

# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

March 8, 2020

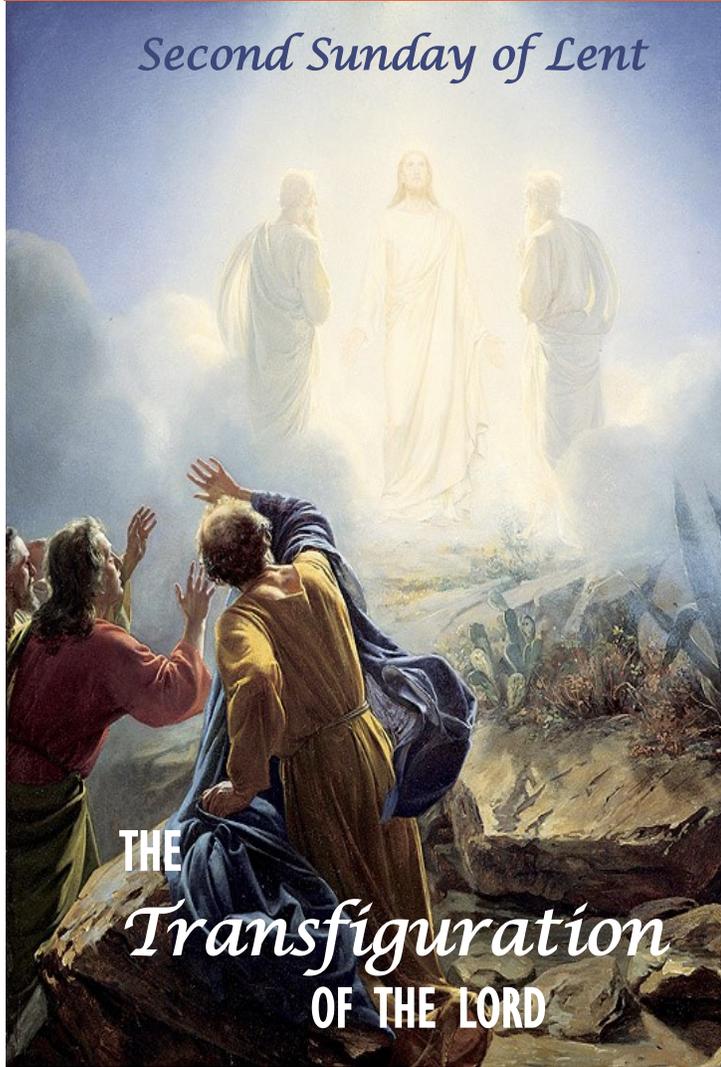
## Mass Schedule

**Saturday**  
**4:30 PM**

**Sunday**  
**9:00 AM**  
**11:00 AM**

**Monday, Tuesday,**  
**Wednesday, and Friday**  
**8:00 AM**

*Second Sunday of Lent*



THE  
*Transfiguration*  
OF THE LORD

## Parish Staff

**Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor**

[mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Rev. Joel Boco Parochial Vicar**

[jboco@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jboco@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager**

[dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation**

[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music**

[ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary**

[ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary**

[dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

## Saint Sebastian Regional School

**Mrs. Carol Aiello: Principal**

[caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager**

[tnmiller@ssbv.org](mailto:tnmiller@ssbv.org)

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ [ssbv.org](http://ssbv.org)

### 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.

### 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.

### Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 p.m. or by appointment.

**MONTHLY OVERVIEW**—Listed below is a breakdown of what our monthly expenses were as opposed to the amount of money taken in. We will be providing this to you on a monthly basis.

February Expenses	Amount
Maintenance	\$ 330.00
Phone	\$ 257.61
Utilities	\$ 3,756.98
Misc. Office	\$ 3,422.12
Church/Liturgy	\$ 443.92
Payroll	\$ 24,098.29
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 14,581.21
(Breakdown)	
Accent	\$ 1,108.19
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,951.04
Dio. Assessment	\$ 4,029.59
Insurance	\$ 2,393.39
Data Processing	\$ 45.00
Liturgical books:	\$ 54.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 46,890.13</b>

Week	Collection
February 2	\$ 10,412.05
February 9	\$ 8,208.05
February 16	\$ 11,198.00
February 23	\$ 9,464.00
February 29	\$ 2,630.03
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 41,912.13</b>

## A Special Thank You

Sincere thanks to our parishioner, Mr. Greg Buretz, who designed our bright new bulletin cover. Thank you, Greg, it's lovely.

### Filling the Ark

Thus far our ARK is empty. We have a long way to go to fill it up. Remember if you wish to make a contribution to the Heifer project, just drop your donation into the collection basket.



**The gift of a goat:** Did you know that more people rely on goats for milk than cows. They're a great alternative for families who live in rocky

mountainous areas or own little land. Goats often give about four quarts of milk a day – just the right amount if you don't own a refrigerator. Goat manure makes a fantastic fertilizer for increasing vegetable crop yields, and goats give birth to two kids a year, providing a steady source of income.

### Stations of the Cross

The stations have been a Lenten Devotion probably since Lent has been celebrated. Although Stations have been a popular tradition that has been handed down through the ages, there are not many people who take advantage of the spiritual gifts they can bring. We pray the stations each Friday during Lent at 6:00 in the Church.

### Paschal Candle

If you would like to sponsor either a portion or the whole cost of the Paschal Candle this year, please call the Parish Office. This Candle may be in memory of a loved one, or for a special intention.



**FORGIVENESS WORKSHOP** on Thursday's during Lent at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

### DLA

This week, we celebrate the Second Sunday of Lent. Also, this weekend marks the beginning of our annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal. This past week households in our parish should have received a request from Bishop Malesic in the mail along with additional information about the Appeal.

Just like a plant needs sunlight, water and nutrients to grow, every Christian needs certain elements of faith in order to Grow in the Lord. During the Lenten season, we work to deepen our relationship with the Lord through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. With that in mind, please consider sharing your blessings to help our faith community Grow in the Lord. Donate today to the 2020 Diocesan Lenten Appeal at [DioceseofGreensburg.org/GROW](http://DioceseofGreensburg.org/GROW).

**STEWARDSHIP—March 1, 2020**  
**Regular Offertory: \$5,682.00**  
**(306 envelopes out of 1,264 families)**

**Youth: \$ 34.00**  
**Loose: \$ 912.00**  
**Total Offertory: \$ 6,628.00**  
**Amount budgeted \$7,865.38**  
**Over/(under) budget: (\$2,183.38)**  
**Average donation: \$10 per envelope**  
 Utilities & Maintenance: \$ 91.00  
 Votive Candles: \$ 149.25  
 Capital Project/Roof Fund: \$ 668.00  
 Catholic Accent : \$ 17.00  
 Sanctuary Flowers: \$ 8.00  
 Ash Wednesday: \$ 417.00  
 Lenten Offering: \$ 1,431.00  
 Home Missions: \$ 909.00

**Total collection: \$ 10,318.25**

### Catholic Sisters Week Events

The following women's religious communities are holding events in observance of Catholic Sisters Week March 8-14.

Sisters of St. Basil the Great, open house celebration, **March 8**, 2-4 p.m. at 500 West Main St., Uniontown. Contact Sister Barbara Jean Mihalchick, OSBM, 724-438-7149.

Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill, Blankets for Children Bash, **March 11**, 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Seton Hill University Campus Ministry Lounge on the second floor of the administration building. Contact Sister Barbara Ann Smelko, SC, at 724-454-8524.

Sisters of St. Benedict, open house celebration, **March 12**, 3-7 p.m. at St. Emma Monastery, Greensburg, Contact Sister Maria Johanna, OSB, at 724-834-3060, ext. 213.

### MINISTERIUM LITURGY & LUNCH

On Wednesdays during Lent, 12 Noon at the following churches:

**March 11**—Fells Methodist Church  
 1268 Fells Church Road, Belle Vernon

**March 18**—First United Methodist Church  
 200 State Street, Belle Vernon

**March 25**—Rehoboth Presbyterian Church  
 442 Rehoboth Church Road, Belle Vernon

**April 1**—Lynnwood Lutheran Church  
 900 Washington Road, Belle Vernon

### Lenten Penance Services—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**

## From the Pastor—Where Will Our Journey Lead Us?

There are a number of “personal” challenges laid out for us from our readings this week. The familiar story of the Transfiguration of Jesus tells us of God’s dream for who we shall be by grace. Abraham shows us what is necessary for the success of our journey; that we should leave home with all of its familiar surroundings and venture into God’s unknown future. Then, Paul advises us not to expect that our own hopes and plans will be a trustworthy guide to what God might have in store. All of this points to our own journey of faith and life.

First we hear how Yahweh reaches out to Abram with a promise. The very first word spoken to Abraham by God is simply “go.” This is where his journey begins; he starts a pilgrim journey towards a land yet unknown to him but which God promises to show him. A true leap of faith demonstrating the trust Abraham put in that command. Abraham has to put all of his trust in God’s word. His personal story now becomes the story of a people; a story brightened up by God’s countless blessings. The question we are to ask ourselves is: who and what have we left behind in order to be faithful to God’s call?

While we tend to understand faith, Catholic or otherwise, as the adherence to a given set of beliefs and rules, it is all the more refreshing to be sent back to the beginnings of biblical faith and to be reminded of what the first steps and the essence of faith are. What comes first is God’s word which is clearly an invitation to set out on a journey, whose destination is known by God alone. Do we walk with this kind of faith, or do we have to be certain where our journey will take us? Are we open to something new that God may have in store for us or do we not like surprises on our journey? Abraham went as the Lord asked. This is faith, pure faith at its best: trusting in the Lord and in all of the promises made, opening our lives to a journey towards unknown territory.

Paul advises in the second reading that we should not trust our own hopes and plans to be a trustworthy guide to what God might have in store. To what extent have we kept that kind of flame alive? Sometimes we focus way too much on the internal problems facing our church today. We worry about what tomorrow might or might not bring. We forget that God keeps calling us to new challenges and to new discoveries, accomplishments and rewards. Have we lost sight of our final destination or would it be that on our own journey in faith we have never experienced the rewards and the blessings of the journey itself?

The Transfiguration reminds us that it is all about our journey and where that journey will lead us. While it was safe for the disciples to remain on the mountain where everything was familiar and comfortable, Jesus quickly reminds them that their journey does not end there, that they must go down from the mountain, into the world where both pain and love co-exist. There Peter, James, and John will find God; and so will we. We cannot stay on top of the mountain like the disciples wanted to. We cannot hold onto God and try to keep God locked up in some remote place. God must be found in the everyday routine of our lives, at the foot of the mountain where we live. It is there that we must “listen to him,” no matter where our journey might lead us or what change might be waiting for us in life.

## Liturgies of the Week

### March 7—Vigil

4:30 pm Philomena & Sam Iacovangelo—Tammy & Tim

### March 8—Second Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 am (Death Anniv) Rose Walters—Children

### Monday, March 9—St. Frances of Rome

8:00 am Catherine Mendicino—Catherine Martin

### Tuesday, March 10

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Josephine Bach—Family

### Wednesday, March 11

8:00 am Barbara Timlin—Jimmy & Rhonda Timlin

### Thursday, March 12

### No Mass Today

### Friday, March 13

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Arthur F. Trilli—Jack & Fran Koschalk

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 14

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

### Saturday, March 14—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Bill Picchiarini—Wife, Joan & Family

### March 15—Third Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 am Michael C. Shaffer—Ed & Melanie Pearce

### Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Mar. 14 4:30 pm M. Hamed, M. Wasicek

Sunday, Mar. 15 9:00 am Volunteer Needed

11:00 am E. & L. Baron

### Lectors

### Lit. Coordinators

### Ministers

### Saturday, Mar. 14

4:30 D. Free

S. Wawro

M. Free, M. Moody  
K. Rygiel, S. Wawro

### Sunday, Mar. 15

9:00 M. Murphy

B. Moskovitz

D. Stasko, M.A. McMillen  
L. Turcheck, B. Moskovitz

11:00 T. Sebetich

H. Baron

G. Klamerus, C. Korber  
M. Strickland, H. Baron  
Choir: T. Barger

## Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: MARCIA S. GRECO and GEORGETTA WILES. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

## 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.

## Festival “2020” Meeting

On Tuesday the 10<sup>th</sup> of March at 6:00 we will have a meeting to look at this year’s festival. We will also review the findings from last year. Please know that anyone who wants to help with the festival this year is most welcome. Your input and your ideas are important. I hope to see many of you in Church on the 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.