



# St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania  
Charitable  
Trust

A Parish of the  
Diocese of  
Greensburg

## Fourth Sunday of Easter—May 12, 2019



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

### Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor  
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager  
dlisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mr. Scott Martin Director of Faith Formation  
smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org  
Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music  
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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

**Parish Website:** [www.saintsebastianchurch.org](http://www.saintsebastianchurch.org)

### Weekend Masses:

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

### Weekday Masses:

Tuesday and Friday 8:00 a.m.  
Holy Days, Holidays, call the Parish Office

### 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. - 5:00 p.m.

### Saint Sebastian Regional School

Dr. Nina Zetty Principal  
nzetty@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](http://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 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.

**Diocesan Lenten Appeal**

We are still inching our way to the Diocesan goal of **\$60,675**. We have heard from 183 people and have collected **\$43,652** in gifts. We still have a lot of people in the parish who have not yet responded. We need to remember that we are all in this effort together and it is only when we work together that we achieve success. If you have not yet responded to this year's appeal, there is still plenty of time. Please know that I am grateful to all of you for everything that you do for our parish.

**Catholic Communication Campaign**

Our Diocese will take up the annual collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) on May 18-19. By generously supporting this collection, you are spreading the Gospel and helping others encounter Christ every day. Your gifts not only support projects on a national and international scale but also here in our own diocese. Half of all the proceeds from this collection stay here in the Diocese of Greensburg to support our local communications efforts, including The Catholic Accent newspaper and magazine, The Accent On-Air quarterly television show, the diocesan website and thru social media platforms. The remaining half of the proceeds from the collection support communications projects around the world. Because of you, people can once again hear radio programs that deepen their faith. It is only through your generosity that this project, and others like it, can spread the Gospel around the world.

On this **Mother's Day** we ask God's blessing on all Mothers of our Parish and all Mothers visiting with us this Sunday. You are a reminder of how God loves and cares for all of us, His sons and daughters, as you nourish and nurture your families. May God bless you today and everyday. Happy Mother's Day to all of you! We will have a Special Blessing for all Mothers at all Masses.



**A Special Thank You** to Steve and Sarah Zolock for their continued service by sharing their talents making the church landscaping so beautiful. "Thank you Steve and Sarah for all that you do."

**Car Show**

On the **18<sup>th</sup> of May** Epiphany of Our Lord will be having their first "Car Show." We are hoping for a good turnout. If you have a Car – Motorcycle –or Truck that you would like to show, give us a call. If you have any questions you can call Chris Coccari at 724-777-3328 for more information.

**Second Collection** this weekend is the monthly Utilities & Maintenance collection.

**Paschal Candle Flowers** this week are in memory of Thomas & Julia Volek by their children; the **Candle Ring Flowers** are in memory of Merry K. Hewitt by her daughters, Sissy & Dayna.

**Travel Group  
2019 Travel Group Trips**

- ★ In Jennerstown:
    - Mid Life 2—Aug. 8
    - Million Dollar Quartet—Oct. 10
  - ★ Sweet Treats & Fancy Eats in York & Lancaster—July 25 & 26
  - ★ Ark Adventure in Kentucky—Oct. 16-17.
- For information, call Sandy at 724-938-0865.

**Stewardship of Treasure—May 5, 2019**

<b>Regular Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 6,222.50</b>	<b>(301 envelopes out of 1301 families)</b>
<b>Youth:</b>	<b>\$ 39.68</b>	
<b>Loose:</b>	<b>\$ 913.00</b>	
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 7,175.18</b>	
<b>Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory</b>		<b>\$7,986.31</b>
<b>Over/(under) budget:</b>		<b>\$ (1,763.81)</b>
<b>Average adult donation this weekend</b>	<b>\$10.00</b>	<b>per envelope</b>
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	55.00
Votive Candles:	\$	216.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	794.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	91.50
Good Friday :	\$	27.00
Easter :	\$	165.00
Ascension:	\$	23.00
Catholic Communications:	\$	12.50
<b>Total May 4/5 collection:</b>		<b><u>\$ 8,559.18</u></b>

**Congratulations and Blessings to Fr. Elmer Alforque, our Parochial Vicar, on the occasion of the 25th Anniversary of his ordination. May you remain close to God in your service to His people.**

Rev. Fr. Elmer Q. Alforque is one of the international priests who is invited to work for the Diocese of Greensburg. He came from Southern Philippines in the island of Mindanao. He is 50 years of age and 25 years in the priesthood. He arrived in the Diocese on March 1 2019 with another Filipino priest. After having accomplished all the necessary requirements to work in the Diocese, on May 2, Bishop Malesic, through Msgr. Larry Kulick, the Vicar General, officially assigned him to St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon and Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen, as Parochial Vicar.

### Parish Assembly

On **May 20** at 6:30 pm we will have a parish assembly in the church. This is a good time for me your pastor to get to know you and hear your wishes and dreams for our parish, but it is also a good time to give you all a presentation of where we are as a parish. I am hoping that many of you will be able to come to this meeting. In the meantime, think about what you would like to see happen in our parish and how we can become more vibrant. All of your suggestions and comments are most welcome. So, mark your calendars and plan on attending this parish assembly. There will be a reception following in the parish hall. I hope to see you all there on the 20<sup>th</sup>!

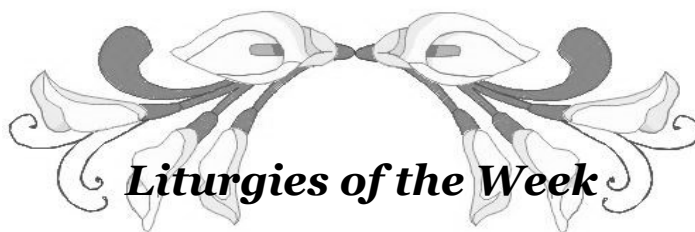
### High School/College 2019 Graduates

**You are invited to attend the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, June 2**

A letter has been mailed to those students who, according to our records, will graduate High School this year. Please fill out the form, at the bottom of the letter, and return it to the Parish Office no later than Friday, May 24. (Forms are also in the pamphlet racks). Those who are graduating from college or with post-secondary degrees are also most welcome to attend.

### Baptism Congratulations

Callan John Harper, son of Leigh Harper, and Eliyanah Grace Linskens, daughter of Michael and Bobbi Ann (Wright) Linskens were baptized in Christ last weekend. We welcome Callan and Eliyanah into the Church. God bless them and their families.



### May 11—Vigil

4:30 pm For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

### Mat 12—Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Intention of All Mothers

11:00 am Intention of All Mothers

### Monday, May 13—Our Lady of Fatima

8:00 am Mary Ann Melanowski—Son, Greg

### Tuesday, May 14—St. Matthias

8:00 am Mary Louise Barger—Pat & John Mullen

### Wednesday, May 15—St. Isidore

8:00 am Stella Povlish—Erika & Jeff Pesarsick

### Thursday, May 16

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Lottie Lancas—Ann Uram

### Friday, May 17

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Sandy Gaudio—Mary & Rick Smereczniak

### Saturday, May 18

*Sacrament of Reconciliation*

### Saturday, May 18—Vigil

4:30 pm Bill Picchiarini—The Money Counters

### May 19—Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am John M. Nusser, Sr.—Wife, Jerry

11:00 am Joseph Kubitza—Wife, Betty Jane & Family

*Sacrament of Baptism*

### Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, May 18 4:30 pm S. Molesky, M. Hamed

Sunday, May 19 9:00 am G. & J. Pokol

11:00 am E. & L. Baron

### Lectors

### Lit. Coordinators

### Ministers

### Saturday, May 18

4:30 C. Gorski J. Moody J. Wiggins, M. Grados, M. Free  
M.A. Cialone, J. Stringhill, L. Santori, J. Moody

### Sunday, May 19

9:00 L. Kapolka L. Kibler L. Turcheck, J. Russell, D. Seman  
B.A. Linskens, M. & R. Smereczniak, L. Kibler

11:00 L. Nallo H. Baron J. Cannizzaro, G. Klamerus  
G. Rush, C. Korber, E. Studnicki, M. Strickland, H. Baron  
Choir—T. Barger

**Sympathy and Prayers** Please remember in your prayers those who have died: James Lee Pascoe and Mary Worry. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

## Thank You to Our Religious Education Volunteers

Monday, May 6, was final class of the 2018/2019 Religious Education Program. The classes include Grades K through Grade 8, for students of Saint Sebastian and Epiphany of Our Lord Parishes.

Sincere thanks to all the Religious Education teachers and aides:

Grade K—Colleen Lazar & Carrie Angelo

Grade 1—Reva Savage

Grade 2—Lianne DeFelices

Grade 3—Sandy Wawro

Grade 4—Sharon Fedorski

Grade 5—Stella Kroskie

Grade 6—Carol Rhodes

Grade 7—Rachel Hoffman & Nicole Heckel

Grade 8—Flo Petrosky

Hall Monitors—Diane McGrew and Darleen Koury.

Also many thanks to all who volunteer their time and talents to this Ministry by sharing their Catholic Faith with the young people of these parishes.



✠ **Are you seeking God?**

✠ **Do you know someone who wants to know more about our Catholic faith?**

✠ **Are you a baptized Catholic who hasn't celebrated Confirmation or First Eucharist?**

**Maybe it's time for Inquiry!**

St. Augustine said, "Our hearts are restless, until they can find rest in you, Lord." If you or someone you know is searching for God, Inquiry can help. It is an informal gathering of those who are curious about the Catholic church and are discerning whether they feel God's presence here. It is a time for questions, concerns, and seeking. There are no commitments and no requirements. If you would like to learn more, call Scott Martin, 724-929-9300.

### Prayer Shawl Ministry

Donations are needed to purchase yarn and other items to continue this ministry. For more information, call 724-929-9300.

The next Prayer Shawl ministry will be tomorrow, **May 13**.

### GCC Alumni Mass at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral

The Greensburg Central Catholic Alumni Association invites alumni, family and friends of the school to a Mass celebrated by Bishop Malesic on June 2 at 2 p.m. at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral. Respond to [GCCHS.org/AlumniMassRSVP](http://GCCHS.org/AlumniMassRSVP).

## School News

Please contact the School to register: 724.929.5143.



### Diocesan FamilyFest

You are invited to a day of fun, games, food and faith at the diocese's second annual FamilyFest on Sunday, **June 9**, at the Christ Our Shepherd Center. The day begins with an outdoor Mass at 11 a.m. For information, and to register your child, go to [FamilyFestGreensburg.org](http://FamilyFestGreensburg.org).

### Pittsburgh Steelers to hold youth mini-camp at GCC

The Pittsburgh Steelers will host a mini-camp at Greensburg Central Catholic **June 20** from 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. The non-contact camp is open to boys and girls ages 6-14. The cost is \$60. For information, go to [steelers.com/youthfootballcamp](http://steelers.com/youthfootballcamp). Click on REGISTER NOW, click on "2019 Youth Mini-Camps" at the top of the page, then go to the "Greensburg (Central Catholic)" link to register.

### Catholic Youth at Cedar Point

Parish youth in grades 5-12 are invited to join the Diocese of Greensburg on Tuesday, **June 18**, for a trip to Cedar Point amusement park in Ohio. The cost is \$90. Registration deadline is June 16 or when the buses are filled. For information, [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/CedarPoint](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/CedarPoint).



***FROM THE PASTOR*****Good Shepherd Sunday**

The Fourth Sunday of Easter has always been referred to as “Good Shepherd Sunday.” The image of the Shepherd is one of intimacy; of listening and being attentive to those that are being watched over: “My sheep hear my voice...and they follow me.” When one considers the prevalence of sheep and shepherd images in Scripture we can understand why this is such a powerful image. Sheep are the most frequently mentioned animal in the Bible with about 400 references. The figure of a shepherd gets the honor of about 100 references. In this nomadic and agricultural culture, sheep gained a reputation as symbols of spiritual realities. Shepherds were tenders of flocks and therefore seen as leaders and providers. It was the task of a shepherd to lead his sheep at night away from predators into a safe sheepfold where they could graze, water and sleep. The shepherds never left their flocks for without them, the sheep would die. Shepherds often symbolized moral innocence and their piety was often idealized. It was no accident that the shepherds were the ones to first announce the birth of Jesus.

Although this was a vital and important image for the early Christians, it certainly doesn't have the same impact on people living in this modern world. In fact, people are often insulted when they are referred to as sheep. People often see sheep as being dirty and stupid. When we get right down to it, how many people living in our mostly urban society have ever seen sheep? One can spend a whole lifetime and never even see live sheep.

If we are to believe polls, Christian people do not see their religious leaders as “shepherds” today. We often see those pictures and statues of the Good Shepherd with a cute little lamb draped over his shoulder which may mislead us into thinking that following Jesus is a sweet, pious and easy venture. But Jesus is both the Good Shepherd and the Lamb who was slain. Encountering Jesus as the shepherd opens us to his care and love for us; encountering Jesus as the Lamb who was slain open us to the cost of following Jesus. While following the Good Shepherd leads us to “eternal life,” the way of discipleship is not easy. As the first reading reminds us, discipleship always takes us through suffering, rejection and persecution. However, no matter what the cost of following Jesus we are not alone nor are we abandoned to our own resources. The risen Jesus is always present within us. No matter what we might encounter in following Jesus, nothing or no one can take us out of his care. This is, indeed Easter Good News.

Longing for wholeness and goodness is at the very center of who we are. However, how we go about finding this is up to us. Some people choose to focus on themselves, amassing as much money or wealth as they can since these seem to promise security and pleasure. Some people control other people, thinking power can make them whole. Others try to be “goody, goody two shoes,” attracting others to a false image of themselves that cannot last. Still others withdraw within themselves trying to shut out the evil and sadness and loss of hope which is around us.

And then there are those who get it right: the only true way to wholeness and goodness is to follow Jesus along the path of self-sacrifice, willing to be a lamb for the sake of others. This is what Good Shepherd Sunday is all about; it's about a God who so deeply cares for us that the only Son became the lamb and was slain. We will ultimately be saved not by power, but by pastoral caring and gentleness.

***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, David Dubinsky, Darlene Engel, Betty Eversburg, Jean Ferreri, Autumn Fields, Betty Fisher, John Fisher, Dolores Frazier, John Gira, Mary Gira, Wayne Granchai, Michael J. Hazy, Betty Jean Henderson, Maureen Jenkins, Avery Kazakewicz, John Kelemen, Jr., Bronson Keller, Sr., Jackie Koliscak, Jared Konsugar, Terry Krolik, Lilian Laird, Cole Layhue, Catherine Lennox, James Litterini, Marjorie Lopez, Marge Marek, Stephen McCulloch, Brandon Morris, David Moskovitz, Tricia Pelissero Narus, Val Novak, Paul Novakovich, Melissa O'Brien, Julia Paholski, Jim Pascoe, Shirley Patten, Jack Pesic, Joy Pozum, Barbara Riffle, Joel Rivera, Dorothy Rodgers, Mary Ann Rocco, Matthew Ross, George Rue, Betty Savarino, Patricia Senko, Betty Smereczniak, Ralph Swantek, William Tansmore, Joseph P. Trenk, Debra Vaden, Christopher Valerio, Arlene Vargo, Melvin Walkush, Sr., Jack Welshans, Helene Wozniak.

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.***

# **Bible Story Fun Days**

**6pm -8pm  
Grades k-6**

Crafts & Videos  
Songs & Snacks  
Bible Lessons

**3 great bible stories, 3 summer evenings**

## **Sower and the seeds**

Saint John the Baptist Tuesday June 11th  
OR  
Epiphany Of Our Lord Wednesday June 12



## **Lost sheep**

Saint John the Baptist Tuesday July 9  
OR  
Epiphany Of Our Lord Wednesday July 10

## **Good Samaritan**

Saint John the Baptist Tuesday August 13  
OR  
Epiphany Of Our Lord Wednesday Aug 14



REGISTRATION FOR VBS ON NEXT PAGE

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 2019 REGISTRATION FORM

Registration: Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_

Parents Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and locations attending:

\_\_\_\_\_ JUNE 11, St. John the Baptist **or** \_\_\_\_\_ JUNE 12, Epiphany of Our Lord

\_\_\_\_\_ JULY 9, St. John the Baptist **or** \_\_\_\_\_ JULY 10, Epiphany of Our Lord

\_\_\_\_\_ AUG. 13, St. John the Baptist **or** \_\_\_\_\_ AUG. 14, Epiphany of Our Lord

We will gladly accept a \$5, \$10, or \$15 donation to cover the cost of each evening.

**Please register by June 1.**

**Drop off form at your church or mail in.**

*Please note below if your child has special needs or allergies.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### HELPERS NEEDED

Youth and adults needed to assist us. Please consider helping out.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

### Office of Faith Formation

Epiphany of Our Lord~St. Sebastian & St. John The Baptist Parishes  
801 Broad Ave, Belle Vernon, PA 15012 -- 724-929-9300 --  
[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)