



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time DISCIPLES of CHRIST

The Cost of Discipleship



September 8, 2019
801 Broad Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Luke 14:25-33

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
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Mrs. Linda Drury	Parish Secretary
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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.

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.



August Expenses	Amount
Maintenance	\$ 941.80
Phone	\$ 244.58
Utilities	\$ 1,700.33
Misc. Office	\$ 4,796.52
Church/Liturgy	\$ 150.00
Payroll	\$ 22,927.83
Property Tax	\$ 3,327.29
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 15,021.59
(Breakdown)	
Accent	\$ 1,112.44
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,922.10
Dio. Assessment	\$ 4,012.81
Insurance	\$ 2,925.95
Email	\$ 48.29
Total	\$ <u>49,109.94</u>

Week	Collection
August 4	\$ 10,209.95
August 11	\$ 7,626.53
August 15.....	\$ 2,495.24
August 18	\$ 7,385.85
August 25	\$ 9,010.50
Total	\$ <u>36,728.07</u>

Stewardship

As our readings remind us this week, we are to make sure our priorities measure up to what we call ourselves to be. To follow the demands of Jesus in our busy world requires a great deal of sacrifice. It is good for us every now and again to look at our lives and determine if we are being good “stewards” with all that God has blessed us with. Last week we talked about humility as a virtue that allows us to truly know ourselves. This week we are being challenged to choose what we want to do with our lives, and just how far we are willing to go. As we look at how well we balance our Time, Talent and Treasure we should keep these ideas in mind.

Prayerfully consider offering your Time and Talent in one of the various ministries we have in the church. We are always looking for people to help during the liturgy by becoming a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, a Lector, Cantor, and Member of the choir, Server or Usher. Spend some time this week thinking about how you might be able to “take up your cross” and share your gifts

Second Collection

this weekend in the monthly Utilities and Maintenance collection.

The second collection next weekend is for the Catholic Accent.

Get Catholic news today and every day on Twitter

@CatholicAccent and diocesan news at

www.dioceseofgreensburg.org

Gluten Free Hosts Available

If you cannot consume the wheat hosts, there are gluten free hosts available. Please stop by the priest’s sacristy at least 10 -15 minutes before Mass begins and request this special consideration so that you may receive the Eucharist.

Stewardship of Treasure—September 1, 2019

Regular Offertory: \$ 6,095.00 (283 envelopes out of 1299 families)

Youth: \$ 17.00

Loose: \$ 1,123.48

Total Offertory: \$ 7,235.48

Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory \$7,986.31

Over/(under) budget: \$ (1,891.31)

Average adult donation this weekend \$10.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 14.00
Votive Candles:	\$ 240.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 634.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 105.00
Assumption:	\$ 10.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 12.00
Catholic University:	\$ 80.00

Total Aug. 31/Sept. 1 collection: \$ 8,330.48

Parish Census

In the pews this week you will find a copy of the census we are currently taking here at St. Sebastian's. I am



asking that you take it home and fill it out to the best of your ability. If you have any children over the age of 18, (unless they are still in school) they must fill out a census for themselves.

Please know that if you have any questions about this census you can give us a call at the office and we will help you. If you can get this form back to us in the next two weeks, that would be great. I am grateful to you for all of your help in this matter.

Confirmation Service Project

On Saturday, **September 28**, our 8th grade parishioners, who will be Confirmed on November 7, are to prepare their Confirmation Service Project. All Confirmation candidates are to report to Epiphany of Our Lord Parish Hall (44 Pennsylvania Blvd.) at 2:00 p.m. to organize gift baskets for the homebound of our parishes. Following the service project you are invited to the Mass at 4:00 p.m. at Epiphany of Our Lord.

Our faith formation program needs volunteers!

Volunteers are needed as teachers, aides, and hall monitors. All clearances are necessary as these people regularly work with children. Please call Scott Martin at the Faith Formation Office to volunteer or with any questions you may have (724-929-9300).



Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Margaret Sveda, Lenora Coch and Ralph Swantek. We extend our sympathy to there families. May they rest in peace.

Liturgies of the Week

September 7—Vigil

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

September 8—Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

Monday, September 9—St. Peter Claver

8:00 am George B. Aul—Joanne & Ed Wiggins

Tuesday, September 10

8:00 am (MM) Onie Misher—Karen & Gary Rowland

Wednesday, September 11

8:00 am (MM) Donna Ambrose—Lance M. Martin

Thursday, September 12—Most Holy Name of Mary

8:00 am Josephine O'Hara—Arthur Trilli

Friday, September 13—St. John Chrysostom

8:00 am Donna & Stanley Tyrpin—Pat & John Mullen

Saturday, September 14—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

10:00 am David Moskovitz—by Wife, Barbara
3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday, September 14—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Bill Picchiarini—Wife, Joan & Family
Sacrament of Baptism

September 15—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Paul & Margaret Baran—Family

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Sept. 14 4:30 pm A. & A. Peden
Sunday, Sept. 15 9:00 am Volunteers Needed
11:00 am A. & C. Hoffman

Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers

Saturday, Sept. 14

4:30 S. Wawro C. Farrier L. Santori, J. Stringhill
S. Zolock, C. Farrier

Sunday, Sept. 15

9:00 B. Moskovitz B. Mallonee J. Russell, B. A. Linskens
D. Seman, B. Mallonee
11:00 M. Patterson R. Hoffman D. Bisceglia, M. Druciak
W. & R. Hoffman

Reality Tour Getting “Real” About Drugs

The Center for Disease Control reports that prescription drug and heroin abuse is the number one public health problem in the United States. Reality Tour (RT) is a national parent and child drug education and prevention program open to all Mon Valley residents, targeting children ages 10-17. In this program, held at the Belle Vernon High School, they learn the life and death consequences of a teen on drugs.

The program begins on Monday, **September 16, 2019. Preregistration is required.** For more information, or to register, go to realitytour.org or contact Belle Vernon Area Reality Tour Director, Celeste Trilli Palamara, at 724-797-0955 or email: bellevernonarearealitytour.org.

Bible Study: The Gospel of Luke

Think about joining in this season’s Bible Study, which will begin on **Thursday, September 26 at 6:30 p.m.** at Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall, 44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen. We will be focusing on the Gospel of Luke, Part 2. You do not need to have participated in Part 1. There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. There is a \$10 fee to cover the cost of the workbook.

Registration deadline is Thursday, September 12.

For more information, call 724-684-7661.

Scripture Study

Join us on Sundays, between Masses from 10:15 to 11:00 am for Coffee/Tea & Reflection in the Parish Hall. The scripture passage of the week will be our focus.. No registration. Door is always open. All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

will resume on Monday, **September 16** from 10:00 a.m. until 11:30 a.m. in the Parish Center. If you have any questions, contact Carol Korber at 724-929-4249.

Travel Group

The Ark Trip (Oct. 16/17) is full. Names can be placed on a waiting list. Reservations can still be taken for Million Dollar Quartet on October 10. For more information, call Sandy Wawro at 724-938-0865.

A great big THANK YOU to



**Thanks
to Our
Volunteers!**

all who volunteered to make Halupki, Golabki, stuffed cabbage rolls, last Saturday, August 31. No matter what you call them, many volunteers helped put them together for the Parish Festival. Great work is being accomplished with great helpers.

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, William Tansmore, Joseph P. Trenk, Arthur Trilli, 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.

FROM THE PASTOR

The Radical Call of Discipleship!

This week we are presented with yet another paradox where Jesus seems to preach one thing and yet expect something completely different from his followers. The entire message of Jesus is one where we are called to be for one another, we are to love without question and give of ourselves without asking for anything in return. However, today we are told that if we are to be a follower we must hate our father mother, wife children and brothers and sisters. This is a hard message to embrace no matter how we look at it.

Sometimes when we read the scriptures it is good to try and put ourselves in the place of the person who is being written about. In this case Jesus was making his way to Jerusalem knowing full well what awaited him there, people were following in droves waiting for this “coming of the Kingdom.” They had no idea what Jesus was really talking about. It most certainly had to be frustrating for Jesus to be surrounded by so many people who just didn’t get the message; they were just looking for what was in it for them.

Paul in the second reading is also asking something like the impossible when he is asking that a slave who had run away be embraced as a brother and given all of the privileges that a brother shares. It is a radical call to ministry, one that makes us stop and pause. This slave by law could have been tortured or even killed by his master for running away. It is an interesting thought as to what really happened. If Philemon was to show this great favor to the runaway slave, might not all of the other slaves suddenly develop an interest in baptism and pressure their master for freedom too? There is an intriguing opinion that Ignatius of Antioch, writing 50 years after Paul’s death, may have been, as Bishop of Antioch, the same person who was once the slave of Philemon!

Throughout history people have always had to make hard choices about following Christ, choices that involved sacrifice. During the early Roman persecutions, many Christians renounced their faith to save their lives. Jesus gives us some difficult advice today: “You have to carry a cross if you want to follow me.” Discipleship is demanding and if we think differently, we need to look again.

We need to look at just what it is that Jesus expects from us. The Hebrew word for “hatred,” has no clear English equivalent. The word “hate” does not necessarily mean disdain or reject. It has more to do with an “order or priority.” Nothing can take priority over commitment to God. Simply put this gospel passage is about commitment. And all commitment involves some kind of cross. The question we need to ask ourselves is: what kind of commitment do we have to Christ as far as being a disciple is concerned?

None of us knows the mind of God as we are reminded in Wisdom from the first reading, but even though we don’t know God’s mind that doesn’t mean we can’t listen to God’s voice and follow that voice to the best of our abilities in life. To be a follower is to have our priorities in proper order. We need to know what is important and what is not. This will help us not only in following Christ but also in living our daily lives. Jesus is constantly inviting us to listen to him. We spend our whole lives bringing our fullest attention to what he is saying. Jesus lays out the radical demands of discipleship. Our human weakness begs us to call on God’s mercy and forgiveness when we cannot quite measure up. In all things, God will sustain us.