

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

August 14, 2022

20th Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME



Jesus said to his disciples: "I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing! ... Do you think that I have come to establish peace on the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division."
- Lk 12:49, 51

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
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Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
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School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



Mass Schedule

Saturday
4:30 PM

Sunday
9:00 AM
11:00 AM

Tuesday, 8:00 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
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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

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 The Cost of Peace!

How often have you kept "peace" no matter what the cost; probably more often than you care to remember.

Most of us were probably

raised with the notion that it is better to do whatever is necessary to keep the peace rather than to be fighting all of the time. Well, if we are to do what the gospel is asking of us today, peace should not be one of our priorities. Jesus is telling us that if we are to be sincere about following the gospel then we must be willing to forgo peace.

We like to imagine Christianity as a religion of harmony and peace and sometimes we blind ourselves to passages such as today's: "I have come for division" (Jesus in the gospel); "You have not yet resisted to the point of shedding blood" (Hebrews, second reading); "He is demoralizing the soldiers...and all the people by speaking such things" (Jeremiah, first reading); "I have come to set the earth on fire" (gospel).

History has certainly shown us what can happen to people who speak against the norm in the name of the common good. We can all remember Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. in his struggle to lead a nonviolent civil rights movement. It eventually led to his death and the ruination of many people along the way. Prophetic voices are not the most welcome in any day or age. Even today prophetic voices in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, who cry out for justice and religious tolerance, are killed. Nobody likes to be told that they are living wrong or that their priorities are all out of sync, and for certain no political leader likes to hear the truth about their mistakes or foiled plans.

The decision to follow Jesus can meet harsh rejection. To walk in the footsteps of Jesus can mean a loss of peace and security. If we look at how Jesus lived and the way he taught we can clearly see that he is the supreme model of faith who allows us to maintain our hope in the promises that God has made to us. Like Jesus we do not choose division and strife, divisions occur simply by being faithful to God's message. This becomes the real shock of the gospel: being a faithful disciple of Jesus will instigate a clash of values, of principles, of priorities. The message of Jesus is divisive because it calls others to a radical way of living – self-giving for the good of others. We all have to make a conscious decision to follow him or not, to share his passion or not, to be self-giving as he is. If we compromise our gospel message in order to have peace now, we forfeit the everlasting peace which is promised to the faithful disciple. The choice is ours.

We are hardly called to be like Jeremiah to announce to the Israelites that their beloved Jerusalem fell into the hands of the Babylonians – nor are we thrown into a cistern to die! Nor like Jesus will we be nailed to a cross because of our preaching. Nevertheless, we are called to be faithful to God's word in the small, everyday things as well as at times when the more serious challenges come along. We do not seek division, but we seek consistency in living gospel values. Gospel living is never easy!



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 contact Maggie Kelly directly at 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: Beauty, Car Care, Steelers/Penguins/Pirates, kids games, Pets, Spa, movie night, Wine/Alcohol. **Hey, what about lottery tickets?** Can you drop a few off as a contribution to our lottery basket? You can drop your theme basket, lottery tickets or items at 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 Food Prep

The Festival Food Committee Volunteers will be meeting at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Kitchen Hall this Thursday, **August 18** to make cabbage rolls and other festival foods. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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.

Stewardship of Treasure—August 7, 2022

| | | |
|--------------------------|----|----------|
| Regular Offertory: | \$ | 6,921.00 |
| Utilities & Maintenance: | \$ | 50.00 |
| Votives: | \$ | 373.00 |
| Cap. Project/Roof Fund: | \$ | 446.00 |
| Catholic Accent: | \$ | 185.00 |
| Assumption: | \$ | 60.00 |

Total August 6/7 **\$ 8,035.00**

Brown Bag Sunday

We are going to have a collection of school supplies for children starting back to school. This collection will be on **August 20-21**.

We are asking that you bring in "school supplies" that can be used by needy children at our schools. You can bring in anything: pencils, pens, tablets, back packs, lunch boxes or whatever you think can be used.

Simply bring them to church with you that weekend and put them in the front of the church by the pulpit. We will see that they get distributed. This is a wonderful way for us to touch the community in which we live. If you have any questions about this, please let me know.



Sacramental Prep / Faith Formation



It is hard to believe that school will be starting in just a couple weeks. Summer always seems to go by so quickly, and we don't appreciate these summer days until January when we long for the warmth. Regardless of how fast these months have gone, we turn our thoughts to the beginning of another school year.

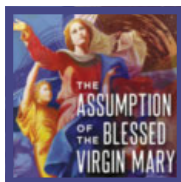
Sharing our faith and passing it on to our children is one of the greatest responsibilities a parent has. When we have our children baptized we make that promise to do all in our power to see that our children are raised in the church. This responsibility is not only one for parents but it is one for the church as well. We must provide an environment where your child can learn about the church they profess to belong to.

As we assume these responsibilities as your parish family, we look to the starting of this year's formation program. We have registration forms in the church, as well as on our parish website, so that you can get your children registered. We are also looking for people to volunteer their services to the program this year. If you think you might be interested in helping with our formation program, please call the office and we will let Scott Martin know about it. There are many ways that you can help. The more people involved the more we will be able to do with the program.

Another aspect of our Formation Programming is the area that deals with Sacramental Prep. If your child is in **the second grade and has completed one year of Formation**, then they are eligible to receive the sacraments of First Eucharist and First Penance. Please call the office and let us know if your child is eligible. There will be more information on our Formation Program in the coming weeks.

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Tomorrow, Monday, the Church celebrates Mary's welcome to heaven. Eastern traditions call this event the "Dormition" or "sleeping" of Mary, indicating that she did not die but was taken to heaven as if asleep. Pope Pius XII declared the bodily assumption of Mary into heaven as a dogma of the church in 1950.



Since the Solemnity of the Assumption falls on a Monday, the obligation to attend Mass has been abrogated. For those who wish to attend Mass, although there is no obligation, Mass is celebrated Monday, 8 a.m. at Epiphany of Our Lord in Monessen.

The Parish Office will be closed this Monday, August 15, in observance of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Back to School...

In a couple weeks we will be starting another school year! Summer seems to fly by so quickly. As we gear up for school to start, we are in need of people to help with the SSRCS (St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School) lunches. The food comes from Belle Vernon School District so there is no cooking involved. All you need to do is help to serve the lunches and clean up afterwards. If you would like to be a part of this, please let us know by calling the church office.

Liturgies of the Week

August 13—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Conrad Lama—Bruce & Kathy Solomon

August 14—Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Veronica Horvath—Rosemarie & Leonard Krolik & Son, Leonard

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, August 15—Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord at 8:00 am

Tuesday, August 16—St. Stephen of Hungary

8:00 am (Date of Birth) William D. Weaver—Wife & Family

Wednesday, August 17

No Mass Today

Thursday, August 18

No Mass Today

Friday, August 19—St. John Eudes

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Jim Posey—Wife & Family

Saturday, August 20—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—August 20/21

| | Lector | Lit. Coord | EM | Server |
|----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 4:30 pm | C. Gorski | S. Wawro | S. Wawro | R. Buretz |
| 9:00 am | B. Moskovitz | B. Mallonee | B. Mallonee | C. Frank |
| 11:00 am | A. Hoffman | R. Hoffman | R. Hoffman | C. Hoffman |

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: JEAN SILVESTRO. We extend our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.

Readings for the week of August 14, 2022

Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 [14b]/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

Monday: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28, 30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt 20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 22:1-14

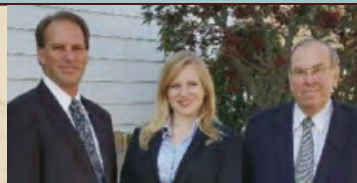
Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Ez 43:1-7ab/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 23:1-12

DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST, OUR PARISH PICNIC HAS BEEN CANCELLED.



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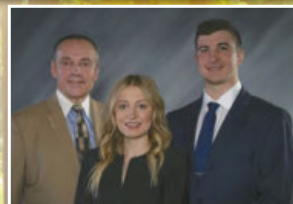
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