



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

DECEMBER 11, 2022

Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:30 PM

Sunday

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Tuesday, 8:00 AM

Friday, 8:00 AM

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**IN JOY,
WE WAIT**



Parish Staff

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Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

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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.

PLEASE NOTE: Throughout December the Saturday confessions will be canceled in lieu of the Advent Penance Services.

From the Pastor—With Joy we await!

This third Sunday of Advent is referred to as Gaudete Sunday meaning “rejoice.” Our readings for today lead us to rejoice in the life that we have and more importantly the promise that we have been given. We start off once again with Isaiah telling us that the future is something that we all can rejoice in. He speaks about how much we are subject to the conditions of weather, and living in a very arid country, this is no surprise. Therefore the provision of water in the wilderness is a common and joyous expression of praise in the books of the prophets. He speaks of the parched land of the desert in full bloom all because of God’s love for us. The coming of water to dry places, no less than the ransom of captives, promises renewed prospects for human survival in a dangerous world.



James in his letter reminds us that just as we cannot predict the weather, we must be patient and wait. He does not liken the “coming of the Lord” to the rains, but rather compares the patience of believers to that of the farmer who must wait for the rains. The rains will not arrive any sooner simply because the farmer wishes it; they will come when they come. So too will it be with the coming of Christ. We all must be patient and simply wait. It is in the gospel for this week that we are given the information about how we are to wait and what we are to do.

We find that John is in prison as Matthew presents our gospel for this week. He is wondering if Jesus is truly the “one” who is to come. The question this leaves us is: how can John the Baptist, Christ’s forerunner and the man Jesus himself greeted as the greatest ever born from a woman, be so unsure now? In a way it is good for us to see that John had to adapt to Jesus’ views, and not Jesus to John’s. Jesus always comes and works in the most unexpected ways.

John’s question must become our own: Is Jesus the One for us, or are we really looking for another? In trying to answer the question of Jesus’ identity we cannot rely only on the authority of others found in creeds or catechisms. Our answer must also come from our own personal experience of Jesus and the good fruit of his life and ministry. Advent is a time when we can open our eyes to see in new ways the presence of Jesus – in good actions, in the holiness of others, in forgiveness and healing. Yes, we see Jesus when we see the fruits of his presence.

Living the Gospel, means that we are charged to take up Jesus’ ministry, we cannot ask people to take our word for it; our actions or non-actions speak for us. Either we take up Jesus’ ministry or we don’t. Either people see Jesus in us, or they don’t. We grow into witnessing to Jesus’ life and mission when we ourselves seek to answer the question, “Are you the one...?” by personally encountering Christ in prayer and opening ourselves to recognizing him in our own and others’ good works. We cannot know someone whom we have never encountered.

Nietzsche once said that one of the major obstacles to believing in Christ is that Christians do not reflect the joy of his Resurrection. This Sunday offers us a wonderful opportunity to ask ourselves whether we live our faith joyfully or not. It is sometimes difficult today to be optimistic about the future of our Christian communities, but who said it was ever easy? Jesus performs miracles, and still people doubt. Are we dreaming of a salvation completely out of this world or are we ready to adjust our own dreams to those of God as embodied in the life and ministry of Jesus?

Christmas Fruit Baskets

Purchase a box of fruit for Christmas. We will get the fruit from DeCarlo’s Fruit Market, the cost is \$23.00 per box. The **deadline to order** is this Monday, **December 12**. Pick up **December 22, 4–6 pm or December 23, Noon–2 pm**. Please fill out the form below and return to the Parish Office with your payment.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT BASKET ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

FRUIT BOXES _____

PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED _____

PICK-UP: DEC. 22–4:00-6:00 PM or DEC. 23–NOON-2:00 PM

Stewardship of Treasure—December 4, 2022

Regular Offertory:	\$	9,508.80
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	338.00
Votives:	\$	168.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	314.00
Poverty Relief Collection:	\$	18.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	110.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	431.00
Oplatki:	\$	76.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	122.00
All Souls:	\$	15.00
Children/Family Services:	\$	75.00
Military Collection:	\$	1.00
All Saints:	\$	15.00
Thanksgiving:	\$	60.00
Christmas:	\$	250.00
Faith Formation:	\$	75.00
Total December 3/4	\$	<u>11,526.80</u>

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

Advent Penance Service

This week our Penance services begin on Monday at Yukon at 6:00, Tuesday at Rostraver t 6:30 and on Thursday we will be at Perryopolis at 6:30, Friday we will be in Herminie at 6:00 and then the last service will be on Saturday here at St. Sebastian at Noon. I do hope that many of you will be able to come and share in the Sacrament of Christ's loving forgiveness.

Angel Tree

For those who took a name from the Angel Tree, remember to bring your gift with the tag attached next week when you come to Mass.



Christmas Mass Schedule



The schedule for Masses on Christmas will be 4:00 pm on Christmas Eve, then a Christmas Mass at 10:00 pm, then on Christmas Day morning at 10:00 am. Please make a note that there will be only one Mass on Christmas Day.

2023 CALENDARS—The Parzynski Funeral home family members will be distributing 2023 calendars next weekend, **December 17 & 18** after all Masses.

ENJOY BOOKS

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School is offering 2023 Enjoy Books for Sale. The cost is \$30 per book. Please call the School office to order your book (724-929-5143).

SAVE THE DATE

St. Sebastian & Epiphany of Our Lord will hold a Purse Bash, **April 30**, only 200 tickets sold for \$30 donation. More information in future bulletins.

Breakfast with Santa

Next Sunday, **December 18**, at Epiphany we will give our children the opportunity to have Breakfast with Santa! Santa and Mrs. Claus will be here at Epiphany from 10:00 am until 12-Noon. This is a wonderful opportunity for you and your kids and grandchildren to spend time with Santa. Pass the word around to friends and neighbors that Santa and Mrs. Claus will be making a stop



THE ROSARY IS PRAYED SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM, PRIOR TO THE 9:00 AM MASS. PLEASE JOIN US!

Liturgies of the Week

December 10—Vigil

4:30 pm Jacob & Merry Hewitt—Daughters, Sissy & Dayna

December 11—Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Connie Vincenzes—Niece, Karen & Mark Ramsier

11:00 am Gene Lancas—Chris & Dick Giannamore

Monday, December 12—Our Lady of Guadalupe
No Mass Today

Tuesday, December 13—St. Lucy

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Blanche Sabo—Bernadette Zunic & Annette Snyder

Wednesday, December 14—St. John of the Cross
No Mass Today

Thursday, December 15

No Mass Today

Friday, December 16

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Sam Suppa, Jr.—Wife, Annette & Children, Sam, Angela & Barbra

Saturday, December 17—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Michael J. Hazy—Brother, Jim Hazy & Family

December 18—Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am (Birth Date) Vincenzo, Donna & Jeffrey Ambrose—Family

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—December 17/18

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

Country Christmas on Broad Avenue

TODAY, Sunday, December 11

Parade on Broad at 2:00 p.m.

Festivities on Parish Grounds

3:00 p.m.—6:00 p.m.



Festivities Include:

Live Nativity, Pictures with Santa, Ornament Decorating, Horse & Carriage Rides, Caroling, and much, much, more.

Let's get in the Christmas spirit together.



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Funeral Directors
 Shelby D. Ferguson II, Karlee R. Ferguson, & Adam S. Ferguson