

Saint Sebastian Parish
801 Broad Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012-1608

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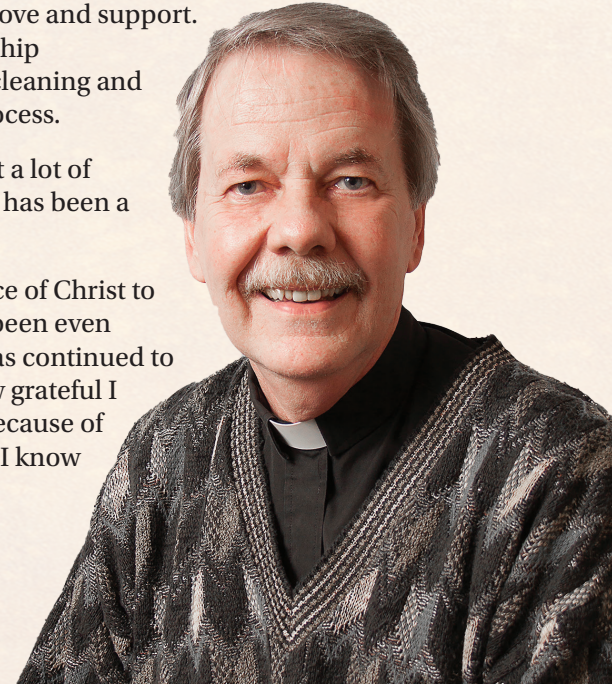
Dear Member of our Parish,

Here we are in the fall of 2021, and we are still dealing with the effects of COVID! The past year and a half is certainly one that will be talked about and referenced for many years to come. As your parish, we have tried, to the best of our ability, to keep things going while caring for you, our parish family. When we look at one another, it is clear that all of us have been affected, or our lives have been impacted in some way by this pandemic. In the midst of all the struggles we are mustering through, staying safe has been a priority. From the beginning of the pandemic, one of our primary goals has been to maintain a safe environment in which we can gather and celebrate liturgy together, and this still remains a top concern.

Since the onset of COVID we have tried to be creative in sharing the message of Christ's love. Along with the help of our Diocese, we have been able to provide various opportunities for you to stay connected to your church. Even though it appears that everybody's life has been put on hold, we have continued to move forward and offer various ways for you to feel a part of our parish family. The work of the Church has never stopped. We still concern ourselves with the needs of the poor around the world as well as in our own community. Through various collections we have touched the lives of many people with our love and support. There have been many people who have given of their time to maintain our worship opportunities. Our greeters certainly make all who come feel welcome, and the cleaning and sanitizing of the Church did not happen by itself; many people shared in that process.

Over the past year we were able to stream Masses every week, which has brought a lot of comfort to many people, not only in our parish, but in the community at large. It has been a challenge, but we have certainly tried to stay connected.

In spite of what the pandemic has presented to us, we continue to be the presence of Christ to not only one another, but to the communities around us. This could never have been even remotely possible without your prayers and generosity. Saint Sebastian Parish has continued to be a center of care and support, nurturing all of God's children. Please know how grateful I am to all of you for not only your prayers but also your continued support. It is because of your generosity that we have been able to "weather" this pandemic thus far, and I know that we will see it through with the help of God and your loving spirits!



Gratefully yours,
Father Mike

Growing Support for our
FAITH
Community



Saint Sebastian Parish Annual Report 2021

Flowers that Feed the Soul: Our Ministry Listing

- Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion
- Lectors
- Communion and visits to Homebound
- Altar Servers
- Church Choir
- Cantors
- Greeters
- Hospitality
- Catechists / Formation Volunteers
- Clerical Help
- Money Counters
- School Volunteers
- Parish Festival
- Landscape / Gardening
- Decorating Church Environment



Cultivate the Garden Within: Capital Improvements



As we look to the past few years, our parish certainly has gone through many improvements. It seems like it took forever, but our church roof looks beautiful, and it certainly makes the church stand out. It took a few years and many man hours to see this through, but again, without your generosity, it would never have happened. Through the Diocesan Lenten Appeal we

are making necessary upgrades to our boilers. This past year we upgraded all of the lights in the church to LEDs, which has been a savings in many ways, and repaired the lights in the parking lot. Looking down the road, we are going to have to address the organ in the church. It has kind of run its course, and we are no longer able to get parts to repair it.

Parish Financials

	2020-21	2019-20	2018-19
Offertory	\$ 441,846	\$ 434,790	\$ 464,560
Other Ordinary Income <i>(monthly collections, votive candles)</i>	19,144	16,173	25,545
Extraordinary Income <i>(bequests, donations, fundraising, interest, rental income)</i>	43,490	131,581	113,075
Diocesan Lenten Appeal Refund	49,590	13,576	67,645
Other Non-Assessable Income <i>(The Catholic Accent, sale of property, insurance reimbursements, and PPP Loan)</i>	101,862	526,979	176,431
Special Collections	15,403	27,192	49,843
Total Income	\$ 671,335	\$ 1,150,291	\$ 897,099
Expenses			
Administration	\$ 182,721	\$ 181,104	\$ 165,300
Church	31,473	32,970	43,806
Rectory	5,670	7,108	6,428
Education and Ministry	97,799	101,720	100,967
General Expenses	204,752	196,801	175,092
Special Collections	14,630	27,307	63,428
Extraordinary Expenses	106,238	518,772	306,160
Total Expenditures	643,283	1,065,782	861,181
Net Operating Income (Loss)	\$ 28,052	\$ 84,509	\$ 35,918

Our Garden



Registered Households

2021: 915
2020: 911
2019: 1,286

Single Member Households

366



Baptisms

2021: 9
2020: 12
2019: 17

Weddings

2021: 2
2020: 6
2019: 3



Funerals

2021: 67
2020: 52
2019: 45



Weathering COVID-19

There is no doubt as to how much God has blessed all of us, and at the same time it is also apparent how much you have blessed our parish with your generosity. We simply would not have survived this past year and a half without your generous spirits! Despite the pandemic, it is amazing how our offertory has remained strong because of your generous support. The online giving has added a positive dimension to our parish giving, and for this, know I am grateful. I believe that one important lesson I have learned this past year is that none of us are alone. In time of need, people come forth and help as they are able. This is what it means to be a disciple of Christ and be true to our baptismal promises.



Even though we have managed to stay afloat and keep up with expenses, our parish has taken a hit. We suffered a loss because of the fundraisers we had to cancel. As life continues to return to somewhat normal, we are slowly getting back to activities and schedules that we had to cancel. It is good to see that our children are returning to the classrooms and that their education continues. Our formation program is gearing up for another exciting year, and our children will be preparing to receive the sacraments. Our parish organizations are planning to resume this fall, and it is good to see things returning. We must always be mindful that all the things we do today will help to plant the seeds of faith for our children.

Ways You Can Give



BY MAIL:
Saint Sebastian Parish
801 Broad Avenue
Belle Vernon, PA 15012-1608



IN PERSON:
Monday - Friday
9:00AM - 3:00PM



ONLINE:
saintsebastianchurch.org

