



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
September 25, 2022



*“My child remember that you received what was good during your lifetime, while Lazarus received what was bad.”*

Luke 16:25

## Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 PM	<b>Tuesday, 8:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>Friday, 8:00 AM</b>

## Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

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



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

## From the Pastor-Lazarus and the Rich Man!

We start our readings off with a strong warning from Amos who lived in about the 8<sup>th</sup> century BCE. He spent his life warning the rich and powerful of his day. Amos had utter disdain for the rich and pompous wealthy men of his time who lay on carved ivory couches and practiced deceitful business schemes amassing huge natural resources to stimulate their natural pleasures. The irony is that the people who were amassing this wealth felt that it was a sign of God's blessings upon them. He warns the rich exploiters of the poor that they would soon be sent into exile. History shows us that Amos' words did come true. Although he speaks to a people from so long ago, his words ring just as true for us today. We live in a nation, worship in churches and own homes among the most privileged in our world; in many ways we are the people that Amos speaks to.

The Gospel for this week also speaks about wealth, but with a different twist. This story comes from a collection of folk tales which talk about the fate that befalls people in the afterlife, set in stark contrast to the way they lived on earth. The two people in the story give us a strong lesson on the choices we make in life. The rich man is presented as a man of self-indulgence. The poor man, Lazarus is not presented as a man of either sinless-ness or virtue, just "poor." So, the contrast is between luxury and misery, not between moral failure and moral success. The lesson of the story is to help us determine how we use wealth.

Whether we admit it or not, many of us live out of the notion that "We get what we deserve," so it is easy to see who we most identify with in the story. None of us who hear this parable identifies with the rich man, but with the poor man Lazarus. In looking at the story we must be clear that the issue is not the rich man's wealth. Just like the "complacent in Zion" the rich man is unconcerned for Lazarus. The chasm that separated the rich man and Lazarus after death is already present while they are living. This chasm – much more than the breach between rich and poor – is a gulf of uncaring. The metaphor spells out for us the reason why we identify with Lazarus. Although the wealth and comfort of this life are attractive, they are too fleeting to choose. What really counts is living faithfully now so we are on the right side of the chasm in eternity.

The parable highlights a favorite theme of Jesus. Self-indulgence in life keeps creeping up on us. The more we have, the more we want, and that propels us into a lifestyle that blinds us to the fact that there are others around us who cry out for justice. We fail to see how self-indulgence eats away at our spirit, takes hold of our character, erodes our faith, justifies our lifestyles, and blocks out any reflection in our lives about our lives.

What saved Lazarus was not that he was poor. What saved him was that he "could long for more." "Longing" is a key word in Luke. When a person has a sense of longing, there is a sense of oneself as being incomplete, unfulfilled. Lazarus knew there were places in his heart that could be filled only by God. Lazarus has no food, but he has spirit. The rich man was satisfied; there was nothing left to long for. And when longing in life is absent, we are doomed to live in the present. So...who are the Lazarus's at our own gates?

## Stewardship of Treasure September 18, 2022

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,449.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	210.00
Votives:	\$	74.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	100.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	248.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	160.00
<b>Total September 17/18</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>7,241.00</u></b>

## Blessing of Pets

On **Monday October 3** we will celebrate the feast of St. Francis. We all know that St. Francis is well known for his great love for all of creation, especially the animals. Because of his great love for animals, the church uses this occasion to bestow a blessing upon all of our pets. We will gather in the parking lot at St. Sebastian's on Monday at 6:30, then on Tuesday at 6:30 we will have a blessing in the parking lot at Epiphany. So, if you have a pet **of any kind**, bring them on Monday or Tuesday and we will bless them.



## Gourmet Chocolate Apples

As mentioned we are going to sell Chocolate Gourmet Apples and Pretzels for the holidays. They will come from Applelicious in Carnegie. I have flyers and a signup sheet in the back of the church. The large apples weigh up to 2 ¼ pounds and will sell for \$14.00, the small apples weigh up to 1 ¼ pound and will sell for \$11.00 and pretzels weighing ¼ pound will be \$4.50. If you have any questions, you can give us a call at the office. **All orders need to be in by the first week of November.**

## October Count

The month of October has been the time set aside by our diocese to count all of the people who attend church. Throughout the weeks of October we will count all of the people who come to St. Sebastian Church. At the end of the month, I will publish the totals. So, if you see someone counting, you will know what they are doing. This count is important for the Diocese when planning for the future.

## Church Directory Update

The new directory photo dates continue to be scheduled. Each Sunday you can schedule your family for their portrait time. We will have volunteers eager to help you before and after Mass. Remember, this is a terrific opportunity for a professional portrait in the comfort of our own church. To register on line visit: [ucdir.com](http://ucdir.com) (code: pa921, password: photo) Schedule your family soon!

## SHOE BOX PROJECT

I would like to thank everyone who helped with our Shoe Box Collection. Please know that all the boxes will be packed with the things you donated, they will be wrapped and shipped off to help make this year's Christmas a little brighter for many people. As always, I am grateful to you for your generosity!

We will be packing the shoe boxes in the Parish Hall on **Wednesday, October 5**, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. If you have any donations of personal care items for men or women, please bring them to the hall. Also needed is Christmas wrapping paper, tape and scissors. Refreshments will be provided. Your help is needed for this worthy project!



**LADIES OF FAITH GROUP** will be present at the 9:00 a.m. Mass this Sunday, **September 25**. Following Mass all are invited to the Parish Hall for coffee and doughnuts. While we are there, we can let Fr. Mike know how much we appreciate all that he has done for us and for our parish family. God bless you Fr. Mike! We do truly appreciate you!

## UNCLAIMED FESTIVAL PRIZES

If you purchased tickets for the "Big TV" or for Half the Take, then check your ticket stubs. These two great prizes have not been claimed. Bring your winning ticket stub to the Parish Office and claim your prize!

**# 337312 for the 48" TV and # 773289 for 50/50**

## "Spirited" Women's Conference

"Spirited," the first Diocesan Women's Conference, is set for Saturday, **November 12**, from 7 a.m.-4 p.m. at Christ our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. A registration form is included in this week's bulletin. For more information, call 724-837-0901.

## Liturgies of the Week

### September 24—Vigil

4:30 pm Merry K. Hewitt—Dayna & Sissy

### September 25—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Scott Hoffman—Parents, Jim & Joanne Hoffman

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

### Monday, September 26—Ss. Cosmas & Damian

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, September 27—St. Vincent de Paul

8:00 am Tonarelli & Paglia Families—Gerry, Tina & Elaine

### Wednesday, September 28—St. Wenceslaus/St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions

No Mass Today

### Thursday, September 29—Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

No Mass Today

### Friday, September 30—St. Jerome

8:00 am Thomas Costella, Sr. & Tony Brightwell—Pam, Patti, Tom & Families

### Saturday, October 1—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm Christine & Carl Riharcik—Son, Steve

### October 2—27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Deceased of the Novinsky & Tretinik Families—Barb Moskovitz

11:00 am (Death Anniv) Melvin "Bucky" Walkush—Judith Pawlowski

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE—October 1/2

	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	C. Rhodes	S. Kroskie	S. Kroskie	B. Henderson

## Thank You to So Many

We had a wonderful Parish Festival last weekend. Our first Fall Festival since the Covid restrictions. There was a constant stream of supporters for the various activities taking place inside and out. We had great music, delicious food and many people from all over looking to share time, fellowship and their contributions to make Saint Sebastian Parish a better place for everyone.

Such an event doesn't happen magically. It takes a lot of time and effort in planning, organizing, setting-up and underwriting what is offered. Many people gave their time, talent and treasure to make this weekend a success. We are grateful to those who donated baked goods, lottery tickets, over age "21" beverages, basket goods, and sweet treats. Behind the scenes, people worked long hours into the night and early morning to set up for and clean up after the events. Inside food preparations began weeks in advance with making pierogi, stuffed cabbage and all the foods for this year's menu, as well as the planning and preparing for the outside food menu.

To all involved, we owe a heartfelt "thanks" and a promise of prayers for blessings on your generosity. When people work together for a common purpose larger than their own interests and success, wonderful things happen, because God is being served.

To all God's servants of this year's Fall Festival, God's blessings! A report of the financial results for this event will be published in next week's bulletin.



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