

# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

DECEMBER 18, 2022

## 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](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

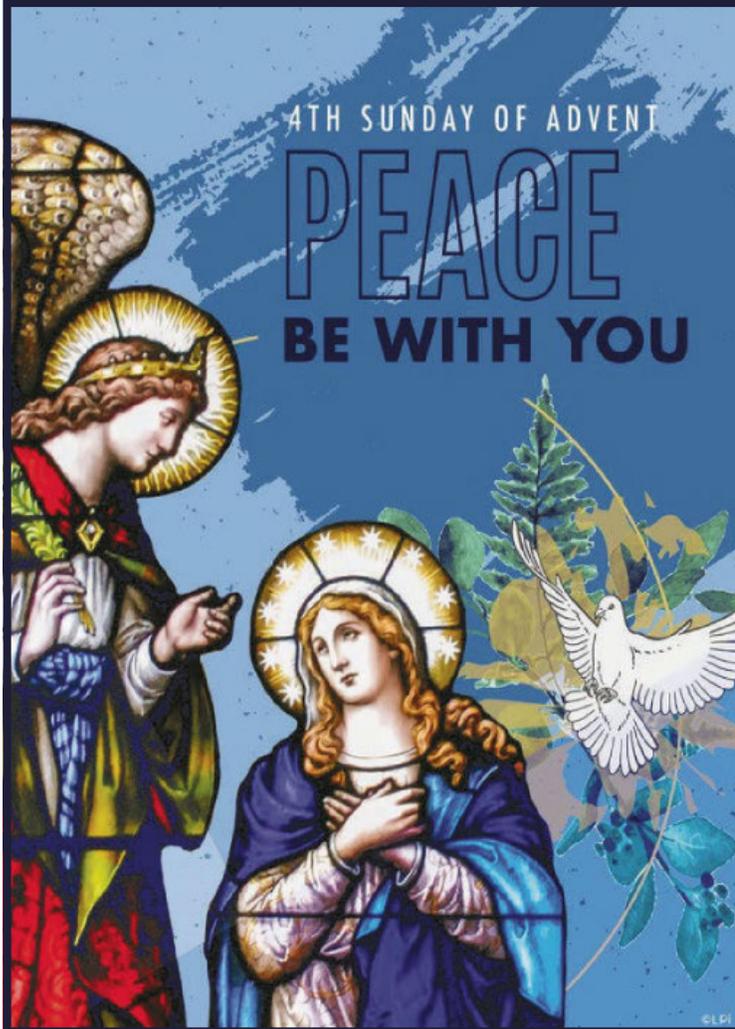
[ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**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)



## Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

**Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal**

[caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager**

[tmiller@sssbv.org](mailto:tmiller@sssbv.org)

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

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

### The Simple Things in Life...

Here we are already celebrating the fourth and final Sunday of the Advent Season. We must be careful not to turn our liturgies into “Christmas Masses” this week. Even though we are all ready for the excitement of Christmas only a few days away, the atmosphere of this week’s readings is still one of promise and hope and not fulfillment.

This week our gospel centers around the parents of Jesus and more specifically on Joseph. Many people in our world today will travel great distances and go to great lengths seeking miraculous happenings. But the surprise of this season is that God’s greatest miracle happens close to home: the simple consent of a man and a woman to do God’s will. The gospel is an annunciation to Joseph that Mary would conceive and bear a Son by the Holy Spirit. Yet, by God’s choice, the collaboration of an ordinary man and an ordinary woman was necessary. Joseph and Mary heard God’s word announcing salvation and they obeyed it. Through such divine-human collaboration Jesus became “Emmanuel...God is with us.” Here is the Good News of the gospel: by such a simple act as Joseph’s obeying God’s messenger and taking “his wife into his home,” God is with us in the incarnated Son.

There is even more Good News, if God chose such simple people as Joseph and Mary to incarnate the divine Son, is it not reasonable to think that Son’s continued presence in the world is brought about by us? God’s choice to cooperate with humanity in bringing about salvation is not limited to Mary and Joseph, but continues in our own hearing of God’s word and obedience to God’s will. Thus, the Incarnation is not limited to a single event we celebrate annually in December, but happens every day in the ordinary circumstances of our own lives. The twist in this gospel is that God chose us to bring salvation to us who need it.

On these final days of Advent, why not spend some time thinking about how God uses the simple things in life to help us learn the greatest lessons. Ironically, it is usually the simple things in life that we tend to overlook the most. We take so much for granted the little things in life that be are barely even aware of them. Throughout the entire scriptures, God makes use of the common parts of life to reveal the greatest of glories. The more we are able to recognize the goodness and glory of God in the simple things in life, the more God’s love will be a part of our world.

Make an effort today to reflect on who Christ is for us and what believing in Him means to our life. Remember to become aware of the little things in your life for that is where you will see the greatest gifts!

*Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for December 11, 2022, will be in a future bulletin.*

**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.

### Nov. Expenses Amount

Maintenance	\$ 822.32
Phone	\$ 168.31
Electric	\$ 938.52
Local Charity	\$ 1,000.00
Other Utilities	\$ 678.65
Par. Ctr. Kit. Floor	\$ 3,200.00
Misc. Office	\$ 760.45
Church/Liturgy	\$ 515.00
Final Roof Payment	\$ 5,378.54
Payroll	\$ 22,827.81
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 15,009.60
(Breakdown)	
Accent	\$ 775.20
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,947.50
Dio. Assessment	\$ 4,031.84
Insurance	\$ 3,220.06
Data Processing	\$ 35.00
Total	\$ 51,299.20

### Week Collection

Nov. 6	\$ 9,825.00
Nov. 13	\$ 11,111.75
Nov. 20	\$ 6,136.00
Nov. 27	\$ 10,107.58
Total	\$ 37,180.33



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## Children and Family Services

Children and Family Services Appeal collection to be taken at Christmas Masses

The annual Catholic Charities’ Children and Family Services Appeal will be the second collection at all Christmas Masses Dec. 24 and 25. This collection helps people in our diocese who are less fortunate. Your support can change the future of an individual, family or child through the good works of Catholic Charities.

## 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).



## Christmas Fruit Baskets

Please stop by the Parish Hall to pick up your Fruit Basket. Pick up on **Thursday, December 22, 4—6 pm** or **Friday, December 23, Noon—2 pm.**





## 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.

### Carols & Anthems

Prior to the 10:00 pm Mass on **December 24**, our Parish Choir will share the music of Christmas from 9:30—10:00 pm. All are welcome to come and be blessed by their beautiful presentation.

## Angel Tree

Once again this year we had a successful project with the Angel tree. It is heart-warming to see such generosity pour from the people of our parish. The gifts that you bought will certainly make a brighter Christmas for some needy people in our community. We all need to celebrate this gift and be grateful that we are able to do it. Know that the hearts of many will be greatly blessed because of your kind and gracious generosity.



## Ladies of Faith

The Ladies of Faith celebrated their first Christmas Party and it was a tremendous success. It was so nice to see so many ladies come together and celebrate the season. As we strive to build this organization up, we would like once again to invite all of the women of our parish to come and be a part of it. The next meeting will be held **January 5** at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

## Gift Certificates

Star Nail & Spa are offering \$50 gift certificates for their services: nails, pedicure, and waxing. The owners, parishioners of St. Sebastian, are donating 100% of all proceeds to the Church. Star Nail is located at 825 Broad Ave and can be reached at 724-810-3333. We thank them for their kind generosity. The certificates are available at the Parish Office.

## Liturgies of the Week

### 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

### Monday, December 19

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, December 20

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Scott Hoffman—Parents, Jim & Joanne Hoffman

### Wednesday, December 21—St. Peter Canisius

No Mass Today

### Thursday, December 22

No Mass Today

### Friday, December 23—St. John of Kanty

8:00 am Pedro Blas Romero—Wife, Mary & son, Carlos

### Saturday, December 24—Vigil

4:00 pm Intention of the Celebrant  
10:00 pm Intention of the Celebrant

### December 25—Solemnity of the Birth of Our Lord, Jesus

10:00 am Intention of the Celebrant

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

#### December 24

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:00 pm	M. Patterson C. Gorski	S. Wawro	S. Wawro	C. Hoffman
10:00 pm	M. Shaughnessy	C. Farrier	C. Farrier	N. Jodon
		December 25		
10:00 am	E. Bagay	K. Molesky	K. Molesky	Volunteer

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



*In observance of the celebration of the Birth of Our Lord, the Parish Office will be closing Friday, December 23 at 12-Noon. The office will reopen on Wednesday, December 28.*

## 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.



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