



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

August 21, 2022

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30 PM	Tuesday, 8:00 AM
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Friday, 8:00 AM

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager
dlisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation
smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music
ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary
ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary
dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time



"Some are last who will be first, and some are first who would be last."

Luke 13:30

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
tnmiller@sssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



Baptism Preparation

Third Wednesday of every month. Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

Religious Education/Formation

Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please call the Faith Formation Office.

Reconciliation

Confessions are on Saturday: Epiphany—11:30 a.m. and St. Sebastian—3:30 p.m.. You may also call at any time for an appointment for confession.

From the Pastor—Will all be saved?

Our readings speak to us today about how God invites the “whole world” to feast in the kingdom. Isaiah tells us that the voice of God beckons people from all nations to come and share in His Kingdom.



As the people in the days of Isaiah heard these words, it was hard for them to comprehend, but if we are honest with ourselves, it is just as hard for us today.

As people we too easily forget how amazing and undeserved the grace that brought us to our present privilege and citizenship was. So much so that we begin to feel entitled. This notion of entitlement begins to show in all areas of life. For example, in bumper-to-bumper city traffic when lanes on the freeway are forced to merge, have you ever watched in disbelief as a car is granted access to the open lane by a gracious driver who slows to allow space in front, only to watch that same vehicle so recently grafted into the traffic lane refuse access to another car seeking the same mercy from him. How quickly we forget mercy extended to us when it comes our time to pass it along to another.

Or a toddler, who receives all of her toys freely given from the sacrifice and love of parents, nevertheless learns quickly to angrily hurl the words “MINE” and “NO” when another child wanders into her play area to pick up one of her toys. How quickly today’s gifts become tomorrow’s entitled possessions!

To bring this point even closer to home we can look at the current issues surrounding immigration. Granted, there are a number of complexities with the whole immigration question, but it is still puzzling and ironic to hear so many Americans who are themselves descendants of immigrants to this country, resenting and resisting the next generation of immigrants who seek to come to America. How easy it is to forget that most of us are not too many generations removed from those hearty and hopeful forebears who came to this country by way of Ellis Island, or who were shipped here on slave ships against their will, but who nonetheless helped build and shape the character and strength of this great nation. What if the borders of America had been closed to our ancestors, as some want to do to present day immigrants today? Again, yesterday’s gift can easily become today’s entitlement.

Isaiah speaks of a God who wants divine mercy and favor extended to all nations. God does not want any second class citizens, all are welcome. Jesus carries this same idea in the gospel for today. Basically what He is saying is that we have no right to stop God’s grace and favor from being shared with anyone; no matter where they may be from or how they live. God’s grace is open to all who want to accept it, the invitation is given freely to all people.

Granted, there are many things we take for granted in life and there are many ways that we feel entitled, however we must tread lightly when we speak of our faith and belief in God. That is something that we must never take for granted or feel entitled over.

Faith Formation

We are reminded today that all of God’s children are in the same position in life and Jesus meant it when He said that the last may very well come first. In answer to the question “will many be saved,” Jesus assures us that we are all given the same opportunity to embrace the salvation offered to us through the grace of God!



Religious Formation.

Life certainly has thrown many curve balls our way and it has brought about many changes. Even though our society has gone through many disruptions and new ways of doing things, there are those factors of life that remain constant. The formation of our children is one of those factors.

After COVID we have been very slow in getting people back to church and this is beginning to take its toll. Our children have been a “visible” absence in church and this is a concern that we all should be worried about. When we talk about the future of our Church, we need to look at our youth, for they are the future. It is a responsibility that falls on all of our shoulders to see that our children are catechized in the faith.

We are in the process of putting together our program for Faith Formation. There are many exciting things planned for this year. Remember if your child (or grandchild) is at the age to receive Reconciliation of First Communion, they need two years of formation. If you have someone for Confirmation, they also need two years prior to being confirmed.

You can find registration forms for this year’s program in the back of the Church. Classes will begin on **September 19**. If you have any questions about formation you may contact Scott Martin our director, or call the office.

Christmas Fundraiser

I know it is early, but it is better to get a jump on things so we are not overwhelmed! For Christmas this year we are going to sponsor a fundraiser selling delicious hand-dipped apples and pretzels. These goods come from Appledicious which is located in Carnegie. Large Apples will sell for \$14 and smaller ones for \$11. The pretzels will sell for \$4.50 each. These apples and pretzels make wonderful gifts for the holidays. There will be more information in the coming weeks concerning this sale.

Stewardship of Treasure—August 14, 2022

Regular Offertory:	\$	5,882.14
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	811.00
Votives:	\$	126.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	144.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	83.00
Catholic University:	\$	25.00
Assumption:	\$	212.00

Total August 13/14 \$ 7,283.14

Parking When School is in Session

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School classes begin this **Tuesday, August 23**. Please be reminded that the **parking lot** behind the Church is **not to be used** on days that school is in session. For safety reasons this lot is to remain empty until after 3:30 p.m. on school days. Please use the lower lot on Henry Street or the lot along Fayette and Henry Streets.



PARISH FESTIVAL

September 18

The St. Sebastian Parish **Festival** is scheduled for Sunday, **September 18**, from 12 p.m. until 7 p.m. **“Many hands make light work!”** We are still in great need of volunteers in many areas for the festival. If you would like to volunteer, please call Maggie Kelly, 954-850-0849.



Raffle Baskets:

Please consider donating a **Theme Basket** or items for our basket raffle. We are looking for the following basket themes: **Car Care**, **Penguins/Pirates**, **Kids Games**, **Pets**, **Spa**, **Movie Night**, **Wine/Alcohol and Lottery Tickets!** *Can you drop a few lottery tickets off as a contribution to our lottery basket?* You can bring your theme baskets and/or items to the Parish Office during regular business hours.

Parish Raffle:

Every year as part of our Festival, we send out to all of our parishioners a packet of tickets which will be pulled at the Festival. If you have not yet turned yours in, won't you please consider doing so? The money raised from the tickets certainly does help to assure we have a successful festival.

Festival Bake Sale

Baked goods are needed for the Festival Bake Sale. Contact Anita at 412-393-9319. Donations may be dropped off at the Parish Hall on Saturday, **September 17** at 10:00 a.m. Please label your baked goods.

Festival Foods

A huge thank you to all who have given their time, talent and treasure in preparing food for our Parish Festival. To date 500 meatballs, 900 stuffed shells, and 970 cabbage rolls were made. Anyone wishing to help in the kitchen the week prior to the Festival, please call Laura at 724-797-3959.

Bible Study

We are looking at doing a Bible Study this fall on Tuesday evenings from 6 – 7:30 beginning **September 27**. The topic will be Jesus: The Truth and the Life, and it will run for 10 weeks, it is a video series filmed in the Holy Land.

The cost of the study set is \$30 which includes the workbook, book, timeline chart and online access. If you are interested in this please give us a call at the office or you can contact Sherry Messick at 724-938-2395.

Homebound Parishioners

If a member of your family or you are homebound, and would like to receive the Eucharist, please call the Faith Formation Office to let us know (724-929-9300). Also, the Parish Shawl Ministry knits and/or crochets lap blankets for the homebound. Please let us know if you would be interested in receiving one of these lap blankets that are made with love and prayers for those who receive them.

Liturgies of the Week

August 20—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Mildred “Sis” Bethem—John & Donna Kerestan

August 21—Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Donna Ambrose—Family
11:00 am (Death Anniv) LeRoy Nicolaus—Wife, Marlene & Family

Monday, August 22—Queenship of Mary

No Mass Today

Tuesday, August 23—St. Rose of Lima

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Cometta Vincenzes—Ruth Ann Spark

Wednesday, August 24—St. Bartholomew

No Mass Today

Thursday, August 25—St. Louis/St. Joseph Calasanz

No Mass Today

Friday, August 26

8:00 am Michael Capco—Niece, Paula Lancas

Saturday, August 27—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm Thomas R. Hartman—Wife & Family

August 28—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Joanne Manetta—John & Mary LaCarte

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—August 27/28

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	C. Farrier	A. Peden
9:00 am	M. Shaughnessy	B. Moskovitz	B. Moskovitz	N. Jodon
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	R. Messick	R. Messick	M. Ceccarelli

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: CHARLES BUZALKA and MARGARET MAST We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

Readings for the week of August 21, 2022

Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2/Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30

Monday: 2 Thes 1:1-5, 11-12/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 4-5/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday: 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Jn 1:45-51

Thursday: 1 Cor 1:1-9/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt 24:42-51

Friday: 1 Cor 1:17-25/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11/Mt 25:1-13

Saturday: 1 Cor 1:26-31/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-1



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