



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

September 4, 2022

23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time



"Whoever does not carry his own cross and  
come after me, cannot be my disciple."  
Lk. 14:27

## Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

**Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal**  
[caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager**  
[tnmiller@sssbv.org](mailto:tnmiller@sssbv.org)

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ [sssbv.org](http://sssbv.org)



## 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](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager**  
[dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation**  
[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music**  
[ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary**  
[ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary**  
[dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto: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 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.

**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		Week	Collection
Maintenance	\$ 375.00	July 31	\$ 6,473.00
Phone	\$ 169.64	August 7	\$ 8,035.00
Electric	\$ 1,655.10	August 14	\$ 7,283.14
Festival Expense	\$ 1,704.09	August 21	\$ 7,744.00
Other Utilities	\$ 462.99	August 28	\$ 7,283.00
Misc. Office	\$ 365.97	Total	\$ <u>36,818.14</u>
Church/Liturgy	\$ 1,360.04		
Loan Payment	\$ 5,000.00		
Property Tax	\$ 908.65		
Rectory painting	\$ 1,770.00		
Payroll	\$ 21,335.23		
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 15,079.30		
(Breakdown)			
Accent	\$ 775.20		
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,947.50		
Dio. Assessment	\$ 4,031.84		
Insurance	\$ 3,220.06		
Data Processing	\$ 104.70		
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ <u>50,186.01</u></b>		



**Consider online giving, click the “my Eoffering” button on our parish website.**

**Stewardship of Treasure—August 28, 2022**

Regular Offortory:	\$	6,040.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	50.00
Votives:	\$	327.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	145.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	274.00
Catholic University:	\$	297.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	20.00
Assumption:	\$	130.00
<b>Total August 27/28</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>7,283.00</u></b>

**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. We are always looking for people to help during the liturgy by becoming a Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion, a Lector, Cantor, Server or Usher. Spend some time this week thinking about how you might be able to “take up your cross” and share your gifts.

**ADULT ED AT EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD**

As Catholics, we do many things by habit. During our Bible Study/Adult Ed program sessions we will be using **What We Believe**, to give us a deeper understanding of why we do what we do as Catholics. The cost of the six week program is \$30. This includes the book, workbook and timeline chart as well as one year of online access. We begin on **Monday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 p.m.** Registration *deadline is this Friday, Sept. 9.* If you have any questions, please call the office at 724-684-7661.



**PARISH FESTIVAL—September 18**

The St. Sebastian Parish **Festival** is scheduled for Sunday, **September 18**, from 12 p.m. until 7 p.m. If you would like to volunteer, please call Maggie Kelly, 954-850-0849.

**Lottery Tree!**

You can bring your Lottery Tickets for the Festival Lottery Tree to the Parish Office during regular business hours.

**Parish Raffle**

If you have not turned in your tickets, 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**

Anyone wishing to help in the kitchen the week prior to the Festival, please call Laura at 724-797-3959.

**Faith Formation Registration Form On Line**

Registration forms are available on line and in our church pamphlet racks for the Religious Education Program (CCD). Classes begin on **September 19**, 6:30—7:30 p.m. Learning about our faith is a lifelong journey. It truly does become our responsibility to do all that we can to pass our faith on to future generations. If you would like to be a part of the formation process in our parish, please know that whatever gifts you have to offer, they are welcome. For more information call 724-929-9300.

**Shoe Box Gift Project**

Every year St. Vincent de Paul conducts a **Shoe Box Gift Project**. Various personal items for both men and women are collected and then packed into shoe boxes. They are wrapped and shipped off to Appalachia where they are distributed to needy families. We are going to help fill those boxes this year. I am asking that you bring to personal items that can be used by men and women to Church, we will collect them and pack up the boxes. If you have any empty shoe boxes, we can use them as well. There is a listing of items you may purchase in the back of the church. I ask that you return your items by the weekend of September 24/25.

This is just one more way we share our blessings with people who have so much less. I am always grateful for your generosity with these collections!



**PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY**—Please join us in the Partner Parish Directory. Photo Dates are October 18-22 & November 1-2. (weekdays 2-9 pm & Saturdays 10:30 am—5 pm.)

**To sign up:**

1. Go online at ucdir.com (church code-pa921) (password is **photos**) **OR** to begin September 11, look for signup tables before & after Mass.
  2. November dates will become available once October is filled.
- Don't miss out! Our new Parish Directory won't be complete without you.*

**Little Things for Little People** is collecting baby items? We are collecting diapers, wipes, and baby hygiene products. Donations can be dropped off in the office.

**Liturgies of the Week****September 3—Vigil**

4:30 pm Ralph Mandarino—Niece, Maria Mandarino

**September 4—Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 am Deceased of the Salva & Clark Families—George & Sabra Clark

11:00 am Connie Hornyak—Family

**Monday, September 5—Labor Day**

*Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord at 9:00 am*

**Tuesday, September 6**

8:00 am Alexis "Lexie" Pfile—Grandmother, Mariann Posey

**Wednesday, September 7**

No Mass Today

**Thursday, September 8—Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

No Mass Today

**Friday, September 9—St. Peter Claver**

8:00 am Joseph Manack—Sister, Margie & niece, Annie

**Saturday, September 10—Vigil**

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm Don Ondulick—Ed & Melanie Pearce

**September 11—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

11:00 am August & Mary Korber—Son, James & Carol Korber

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE—September 10/11**

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	C. Farrier	A. Peden
9:00 am	M. Shaughnessy	B. Mallonee	B. Mallonee	A. Frank
11:00 am	C. Rhodes	S. Kroskie	S. Kroskie	M. Ceccarelli

**8th Grade Confirmation Candidates**

The Diocesan Confirmation Information Sheet and Sponsor eligibility letter (if applicable) are due on **September 15, 2022**. Please fill them out completely. Make sure you include the *Confirmation Name* you have chosen on the Diocesan Sheet. Forms may be turned in to the Parish Office.

**BIBLE STUDY**

You are invited to join a 10 week Bible Study this fall on Tuesday evenings from 6 – 7:30 beginning **September 27**. The topic will be **Jesus: The Way, The Truth and the Life**, a video series filmed in the Holy Land.

The cost is \$30 which includes the workbook, book, timeline chart and online access. Please give us a call at the Parish Office or call Sherry Messick at 724-344-9737.

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY** will meet next, Monday, **September 12**, at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Center. For more information call Joanie Brown at 412-657-7880.

**The Parish Office will be closed Monday, September 5, in observance of Labor Day.**

**Matters of Sexual Misconduct Information**—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.



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