



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

Psalm 51



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Schedule

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

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

3rd Wednesday of every month. Call 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.

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



From the Pastor

Finding Peace in Forgiveness

Mercy and Forgiveness abound throughout our readings for this week. It is a clear message of God's absolute acceptance and forgiveness

that we carry with us in our lives. In the first reading we find that the people of Israel totally turned their backs on God because of their impatience. After all of the miraculous events their God showed to them, they still strayed from God's presence and love. Not only did they forget about all of God's goodness they even fashioned a false god from golden earrings and jewelry. As ridiculous as this might sound to us, it is really not all that farfetched when we look at our society and see how drawn people can be with money, power, celebrity and sex. There are many false gods in our world just as ridiculous as the one fashioned by God's chosen people.

There is yet one more lesson that we can learn from the experience at the bottom of that mountain, and it has to do with intercession. Moses speaks on behalf of the people and God relents and holds back punishment. It is the prayer and petition of just one man that saved an entire nation. We need look at what power prayers, on behalf of others, can have. Moses shows us that the foundations of Christian love lie in lives lived for the sake of the common good.

The Gospel gives us an even greater understanding of how forgiving God's mercy and love is. We are given three parables by Jesus and each one indicates to us how important we are in God's eyes. Sometimes we have the tendency to overlook our goodness and put ourselves down for mistakes we have made and the sins that we have committed. These parables show us just how important each and every one of us are, without looking at cost. If we could only accept ourselves in the same way that God accepts us, life would certainly be a lot easier. We can see that God is more eager to welcome and receive sinners than to hold them accountable; would that we learn from that in our dealings with one another. We waste so much time keeping score in life. We can remember the things done wrong to us from years past and yet we forget the blessings received only minutes ago. Fortunately God doesn't keep score. God's love and merciful acceptance are always before us calling us to a greater conversion.

Most of the time God's forgiving mercy just doesn't make sense to us in life. God's compassion is way beyond what we will ever be able to comprehend. It is a radical gift that is offered to us every day of our lives. We need to learn from this example of forgiving love and share that with the people in our lives who need our forgiveness. It does no good to hold onto grudges and hurts of the past, it only keeps us in the past and prevents us from living in the present.

Forgiveness is never easy and so much more difficult when the hurt is intentional. Perhaps one way to approach this is to consider the good in the other who needs our forgiveness. Everyone has goodness in them, we just have to take the time and make the effort to find it. When we are angry, recite a "litany" of positive virtues. When we want to strike back, think of the dignity of the other because he or she is a baptized son or daughter of God. Maybe we also need to consider our own goodness!

Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for September 4, 2022, will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

Sunday Dinner at Epiphany Church

Celebrate Oktoberfest! Epiphany of Our Lord Church is holding a special halupki (Or kielbassa) dinner on **Sunday, September 25**. The from 11:30 am to 4:00 pm.

Dinner includes either 2 halupki **or** 2 pieces kielbassa, mashed potatoes, green beans, garlic bread, cake and a beverage. Eat in or take out. The cost is \$15.00. Please purchase tickets before Tuesday, September 20 by calling Betty Geis at 724-684-5037 or the Epiphany church office at 724-684-7661.

Gathering of Catholic Men on September 24th

The Catholic Men's Fellowship of Western Pennsylvania is inviting all men to attend the Annual Gathering of Catholic Men, Saturday **September 24th** at the Gateway High School in Monroeville, PA. Come for a time of Eucharistic Adoration, Confession, uplifting music, and popular Catholic speakers including Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, Jeff Joaquin, Matthew Leonard and Bishop William Waltersheid, who will also celebrate the closing Mass. Doors open at 11:30, Adoration begins at 12:30 PM, the first speaker starts at 1:30 PM, and Mass begins at 4:30 PM. The cost is \$25.00 per person, \$20 per person with group of 10 or more, and \$10 for College Students. Priests are free. For more information or to register, please go to the website at www.cmfwpa.org



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!

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





Next Sunday September 18 Noon—7 pm

The St. Sebastian Parish **Festival** is scheduled for next Sunday, **September 18**, from 12 pm—7 pm

There will be a Basket Raffle, Bake Sale, Games, Entertainment, Outside Food, Ethnic Dinners, and more!

COME JOIN US AT THE FESTIVAL!!

Raffle

If you have not yet turned your ticket stubs in, won't you please consider doing so?

Bake Sale

Contact Anita at 412-393-9319. Donations may be brought to 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 this week please call Laura at 724-797-3959.

Faith Formation

Registration Form On Line

Registration forms are available for all of our children who will be a part of our faith formation program. Forms are on line and in the church pamphlet racks. Religious Education classes begin **next Monday, September 19**. I ask that you take the time to read the information and do all that you can to become a part of our formation process. 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 have any questions about this year's program you can call the faith formation office (724-929-9300) for more information.

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 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.

Liturgies of the Week

September 10—Vigil

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

Monday, September 12—Most Holy Name of Mary

No Mass Today

Tuesday, September 13—St. John Chrysostom

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Freddy Fundy—John & Joan Ciccarelli

Wednesday, September 14—Exaltation of the Holy Cross

No Mass Today

Thursday, September 15—Our Lady of Sorrows

No Mass Today

Friday, September 16—Ss. Cornelius & Cyprian

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Timothy Ambrose—Family

Saturday, September 17—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm James & Elizabeth Savarino and Thomas Savarino—Family

September 18—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Bill Picchiarini—Wife, Joan & Family

11:00 am Jerry Chunkala—Family

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—September 17/18

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	C. Farrier	R. Buretz
9:00 am	E. Bagay	B. Mallonee	B. Mallonee	N. Jodon
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	R. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	C. Hoffman H. Miller

Altar Candle Ring Flowers

The Altar Candle flowers this week are in memory of Jean Silvestro by the Burrows and Walkush Families.



PARISH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Please join us in the Partner Parish Directory. Photo Dates are October 18-22 & November 1-2.
(weekdays 2:00 p.m.-9:00 pm & Saturdays 10:30 a.m.—5:00 p.m.)

To sign up:

1. Go online at ucdir.com (church code-pa921) (password is **photos**) **OR** starting this weekend, September 10/11, 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.



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