

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

January 15, 2023

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

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

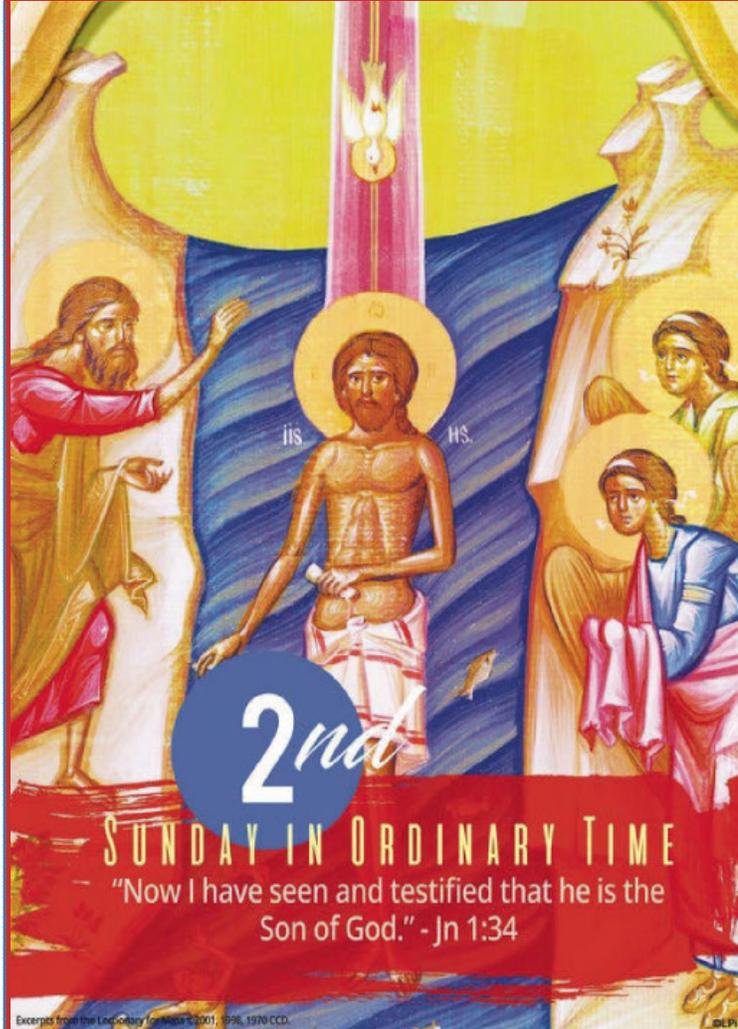
ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary

ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary

dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org



2nd

SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Now I have seen and testified that he is the
Son of God." - Jn 1:34

Excerpt from the LitCalvary Foundation ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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



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.

From the Pastor—Jesus, the Lamb of God...

At first glance our readings for this Sunday of Ordinary time seem to reflect in an exact way what we celebrated last week with the Baptism of our Lord. However, there is an important distinction which sets our readings apart from focusing solely on Baptism. The readings for this week move us to reflect on Jesus’ identity and mission. John calls Jesus the “Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” We know these words from mass, but what is the real significance of the title?

The sacrifice of animals to remove guilt for wrongs committed was part of the religious landscape of Israel. The sacrifice of the Passover lamb originally belonged to liturgy celebrated in the home. In time, the Passover liturgy and the sacrifice of the lamb formed a part of the annual Passover liturgy of the temple. Part of the significance attached to this liturgy was the removal of the people’s sin and guilt accumulated during the preceding year.

John places the crucifixion of Jesus one day before the Passover, the Day of Preparation. It was on this day that the Passover lamb would have been sacrificed in the temple. John wants his readers to think of Jesus as the true Passover sacrifice. He would like his readers to understand Jesus, and not the lamb slaughtered in the temple precincts, as the lamb that takes away the sins of the world.

Our baptismal task is continually to deepen our own understanding of who Jesus is and to make Him known, and to deepen our own understanding of our Christian identity as the beloved daughters and sons of God, as the Body of Christ. Like John, we go from not knowing to seeing to testifying. More than likely, we are not called to testify to the Son of God by going out and baptizing or doing great things. We testify to Jesus’ identity and carry forth His saving mission by being faithful to the ordinary things in life, by doing God’s will. The revelation of Jesus’ identity and how He is made known in the world is mediated by the way we die and rise every day.

Thus we also must become more fully the “Lamb of God.” This means that like Jesus, we must be willing to die to ourselves for the sake of others. Like John the Baptist, to whom “Jesus came toward,” opportunities to die to self, come to us every day. Like John, we simply need to open our eyes to recognize and respond to opportunities to carry forward Jesus’ ministry to others. Our own understanding of who Jesus is and our own testimony to Jesus’ presence is manifested through the good we do for others.



SCHOOL NEWS

There will be an **Open House**, for new families wishing to attend St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School, on Sunday, **January 29**, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.



Open registration for the 2023-2024 School year will begin on **February 1** for Pre-K through 8th grade. For more information call 724-929-5143.

Stewardship of Treasure—January 8, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	9,219.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	1,047.00
Votives:	\$	196.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	197.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	3.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	325.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	50.00
Mission Coop:	\$	188.00
Military Collection:	\$	1.00
Christmas:	\$	568.00
Family/Child Services:	\$	30.00

Total January 7/8 **\$ 11,824.00**

Contribution statements....

Remember if you are in need of your statement from the Church regarding your contributions, please give us a call at the office.

Pray for Life Day—The Greensburg Diocesan Council of the National Council of Catholic Women will host a “Pray for Life Day” Friday, **January 20**, at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, beginning with Rosary for Priests at 11:30 a.m., Mass and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. The day also includes Rosary for Life at 1:30 p.m., Stations of the Cross – “A Reflection on the Trafficking of Human Persons” at 2:15 p.m., Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3 p.m., Litany for Life at 3:30 p.m., and closing prayer and Benediction at 4 p.m. Donations of diapers, other baby items and money will be collected for pro-life organizations. For information, contact Millie Krinock, 724-537-2064

Please patronize the sponsors who appear on our bulletin. It is through their support that this bulletin is made possible. Business owners interested in advertising, please contact LPi at 800-477-4574 ext 6318, Susan Novosel, LPi Representative or email snovosel@4lpi.com. Thank you to the businesses who advertise! Please tell a business when you Support them that you saw their ad HERE!

St. Sebastian & Epiphany Churches Purse Bash

A Purse Bash & Unique bake sale will be held on Sunday, **April 20** at Epiphany Parish Hall from 2—5 pm. Tickets are \$30 and available in the Parish Office. Only 200 tickets to be sold! Make checks out to Epiphany of Our Lord.

Confirmation 2023 The First Meeting

On Monday, **January 23**, there will be a meeting for **all** parents/guardians of 7th grade students in our parish who will be making their Confirmation in the Fall of this year. Parents/guardians are to meet in the Church at **6:30 p.m.** The Religious Education students will go to their classrooms.



For those not able to attend on Monday, there will be a repeat of this meeting on Tuesday, **January 24**, at St. John the Baptist Church, Perryopolis. The time for this meeting is **6:00 pm**.

Baptism of Our Lord

Last week we celebrated the Baptism of Our Lord, an occasion to ponder over our own Baptism and its commitments. Through Baptism we begin a journey of faith, one which does not end until we enter into God’s promise of eternal glory. This journey asks us to be responsible members of the Church and calls us all to be ambassadors for Christ, bringing his presence and his love to all the people we meet.

COVID has affected all of life, and not always in a good way. Our Church is still feeling the effects of the pandemic with the attendance so low. Sometimes we need to look at what we are doing and far more importantly...why? It is our faith that needs to become our guiding light. It is our faith that can help us deal with the uncertainties of life. We all know someone who has not come back to Church. As members of Christ’s body we all can make an effort to invite people to come back. Sometimes it is just that little reminder that can make a difference. As Baptized men and women we all share in the responsibility to help build a stronger Kingdom of God.

Bereavement Support

St. John the Baptist Parish will offer Bereavement Support beginning on Wednesday, **January 25, 2023**, gathering in their Social Hall Lodge Room at 6:30 p.m. Those who have experienced loss of any kind are invited to join us as we support one another along the path of grief. For more information call Adelle at 724-736-4442.

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: **TIMOTHY TRASATTI**.. We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Liturgies of the Week

January 14—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Victoria Barnot—Son, John

January 15—Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Virginia Dwornick—Daughter, Sue & Shelby Ferguson & Family

Monday, January 16

No Mass Today

Tuesday, January 17—St. Anthony

8:00 am Deceased of the Koury & Constantine Family—Family

Wednesday, January 18

No Mass Today

Thursday, January 19

No Mass Today

Friday, January 20—St. Sebastian

8:00 am (Death Anniv) John “Jack” Eversburg—Family

Saturday, January 21—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
4:30 pm Mollie Wilson—Michael & MaryMartha Becher & Children

January 22—Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Patrick Frazier—Niece, Lorraine & Dennis Kapolka
11:00 am (Death Anniv) Alberta “Walker” White—Nephew, Ted Harhai

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—January 21/22

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	C. Farrier	R. Buretz
9:00 am	B. Moskovitz	M. Shaughnessy	M. Shaughnessy	C. Frank
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	R. Messick	R. Messick	M. Ceccarelli

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

January 20— Feast of Saint Sebastian

Sebastian was a Roman army officer and secretly a Christian. During the persecution of Christians by the emperor Diocletian, Sebastian visited them in prison. Finally he was discovered and charged with being a Christian. Sebastian, condemned to death by Diocletian, was tied to a tree, shot with arrows, and left for dead. But he survived and was nursed back to health by a Christian woman, Irene. He then returned to preach to the emperor Diocletian, who this time sentenced him to be beaten to death. He died at Rome in 288 A.D. as a martyr witnessing to Jesus.



Sebastian is the patron saint of archers, athletes, dying people, enemies of religion, police, soldiers. He is a great example for all of us who are part of this Parish. Saint Sebastian gave all he had, his very life, in witness to Jesus Christ, for the glory of God and the good of God’s people. We are constantly reminded that we are called to give of our time, talent and treasure for the glory of God and the good of His people, the Church.

SAINT SEBASTIAN, PATRON OF OUR PARISH, PRAY FOR US.

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