



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time September 1, 2019

Humbled & Exalted

Luke 14:1, 7-14

801 Broad Avenue •~• Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
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Mrs. Darleen Koury	Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary
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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. - 3:00 p.m.

Saint Sebastian Regional School

Mrs. Carol Aiello	Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org	
Mrs. Tiffany Miller	School Business Manager
tnmiller@ssbv.org	
School Telephone	724-929-5143
School Fax	724-929-3038
Website	www.ssbv.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.



Remember to save the date for our parish festival which will be on **September 29** this year. There will be much fun for all! Plan to come and have a relaxing time with your family and friends. There will be more information in the upcoming weeks as to how you might be able to help with the festival this year. I hope to see you there!



If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone, please contact PA Child-line immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the Childline number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 1221.

Middle School Priesthood Discernment Group

Jeremiah Days is an opportunity for middle school-aged boys and their parents or guardians to gather to learn, discuss, and pray about a vocation to the priesthood. The group will meet on the following days: **September 7**, October 5, February 8 and May 2 from 9:30 am – 11:30 am at St. Barbara Church in Harrison City. To register, please visit gbgvocations.org.

Get Catholic news today and every day on Twitter @CatholicAccent and diocesan news at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Cleaning the Church...

Back in the day, we would set aside a time when people would come and help clean the church. Here at St. Sebastian's, we always had a wonderful crowd of people. Well...we are going to re-establish that tradition. We will start with cleaning the Vestibule (the entrance) of the Church. Hopefully we will meet on **Saturday, September 7th at 8:00 a.m.** Bring your bucket and rags.....

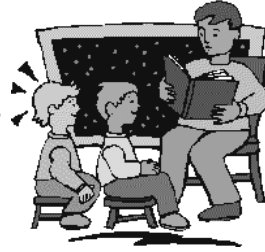


Stewardship of Treasure August xx, 2019

Regular Offertory:	\$ (260 envelopes out of 1303 families)
Youth:	\$
Loose:	\$
Total Offertory:	\$
Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory	\$7,986.31
Over/(under) budget:	\$ ()
Average adult donation this weekend	\$10.00 per envelope
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$
Votive Candles:	\$
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$
Catholic Accent:	\$
Assumption:	\$
Total August collection:	\$

Religious Education

The 2019-2020 School Year for Faith Formation will begin Monday, **September 16**. Classes run from 6:15 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. and are held in the St. Sebastian School building.



Parents, If your child is entering kindergarten, the first grade, or has not attended Religious Ed classes as yet, and is not attending a Catholic School, please call the Faith Formation Office (724-929-9300) so that we may enter his/her name to the class roster.

Children: Attending Religious Education classes is a great way to meet new friends while learning about faith your share. Faith Formation is a requirement for all students who do not attend a parochial school in order for them to understand and receive their sacraments. Registration forms are in the church pamphlet racks or can be filled out on line. www.saintsebastianchurch.org under Formation then Religious Education.

We are still in need of a volunteer to teach the 6th grade religious education students. Please call the Faith Formation Office if you feel called to this ministry.

Baptism Preparation

Beginning this month, Baptism Preparation sessions will take place on the **3rd Wednesday** of the month at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. This month Baptism Prep will be on Wednesday, **September 18**.

Labor Day Mass

Mass for Labor Day, Monday, **September 2**, will be celebrated at The Church of Saint Anne, 1870 Rostraver Road, at **8:00 am**. There will be no Mass at Saint Sebastian Church this Monday.



Parish Office will be closed on Monday, September 2, in observance of Labor Day. The office will reopen on Tuesday, September 3 at 9:00 a.m.

Liturgy INTENTIONS



August 31—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Mary Louise Barger—Sandy & Sam Cover

September 1—Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Thomas Hartman—Jon & Lucretia McCrory

Monday, September 2—Labor Day

8:00 am Regional Mass at the Church of St. Anne
1870 Rostraver Road

Tuesday, September 3—St. Gregory the Great

8:00 am (MM) Chase Courtney—Family

Wednesday, September 4

8:00 am (MM) Arthur P. Loera—Wife, Joanne
Cardinale Loera

Thursday, September 5—St. Teresa of Calcutta

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Robert Paholsky—Mom, Christa & George

Friday, September 6

8:00 am Dominic Mazzei—Jim & Stef Barber

Saturday, September 7

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday, September 7—Vigil

4:30 pm Martha & Dominic Mazzei—Mary Joyce & Joe Biondo

September 8—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Mary & August Korber—Jim & Carol Korber

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Sept. 7 4:30 pm M. Hamed, M. Wasicek
Sunday, Sept. 8 9:00 am Volunteers Needed
11:00 am L. DiPietrantonio, E. Angelo

Lectors	Lit. Coordinators	Ministers
Saturday, Sept. 7		
4:30 C. Gorski	<u>J. Moody</u>	T. Rodriguez, K. Rygiel J. Wiggins, J. Moody

Sunday, Sept. 8		
9:00 M. Shaughnessy	<u>L. Kibler</u>	M. & R. Smereczniak D. Stasko, L. Kibler
11:00 C. Rhodes	<u>C. Korber</u>	G. Klamerus, C. Rhodes J. Cannizzaro, C. Korber

Valley of Hope Prayer Meeting



The Valley of Hope Catholic Charismatic Prayer Group, established 1975, will continue meeting on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at St. Sebastian parish hall; the next meeting will be on Tuesday, **September 3**. Meetings last from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. in our Parish Hall. The prayer meeting consists of praise and worship, scripture sharing, a catholic lay teaching, intercessory prayer and thanksgiving. Come help us pray for the on-going conversion of our churches and nation. Contact Gregory Wohar 412-403-4542 for more information.

Registration for “Holy Fire” event for middle-school students closes September 13

Registration for “Holy Fire,” a gathering for youth in grades 6-8, closes **September 13**. The event is October 13 at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. The bus leaves Greensburg at 5:15 a.m. and returns at 8 p.m. Cost is \$50 per person and includes transportation and dinner. This event can be used as a parish confirmation retreat. Register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holy-fire-great-lakes-tickets-62328799116>.

Natural Family Planning Instruction

Natural Family Planning CM-BBT instruction will be held **September 14** at 10:00 a.m. in the Catholic Charities office in Greensburg. Contact Mary Ann Newhouse at Catholic Charities at 724-837-1840, ext. 1658 for additional information or to register for this or an upcoming class. Please call at least one week prior to the instruction date to preregister. For more information about Natural Family Planning and the CM-BBT method, visit www.ccharitiesgreensburg.org and link into Natural Family Planning under “Services.”



Is someone You Love in a Troubled Marriage?

You might suggest that they consider Retrouvaille.

Retrouvaille has helped 10's of thousands; it can help them. For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **September 6, 2019**, contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-343. More information is available at www.retrouvailleofpittsburghinc.org.

16th Annual St. Sebastian Golf Outing

(Proceeds benefit St. Sebastian Regional School)
Saturday, **September 21** at Cedarbrook Red Course. 8:00 a.m. registration and 9:30 a.m. Shotgun start; 4 Person Scramble; Prizes at every hole. Cost is \$ 95/person. The price includes golf, cart, hot breakfast, snacks, lunch at turn, dinner, refreshments and a welcome gift. To participate or volunteer, call or text John Stawovy, 724-323-6425. Flyers are in the church pamphlet racks.

“The Accent On-Air,” Health and Wellness, airs on WTAE-TV

“The Accent On-Air,” Spiritual Health and Wellness, will air on WTAE-TV, Channel 4, Sunday **September 1 and September 15** at 11:30 a.m. In Mass at that time? Set your DVR, or watch the show on TheAccentOnline.org. The show also airs at 2:08 a.m. on Sept. 5, 7, 11, 14, 18, 20, 25 and 27. The show features Bishop Malesic talking about spiritual health, the Church battling the opioid epidemic, inspiring priests and their healthy habits, building strong minds in Catholic schools, and how faith is helping a man confronted by a terminal illness.

FROM THE PASTOR**“Humble yourself the more, the greater you are...”**

It is amazing how often in life the simple things matter the most. It is the small things in life that seem to make the biggest impression on us. It is no surprise then that once again we find Jesus eating a meal and presenting us with yet another parable or lesson on life. A simple thing like sharing food becomes a springboard for far more important matters. All of us at one time or another has had the good fortune of being invited to someone's home for dinner. When the host and hostess are good friends, the evening is one we look forward to and is an enjoyable and energizing time. When the host and hostess are, perhaps, little-known business acquaintances, we might be more apprehensive and be on our best behavior, and we might find the evening more energy-draining than enjoyable. This seems to be the case with the gospel this week. Jesus was invited to the home of a leading Pharisee and we can probably surmise that Jesus arrived there in a frame of mind different from one he might have had when invited to Martha and Mary's home.

Social dictates have certainly changed since the time of Jesus. Jesus was well aware of the fact that the Pharisees were an exclusive club who were known to dine only with each other so as to observe strict purity. Places of “honor” were common at any feast, and it was certainly a practice to allow people of status and position to get those seats of “honor.” This was done so that the host would be remembered and the favor returned at a future date. Jesus takes this opportunity to admonish the Pharisees to reach out to others, those not in their circle of acquaintances. He challenges them to be as generous and kind to those people who could never repay them as they were with each other. He calls them to a life of humility.

Those sitting around that table with Jesus were given a lesson showing that acts of earthly humility and generosity are met with heavenly exaltation and God's generosity. Humility is, in part knowing one's strengths and weaknesses and one's place. Humility is the virtue by which we acknowledge our status before God: we are “the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind” who come to God's table because of God's invitation and generosity. As deeply humble people, we come to God empty and open ourselves to God's filling us with what is lasting. This reward, everlasting life at God's messianic banquet, is ours if we but treat others as God treats us. We ourselves must bestow dignity and generosity on others.

Jesus is calling the disciples as well as he is calling each of us back to the authentic Jewish tradition of caring for the “widow, orphan, and sojourner.” These three groups of people in Israelite society were symbolic of those who were in a position of needing others to look after their wellbeing. The lowly are those who need food, clothing, and shelter; our cities are full of these kinds of dispossessed people. The lowly are also the children in our midst; the physically, emotionally, mentally, or spiritually challenged; the elderly. We do not need to look very far to put Jesus' teaching this week into practice.

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, Mary Gira, Wayne Granchai, Michael J. Hazy, Betty Jean Henderson, 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, Celia Matesich, Stephen McCulloch, Brandon Morris, 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, Robbie Stout, 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.