass and 6:00 Service with Ashes only. I hope that you can begin this season with the mark of ashes to define our journey through these holy days.

Volunteers are needed

Help to make soup for the Craft/Vendor Sale. Volunteers are needed on **March 14**, at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall. We will be making delicious soups for the soup and sandwich sale. Please call 412-393-9319 for more information.

Spreading the Good News

Lenten themed car magnets can be purchased at St. Sebastian parish office. 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.

BEST LENT EVER!

You've Got 40 Days, Who will You Become

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.

STEWARDSHIP of TREASURE

February 16, 2020

Regular Offortory: \$9,387.00 (306 envelopes out of 1,264 families)

Youth: \$ 22.00

Loose: \$ 776.00

Total Offortory: \$ 10,185.00

Amount budgeted for weekly regular offortory \$7,865.38

Over/(under) budget: \$1,521.62

Average adult donation this weekend: \$10.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	37.00
Votive Candles:	\$	277.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	202.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	261.00
Church in Eastern Europe	\$	25.00
Ash Wednesday :	\$	26.00
Lenten Offering:	\$	185.00

Total February 15/16 collection: \$ 11,198.00

From the Pastor—Be Holy as God is Holy

Once again Jesus puts before us a challenge as to whether we are serious about being one of His disciples. We are told that we must pray for our enemies and all of those who might wish us harm. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus tells us: “You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of God in heaven...” Jesus’ words leave little wiggle room. To be children of our Father in heaven, we need to love our enemies and pray for them.

Our first reading this week comes from the book of Leviticus which is a book of laws. The Lord tells Moses to call the entire people to imitate God’s own holiness. It is through God’s laws that we are given a practical way of living right with God. The laws of God are not arbitrary, but rather a revelation of how to become holy as the God who revealed them is holy.

In the second reading Paul speaks to the people at Corinth. He formed that community only to have another come in and preach a different message. Paul doesn’t want to get into any debate about who is right or wrong. He simply reminds the Corinthians that God dwells in their community as in the Temple of Jerusalem. When he insists that the Spirit of God dwells in them, he is talking in the plural. They are a temple, not as individuals, but as a community. Anyone who destroys the unity of the community is destroying God’s very dwelling.

Jesus in the gospel gives us a message that is a difficult one to embrace. In looking at what Jesus is saying with an historical perspective these words build the foundations of an extremely creative, nonviolent opposition to evil. The three examples Jesus uses come from daily life, depicting relationships between people of unequal social, economic, and political status. The first example refers to a master striking a servant. Matthew is careful to specify that the person is struck on the right cheek: the blow was backhanded, a gesture which demeaned at least as much as it caused physical injury. The person who turns the other cheek refuses to be humiliated, indicating nonverbally that he has the same dignity as the one doing the striking.

The next example has to do with one’s cloak. Here again, when a destitute person needed a loan, he might have no collateral beyond his tunic. According to Exodus, a lender must return the cloak at night because it also served as a blanket. If the person delayed too long in repaying, the lender could assemble a group to judge the debtor and gain the right to retain the cloak. The poor person had no recourse except the dramatic gesture of handing over his tunic. This is an example of how the justice of the wealthy left the poor naked.

The third example deals with the notion that Roman soldiers had the right to press a citizen into service, but only for one well-marked mile. If they went further, they were liable to serious chastisement. Thus, the person who offered to go another mile not only asserted their own freedom, but put the soldier in the awkward position of requesting a return of his burden. Jesus’ call to love our enemies does not ask for passivity, but an active love that reveals injustice for what it is without returning it in kind. It is a call to respond to evil by giving witness to God’s creative love in Jesus, a response worthy of people who are called to be God’s temple.

Liturgies of the Week**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

Monday, February 24

8:00 am Daniel “Bud” Steban, Jr.—Dee Naylor & Family

Tuesday, February 25

8:00 am Mary Miller—Steve Komacko

Ash Wednesday, February 26

9:00 am Vince Mancuso, Jr. - Sisters, Sue Ann & Bonnie

4:00 pm Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of Ashes

7:00 pm For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Thursday, February 27**No Mass Today****Friday, February 28**

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Marie Jane Hazy—
Michael Hazy & Family

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 29

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday, February 29—Vigil

4:30 pm In Honor of Catherine Diederich’s 96th
Birthday—Family

March 1—First Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 am Thomas & Virginia Abbott—Daughter, Carole &
Family

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Feb. 29 4:30 pm A. Peden, R. Buretz

Sunday, Mar. 1 9:00 am V. & V. Francia

11:00 am T. Breckenridge, B. Barber

Lectors**Lit. Coordinators****Ministers****Saturday, Feb. 29**

4:30 C. Gorski J. Moody

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

Sunday, Mar. 1

9:00 L. Kapolka L. Kibler

D. Stasko, J. Russell
M.A. McMillen, L. Kibler
S. Kroskie, M. Strickland
R. Messick, E. Breckenridge
Choir: S. Messick

11:00 M. Patterson E. Breckenridge

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died:
IRENE J. BAKER. We extend our sympathy to her family. May
she rest in peace.

Altar Candle Ring Flowers this weekend is In Honor
of Catherine Diederich’s 96th Birthday by her Family.

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.

