



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

Fifth Sunday of Easter—May 19, 2019



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Staff

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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

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

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 worshipping 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

It appears as though we have a long way to go with our DLA this year. We are still about \$15,000 short of our Diocesan goal of \$60,675. To date we have heard from 205 of our parishioners and they have contributed \$45,702. We still have over 70% of our parish that we have not yet heard from. If we could only hear from those who have not yet responded, I am confident that we will not only reach the Diocesan goal, but also our parish goal. I am asking that you please consider being a part of DLA this year. If you have any questions or concerns about this campaign, please know that I will certainly do my best to answer your questions. It would certainly speak volumes about our parish if we had 100% participation! Please know that I am grateful to those of you who have already contributed, and all I ask is that you be a part of the process, even if you are only able to give \$1 you will still be a part.

Travel Group

2019 Travel Group Trips

★ Sweet Treats & Fancy Eats in York & Lancaster—July 25 & 26

★ In Jennerstown: Mid Life 2—Aug. 8

Million Dollar Quartet—Oct. 10

★ Ark Adventure in Kentucky—Oct. 16-17.

For information, call Sandy at 724-938-0865.

Flowers This Week

Flowers for the Paschal Candle this week are in memory of Margaret George by Eleanor & Jim Burrows.



Annual Junque Sale

The dates have been set for the Annual Junque Sale: **July 26th & 27th**. It's time to clean out that attic, closets and drawers. Collections will begin every Monday and Wednesday from 10-12 and 6-8 pm beginning May 20. Follow the donation sign. Call Bonnie Halinka at 724-322-0355 if you would like a personal appointment to deliver your treasures. Volunteers are needed.

Second Collection this weekend is for the Catholic Accent, our diocesan newspaper.

✝ 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.

Stewardship of Treasure—May 12, 2019

Regular Offertory: \$ 5,936.00 (299 envelopes out of 1302 families)

Youth: \$ 30.00

Loose: \$ 618.25

Total Offertory: \$ 6,584.25

Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory \$7,986.31

Over/(under) budget: \$ (2,050.31)

Average adult donation this weekend \$15.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance: \$ 1,704.00

Votive Candles: \$ 270.25

Capital Project/Roof Fund: \$ 374.00

Catholic Accent: \$ 350.00

Easter: \$ 20.00

Ascension: \$ 10.00

Catholic Communications: \$ 5.00

Immaculate Conception: \$ 100.00

Total May 11/12 collection: \$ 9,417.50



Memorial Day Decorating

This year on Memorial Day

“The Good Ol’ Days Housel” in North Belle Vernon will host its 6th Annual Memorial Day Bike Decorating Contest. ALL patriotic Americans of ALL AGES are invited to decorate their bikes, trikes, wagons, scooters, even wheelchairs to demonstrate their appreciation and support for those who have paid the ultimate price, our nation’s heroes. Join us on Monday, **May 27th** at the Belle Vernon American Legion Post 659 Parking Lot at 8:30 AM. Please call or text 724-331-3654 to REGISTER or email to: Melanie@Nostalgicguesthouse.com. Judging will take place at 9:00 am with awards for *Most Original, *Most Attractive, & *Most Patriotic. Prizes will be awarded at the conclusion of the Wreath Laying & Memorial Service at the BV Cemetery. Get out your red, white & blue and hope to see you there.

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. Reception follows. Respond to GCCHS.org/AlumniMassRSVP.

Boy’s Choir Concert We’re very excited!

The St. John’s Boys’ Choir of central Minnesota will hold a concert at Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen, on Saturday, **June 8** immediately following 4:00 p.m. Mass. The boys were invited to perform at Carnegie Hall, NY in the near future. They have shared their sacred music in some of the world’s most famous churches including Notre Dame in Paris, Sagrada Família in Barcelona, and Christ Church Cathedral in Dublin. The group was founded in 1981 by Br. Paul Richards and the Saint John’s monastic community. Their repertoire includes sacred motets, classical masterpieces, folk music from around the world, and contemporary theatrical and popular selections.

Catholic Charities’ 18th annual Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing

Catholic Charities’ 18th annual Paul R. Smiy Memorial Golf Outing will be held **August 9** at the Ligonier Country Club. Registration is 8:30 a.m., shotgun start at 10. \$150 per golfer includes food, prizes and dinner. Register online at ccharitiesgreensburg.org. For sponsorship packages and other information: Heather Rady, 724-837-1840 or hrady@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

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.

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. 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.

FROM THE PASTOR**How do you Love?**

We are certainly not getting anything new from our scriptures today. They echo the same message that resounds throughout the teachings of Jesus; namely that we are simply to “have love for one another.” It is somewhat ironic that such a simple message be repeated over and over again, but this sums up Jesus’ entire ministry. If we were to take apart everything that Jesus did and taught it could be seen through this simple command of loving one another. I think that the question we need to ask ourselves is how something so simple can be so hard...but it is!

We need to be clear in our understanding that Jesus is not expecting us to do this alone; we will have his divine guidance and strength throughout our lives. If we listen to what is being told to us in our readings today, this certainly proves his point. The first reading once again informs us of the issues that the early church was having, along with the personal struggles of the disciples. This was no easy battle and it certainly would have been hard to make this command of Jesus a part of their everyday life. To love as Jesus commands is not easy; it requires a great deal of reserve on our part.

Our reading from Revelation reminds us that there is a great reward awaiting all of those who follow the law of love. We are given a picture of what it will be like at the end of time. The great battle between good and evil, between the powers of this world and Christ are over. Christ now reigns over his kingdom. This vision gives all who believe a vision of hope. The old world of grief, pain, and mourning has ended and God is promising his eternal presence in the midst of the old city of Jerusalem. All of this awaits those who “love.” These passages of reassurance offer a vision of joy and promise, now free from fear of enemies. Everything is new. The old order has passed away. It is the culmination of every hopeful promise made in the Scriptures and unites believers everywhere with God.

All good things will come to those who love as we are being asked. This new command that Jesus gives is all about the paschal transformation that challenges us. We are to make the self-sacrificing love of Jesus a part of who we are and what we profess to be. Our Easter joy is not found in avoiding the costs it makes on our lives, rather we are to embrace life for the sake of the new heaven and earth that it promises. By our own self-sacrificing love, we are the presence of the risen Christ for others.

We are all drawn to give of ourselves in love. The problem is we all seem to define love to fit our needs and wants. We are all well aware of the fact that true love in the way that Jesus commands is hard. It is not just in words that we live this command; we must make it a part of our everyday living.

The question we need to ask ourselves is: How do we love? How do we experience love and what do we do to reflect Christ’s commandment “to love one another”? This is what it means to be a follower of Christ. It is not what we say that is so important rather it is how we live and how we love that makes the real difference.

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., Sabra Clark, 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 Lennex, James Litterini, Marjorie Lopez, Marge Marek, Stephen McCulloch, Onie Misher, Brandon Morris, David Moskovitz, Tricia Pelissero Narus, Val Novak, Paul Novakovich, Melissa O’Brien, Julia Paholski, Shirley Patten, Jack Pesi, 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.