



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

January 1, 2023



SOLEMNITY OF MARY,  
MOTHER OF GOD



**From the Pastor—A New Year of Hope**

Life is full of new beginnings, we move from one situation to another. We carry with us the successes and disappointments of our past and make them a part of who we are in the present. We learn from our mistakes and do our best to avoid them in the future. In a perfect world this would be the golden rule.



However we do not live in a perfect world and it is sad to say that we repeat a lot of our mistakes over and over and never learn our lesson. Today we have another new beginning with the start of a new year. There are many opportunities that lie ahead with many challenges to be met. There will be much success and probably some failures, but we need to start this year with a spirit of hope in our minds as well as in our hearts.

Our first reading today from the book of numbers speaks to us of a blessing which says: “The Lord look kindly upon you and give you peace!” This is something that we can all hope for and at the beginning another new year it is a perfect way to start. After months during which our world has been scarred by natural disasters, terrorist attacks, and continuing poverty, we need the hope that things can be different. We need always remind ourselves that we are not bound by the past; rather we have the power to bring change and goodness to our lives and to our world. We don’t have to repeat the same mistakes over and over again, we can change. This is the meaning behind the incarnation of Jesus. We have been given a blessing of hope as adopted children of God. St. Paul sees Jesus as the ultimate blessing of God and emphasizes our good fortune by being adopted sons and daughters of God. In recognizing this blessing our lives cannot help but be filled with Hope!

The beginning of the New Year has traditionally been recognized as a time when we honor Mary as the Mother of God. Mary is the first believer in God’s promise of hope. She treasures and reflects on all she sees and hears and becomes a universal model of faith for all believers. Today we honor Mary fittingly at the beginning of 2023. We reflect on the tender heart of a woman shining throughout history as the first to say yes to the birth of the One whom the shepherds announced and praised. As she treasured all these things in her heart, we treasure her as the Mother of God, a blessing for us all. As you journey through the New Year carry this blessing with you. Remember the words of blessing that we hear from the book of numbers and know that God is with us all as a continual source of hope and strength. There is nothing too big for us to overcome as long as we carry this hope in our hearts.

**Rev. Michael J. Crookston, Pastor**

**Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for December 25, 2022, will be in a future bulletin.**

**Stewardship of Treasure—December 11, 2022**

Regular Offertory:	\$	8,473.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	1,288.00
Votives:	\$	168.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	209.00
Poverty Relief Collection:	\$	10.00
Children/Family Services:	\$	5.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	70.00
Oplatki:	\$	91.00
Retired Priests:	\$	50.00
Christmas:	\$	355.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	1,262.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	222.00
<b>Total December 10/11</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>12,203.00</u></b>

**Stewardship of Treasure—December 18, 2022**

Regular Offertory:	\$	9,977.25
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	192.00
Votives:	\$	162.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	135.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	105.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	10.00
Christmas:	\$	340.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	250.00
End of Year Contribution:	\$	2,850.00
All Saints:	\$	5.00
All Souls:	\$	5.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	3.00
Children & Family:	\$	45.00
Thanksgiving:	\$	5.00
<b>Total December 17/18</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b><u>14,084.25</u></b>

**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 **January 9, 2023** from 6-8:30 pm, arrive at 5:30 pm, at Belle Vernon Area High School, For more information, go to [realitytour.org](http://realitytour.org) or call 724-797-0955.

**2022 CONTRIBUTIONS**

Tax season is coming, and your contribution statements are being prepared. If you would like a copy of one, you can call us at the office.

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

**Matters of Sexual Misconduct Information**—If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — please contact PA ChildLine immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop’s Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop’s Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, ext. 1221.

## The Thoughts of Christmas...

As I sit and ponder the past few weeks, it is hard to believe that we have celebrated Christmas yet another time. It seems that the birth of Jesus comes upon us so quickly and then it is gone. However, we are still in the great season of Christmas, at least until the 6<sup>th</sup> of January. In looking back over the past few weeks, I am overwhelmed by the goodness and generosity of the people from our parish. I cannot thank you all enough for the many cards and gifts that you have given to me.



I also am edified by the way people so generously give of their time during this busy season when they certainly have enough of their own work to do. I would like to thank all of our Liturgical Ministers and cantors for the extra time they put into serving with the Liturgies.

The Choir under the direction of Dean Dellamalva did a wonderful job to enrich our liturgies. Lisa Zubritsky and Brad Thompson added that extra flair to enhance our liturgies throughout the season.

I think that our church looks beautiful, and this certainly did not happen on its own. We are blessed with many gifted and talented people who came and helped decorate. I want you all to know how grateful I am for sharing your time and energy.

Although the whole reason for all this work is to celebrate the gift of Christ among us, I would just like to thank you our parishioners for your support and generosity.

We are blessed here at St. Sebastian's, be grateful for these blessings and we will carry them with us as we begin a new year in the Peace of Christ!



## Sacrament of First Penance

Next **Thursday, January 12, at 6:30 p.m.** our second grade parishioners

will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time **here at St. Sebastian Church**. Please keep our young parishioners in your prayers as they prepare to receive this Sacrament.

**Ladies of Faith Group** will meet this Thursday, **January 5**, at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. All women of the parish are invited to attend.

## Baptism Congratulations

To Jude Charles Belan, son of William and Melinda (Jolley) Belan; and to Violet Shannahley Yarde, daughter of Lesley Belan, who were baptized in Christ last week. We welcome Jude and Violet into the Church. God bless them and their families.

# Mary, Mother of God

## Liturgies of the Week

### December 31—Vigil

4:30 pm Felix J. Lisovich—Donald Bergamasco

### January 1—Solemnity Mary, Mother of God

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

11:00 am George Petrisin—Ted Harhai

### Monday, January 2—Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, January 3—Most Holy Name of Jesus

8:00 am John Dunlop—Jack & Fran Koschock

### Wednesday, January 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

No Mass Today

### Thursday, January 5—St. John Neumann

No Mass Today

### Friday, January 6—St. André Bessette

8:00 am Charles Buzalka—M/M Francis Hall

### Saturday, January 7—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Jacob T. Hewitt—Daughters, Sissy & Dayna

### January 8—Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord

9:00 am James "Mac" McKeivitt—Pete & Karen Vesely

11:00 am Felix J. Lisovich—Ken & Maria Kite

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

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE—January 7/8

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	J. Wasicek	K. Molesky	K. Molesky	M. Wasicek
9:00 am	M. Shaughnessy	B. Moskovitz	B. Moskovitz	A. Frank
11:00 am	A. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	C. Hoffman

**In observance of the celebration of the Epiphany of Our Lord, the Parish Office will be closed January 2. The office will reopen on Tuesday, January 3.**

## Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: PEARL (Katchmark) SNYDER. We extend our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet this Wednesday, **January 4**, in the Parish Center at 11:00 a.m. For information call Joannie Brown at 412-657-7880.



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