



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

Sixth Sunday of Easter—May 26, 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
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.—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. - 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

We are getting close to wrapping up this year's DLA, and we still have a long way to go. To date we have heard from only 225 of our parishioners and from these families we have collected \$49,222 which is 81% of our diocesan goal and 57% from our parish goal. We have heard from only about 18% of our parish which means that 82% of our parish has not responded.

I'm not sure what this says about our parish, but it doesn't look real good. Sometimes we forget that we are all connected to one another not only as a parish but also as a diocese. It certainly would speak well of us as a parish family if we had a better response. I believe that it is far more important to be a part of the process than the amount of money we get. If you are only able to give \$1, at least you will be a part of the process.

I am asking that in these last few weeks of the campaign, won't you consider being a part of this year's DLA. If you have a problem with DLA or any questions, please know that I am available to answer them.

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

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

The meeting is **Tuesday, May 28**, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

Flowers Last Week

The **Candle Ring** flowers were in memory of Julianna Walkush by Bucky and Carol; the



Paschal Candle flowers were in memory of the deceased members of the Ciccarelli and Semancik families by Joan & John Ciccarelli. **Flowers this weekend** are in memory of Margaret George by Eleanor & Jim Burrows.

Annual Junque Sale

The Annual Junque Sale is **July 26th & 27th**. Collections are every Monday and Wednesday from 10-12 and 6-8 pm. Follow the donation sign. Call Bonnie Halinka at 724-322-0355 if you would like a personal appointment to delivery your treasures. Volunteers are needed.

The parish office will be closed May 27, Memorial Day; and May 30, Ascension Thursday.



✠ **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 19, 2019

Regular Offertory:	\$ 5,008.00	(286 envelopes out of 1301 families)
Youth:	\$ 10.85	
Loose:	\$ 893.89	
Total Offertory:	\$ 5,912.74	
Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory	\$7,986.31	
Over/(under) budget:	\$ (2,978.31)	
Average adult donation this weekend	\$10.00	per envelope
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	200.00
Votive Candles:	\$	305.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	98.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	255.00
Easter:	\$	10.00
Catholic Communications:	\$	791.00
Lenten Folder :	\$	9.00
Total May 18/19 collection:	\$ 7,580.74	

High School/College 2019 Graduates—You are Invited to the 11:00 am Mass next 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 Tuesday, May 28. (Forms are also in the pamphlet racks). Those who are graduating from college or with post-secondary degrees are also most welcome to attend.

Parish Assembly

Last Monday evening we had our first parish assembly and I believe that it was very successful! I want to thank all of the people who took time out of their busy schedules to come and offer suggestions. There was a lively discussion over many issues facing our parish family. Suffice it to say that together we have a long way to go to achieve that "perfect" parish. All of the suggestions that were made certainly deserve our time in developing them. One point that the evening brought to light was the need for all of us to be more welcoming as a faith community. As a pivotal point to this, I am hoping to develop a team to help in updating our census at the parish. This will involve many people to go out into our parish and visit our parishioners and ascertain from them what their hopes and visions are for our parish. In the next few weeks I will speak about this and we will have a meeting for anyone who might want to help. This is a start at creating an environment where people will feel welcome and a part of our parish family.

Please pray for our parishioners, family members, and friends in military service.



St. Sebastian Military Prayer List

- SGT. Sereno Beneccio SGT Michael J. Pallo
COL. Brian Bender PFC. John N. Pokol
MAJ Tom Kapolka QM Matthew Pozza
SGT Stephen T. Kautz LCDR Brian Scaramucci
LCDR Clark P. Necciai, Sr. PVT. Drake Spahr
SGT Clark P. Necciai, Jr. CPT Rebecca Stottlemeyer Bergstedt



May 25—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Victoria Barnot—Daughter, Jackie & Stan

Mat 26—Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Ron Edwards—Joan & John Ciccarelli

Monday, May 27—Memorial Day

9:00 am Regional Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord
44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen

Tuesday, May 28

8:00 am Theresa Sable—Tim & Joan Timlin

Wednesday, May 29—Vigil of the Ascension

6:30 pm For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Thursday, May 30—Ascension of Our Lord

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Jo O'Hara—Mark & Evelyn Druciak

Holyday Masses at Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen

8:00 am and 12:00 Noon

Friday, May 31—Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Afton Smereczniak—Wife Betty Smereczniak & Children

Saturday, June 1

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, June 1—Vigil

4:30 pm James Salvino—Wife & Family

June 2—Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Barbara Timlin—Peggie & Dave Holman
11:00 am Donald Ondulick—M/M Bernard Gorski

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, June 1 4:30 pm S. & V. Francia
Sunday, June 2 9:00 am G. & J. Pokol
11:00 am E. Angelo, L. DiPietrantonio

Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers

Saturday, June 1

4:30 C. Gorski J. Barnot J. Moody, J. Stringhill, S. Wawro
T. Rodriguez, K. Rygiel, L. Santori, J. Wiggins

Sunday, June 2

9:00 L. Kapolka B. Moskovitz D. Stasko, M.A. Linskens
M. & R. Smereczniak, M.A. McMillen, D. Seman, B. Moskovitz

11:00 T. Sebetich M. Jacoboni J. Cannizzaro, G. Klamerus
C. Korber, M. Strickland, E. Studnicki, G. Rush
Choir—M. Druciak

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Darlene Engel and Lawrence Davis. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.



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.

FAYETTE COUNTY VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED

Volunteers are needed to help **deliver meals** to the homebound. For more information call Center on the Hill at 724-930-8512. Meals are delivered to Fayette City, and the Fayette county half of Belle Vernon.

Baptism Congratulations

Ava Marie Hensel, daughter of Nicholas and Kaitlin (Muccino) Hensel, was baptized in Christ last weekend. We welcome Ava into the Church. God bless her and her family.

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

Thank you all for your support this School year. We are blessed with an Eagle Scout candidate willing to take on the Serenity Garden for the School. He is a parishioner of St. Anne’s and needs financial assistance to purchase materials, rock, dirt, and plants. Please put whatever you can in the flower pot in the back of the Church to help this cause. We will keep you updated on progress toward our goal. God Bless!



Diocesan FamilyFest

You are invited to the diocese’s second annual FamilyFest on **June 9**, at the Christ Our Shepherd Center. For information, and to register go to FamilyFest-Greensburg.org.

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. The cost is \$90. For information, www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/CedarPoint.

Pittsburgh Steelers Youth Mini-Camp

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.

FROM THE PASTOR**My Peace I Give You...**

Imagine if you can a life where you had nothing but peace. I am not talking about the absence of war or violence; I am referring to the peace that we can find only in our hearts. Today we are reminded how we can make this happen in our lives. Although we listen to the struggles and pains of the early church throughout this season of Easter, we are quickly reminded that our church today is not so different. For the Jewish people living during the growth of the early church it was difficult to give up the rules and customs that governed every aspect of their worship. They believed these ritual actions made them holy in the sight of God.

Many of our Catholics today can remember how our church prior to the Second Vatican Council was riddled with rules and regulations. For example we had rules about not eating meat on Friday's, how we were to dress for Mass, and for those of us who can remember, the Mass had to be in Latin. It was a long journey filled with anxiety and pain for people to adjust to some of the reforms that the Council promulgated. Just as in the New Testament era, there are many controversies in the church that sometimes divide believers – controversies over sexuality, reverence and ritual customs.

In our first reading today we are confronted with a big controversy over Jewish law and Christian converts. The dispute dealt with the extent to which Gentile converts were expected to keep the Jewish law. The crisis was deep and both sides of the playing field had their opinions. However, after much debate and prayer through the power of the Holy Spirit an agreement was met. I am sure that both sides of the argument had to give a little; eventually it became acceptable to all. Such a system of discussion and dialogue to resolve disputes in the earthly church can surely serve as a model for our own day.

Our second reading continues to speak of the New Jerusalem. Throughout the scriptures Jerusalem and the Temple were signs of God's presence and symbols of unity. Today we are given a completely different concept of Jerusalem and the Temple. Now Jerusalem has no temple, for God symbolized the temple with the Lamb. Also, by extension the people are also the temple in whom God dwells. We are all temples of the Holy Spirit, and we are reminded that physical structures are not necessary for worship. The writer of Revelation reminds us that we believe God is everywhere and permeates every aspect of creation. We are temples of the Holy Spirit and God dwells in us wherever we are.

Our Gospel for this week reminds us that the union between God and humanity is made possible by Jesus' farewell gift, the Holy Spirit in whom all things are made new. This new creation resulted in an entirely new self-understanding by the first Christian communities. Because we Christians today are so inundated with words and pay little attention to most of them, it is possible that any newness of the Resurrection escapes us or else the newness has become so commonplace that it has lost its power. Even "love" and "God's word" are so overloaded with variant meanings that they have largely lost their power to stir us. Each year our Easter celebration challenges us to assess our treasure trove: God's dwelling among us, the relationship of hearing God's word and loving as Jesus did. So, the peace of which Jesus speaks comes from seeing the presence of God everywhere so that we need not fear in life.

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, 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, 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, Paul Zoppetti.

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.