

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

DECEMBER 4, 2022

Mass Schedule

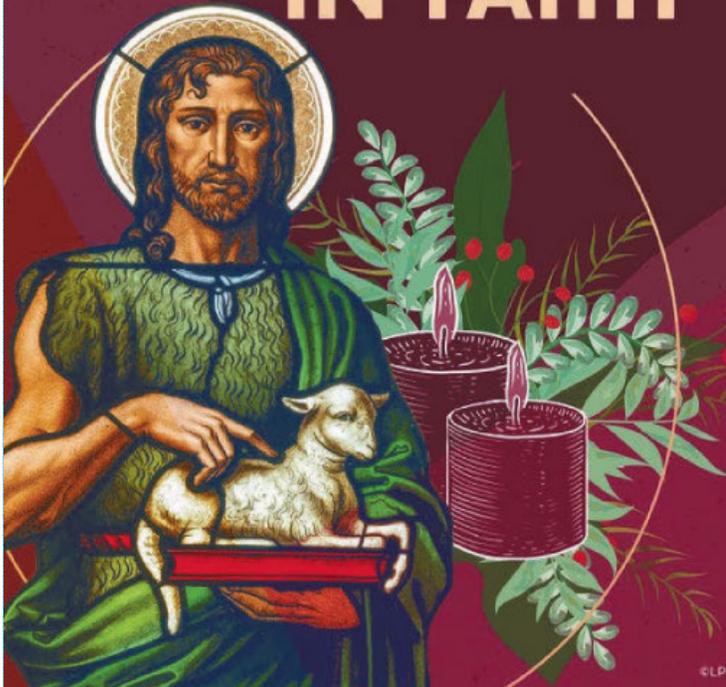
Saturday
4:30 PM

Tuesday, 8:00 AM

Sunday
9:00 AM
11:00 AM

Friday, 8:00 AM

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
**HOLD ON
IN FAITH**



Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
tmiller@sssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor

mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager

dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation

smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music

ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary

ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary

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.

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

From the Pastor . . .

The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand

Ironically during this season of Advent when we are supposed to slow down and think about the Hope that Our Lord brings to our lives, we are literally bombarded with all kinds of messages. The preparations for Christmas are so full of anxiety and frustration that this season loses everything that it is supposed to bring to our lives. John the Baptist tells us to "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" we must be aware that we do not lose what this message brings to us.

Isaiah in the first reading tells us about the root of Jesse and how there will be a time of peace between all of God's creation. These were certainly welcome words given to a people whose world seemed to be collapsing around them. The fear of war and oppression from all sides was a reality and the people were living through years of crisis not only for their own kingdom but also for the many small kingdoms throughout the Middle East. These words from this great prophet were meant to bring hope, he wanted to see his people live in peace and harmony.

Unifying people was not only the concern of Isaiah, for St. Paul also reminds us that we all need to strive for unity. His letter implores all of us to live in harmony with one another. We are told to imitate Christ in all that we do. St. Paul is telling us that discipleship is always a matter of imitation. We are all called to live as Christ; doing nothing more or less than what he did. For Paul, the sign of the successful imitation of Christ, as in our reading today is when we live in harmony with all people.

The gospel of Matthew presents us with the prophet who is given the privilege of announcing the Kingdom of God, and John is presented as anything but common. If he would be walking through our streets today, what kind of attention would we give him? Here was a man who left society and chose to live in the wilderness all by himself. He lived on locust and wild honey and wore camel hair for his clothing. Would we really pay a man like that any attention at all? And yet, in spite of his appearance, John the Baptist was famous in his time. In fact the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus wrote about him and Jesus near the turn of the second century and it appears that John was better known of the two in Palestine during the first century.

Prophets have always been disturbing people, and yet they were people with great tenderness and deep love for their people. They were not afraid to speak out the truth whenever necessary. The role of the prophet is to "prepare the way of the Lord." Throughout the ages the prophets have kept the faith and hope of their people alive, no matter what. John is certainly one of the great prophets; he was the forerunner of Christ. Shall his voice remain lost in the wilderness, or shall we listen and go to prepare actively for the coming of Christ?

This is the time of the year when many opportunities to think of others arise. The red kettle and bell ringing remind us that others are less fortunate than we and need our help. At the same time we cannot forget to be mindful of those with whom we live, work, and play, especially at a time when busyness might cause us to be tired and short-tempered and when taking care of our own things might cause us to be shortsighted that we do not see the need of those close to us.

Stewardship of Treasure—November 20, 2022

Regular Offertory:	\$	5,037.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	65.00
Votives:	\$	91.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	35.00
Poverty Relief Collection:	\$	453.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	100.00
All Souls:	\$	5.00
Retired Priests:	\$	15.00
Military Services:	\$	50.00
All Saints:	\$	10.00
Thanksgiving:	\$	275.00

Total November 19/20 \$ 6,136.00

Stewardship of Treasure—November 27, 2022

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,951.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	667.00
Votives:	\$	411.58
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	57.00
Poverty Relief Collection:	\$	328.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	107.00
Christmas:	\$	50.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	135.00
Retired Priests:	\$	17.00
Christmas Wafers:	\$	41.00
Military Services:	\$	100.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	5.00
All Saints:	\$	22.00
Thanksgiving:	\$	1,216.00

Total November 26/27 \$ 10,107.58

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

Angel Tree

Remember, for those who took ornaments from the Angel Tree, to return your gifts by December 18. When you bring them back, be sure to attach the tag with the number on it so we can get them delivered to the right person.



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

We offer the opportunity to purchase boxes of fruit for Christmas. The fruit comes from DeCarlo's Fruit Market, the cost is \$23.00 per box. The deadline to order is **December 12**. Pick up **December 22, 4—6 pm or December 23, Noon—2 pm**. Please fill out the form and return to the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT BASKET ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

FRUIT BOXES _____

PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED _____

Confirmation

Last Tuesday, November 22, 2022 at 7:00 p.m., Bishop Larry Kulick celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in our Church for the young parishioners of Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen, St. Sebastian, and students from The Historic Church of St. Peter, Church of St. Anne and the Church of St. John the Baptist. Receiving this Sacrament completes their sacramental initiation in the Church.

The following St. Sebastian students were Confirmed:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Nicolas <i>Philip</i> Angelo | Addison <i>Seraphina</i> Frank |
| Ethan <i>Michael</i> Baron | Caden <i>Hubert</i> Hoffman |
| Andrew <i>Sebastian</i> Bickerton | Michael <i>Edward</i> Lancy, Jr. |
| Maddox <i>Louis</i> Ceccarelli | Abigail <i>Hope</i> Russell |
| Vincenzo <i>Sebastian</i> Francia | Brooke <i>Anne</i> Spitznagel |

Please pray for them that the Spirit of God will continue to guide them on their Faith Journey.

Thank you to the volunteers who donated cookies, helped set-up and tear down the hall for reception that followed Confirmation.

Advent Penance Service

Advent is the time to prepare for the greatest gift God has given us, the forgiving love we find through His Son. In celebrating this forgiveness we will offer the sacrament of Reconciliation throughout our region. The dates and times for our Penance Services are listed below.

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| December 6 | Epiphany (6:30 pm) |
| December 7 | West Newton (6:30) |
| December 12 | Yukon (6:00 pm) |
| December 13 | Rostraver (6:30) |
| December 15 | Perryopolis (6:30 pm) |
| December 16 | Herminie (6:00 pm) |
| December 17 | Belle Vernon (Saturday, 12:00 Noon) |



Throughout December the Saturday confessions will be canceled in lieu of the services.

I hope that you mark these dates down and make an effort to come and bring your family to this life-giving sacrament.

**REALITY TOUR
Getting "Real" About Drugs**

Reality Tour is a national parent and child drug education and prevention program held at the Belle Vernon High School. The next scheduled program is on **December 12** from 6-8:30 pm, arrive at 5:30 pm, at Belle Vernon Area High School, For more information, go to realitytour.org or call 724-797-0955.

**Country Christmas on Broad Avenue
Next Sunday, December 11**



On **December 11** our second Country Christmas on Broad begins with a parade on Broad Avenue at 2:00 pm. Then festivities continue on our parish grounds from 3:00 until 6:00 pm. This is a golden opportunity to come with your family and celebrate the joy of the season. There will be plenty to do, so mark your calendars. Flyers are in the church pamphlet racks for Country Christmas on Broad Avenue.

Donations of bottled water are needed.

They can be brought to the Parish Office this week.

Liturgies of the Week

December 3—Vigil

4:30 pm Myrle & Ruth Keller—Son, Lou & Family

December 4—Second Sunday of Advent

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

11:00 am (Date of Birth) Frank Rodriguez—John & Joan Benyak

Monday, December 5

No Mass Today

Tuesday, December 6—St. Nicholas

8:00 am Don Ondulick—Valley of Hope

Wednesday, December 7—Vigil

6:30 pm Mildred "Sis" Bethem—Joseph & Janet Sacane

Thursday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen, at 8:00 a.m.

Friday, December 9

8:00 am James Salvino—Daughter, Nancy & Family

Saturday, 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

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—December 10/11

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	J. Wasicek	K. Molesky	K. Molesky	M. Wasicek
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	R. Messick	R. Messick	H. Miller

Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7 here at St. Sebastian.

On Thursday, December 8, Mass will be celebrated at Epiphany of Our Lord at 8:00 a.m. The Parish Office will be closed on Thursday, December 8.



CHRISTMAS WAFERS

The Oplatki or Christmas Wafers are available in the back of the church. The wafers are packaged with 4 individual wafers. The cost for a packet is \$3.00. You may also pick them up at the office during the week.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Evening hours: if anyone is interested in joining the Prayer Shawl Ministry, but need evening hours, please call with the day and time most convenient for you. Joannie Brown, 412-657-7880.

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: HELEN J. STANISH and MICHAEL T. MCGINLEY. We extend our sympathy to their families.. May they rest in peace.



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