



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

January 22, 2023

Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:30 PM

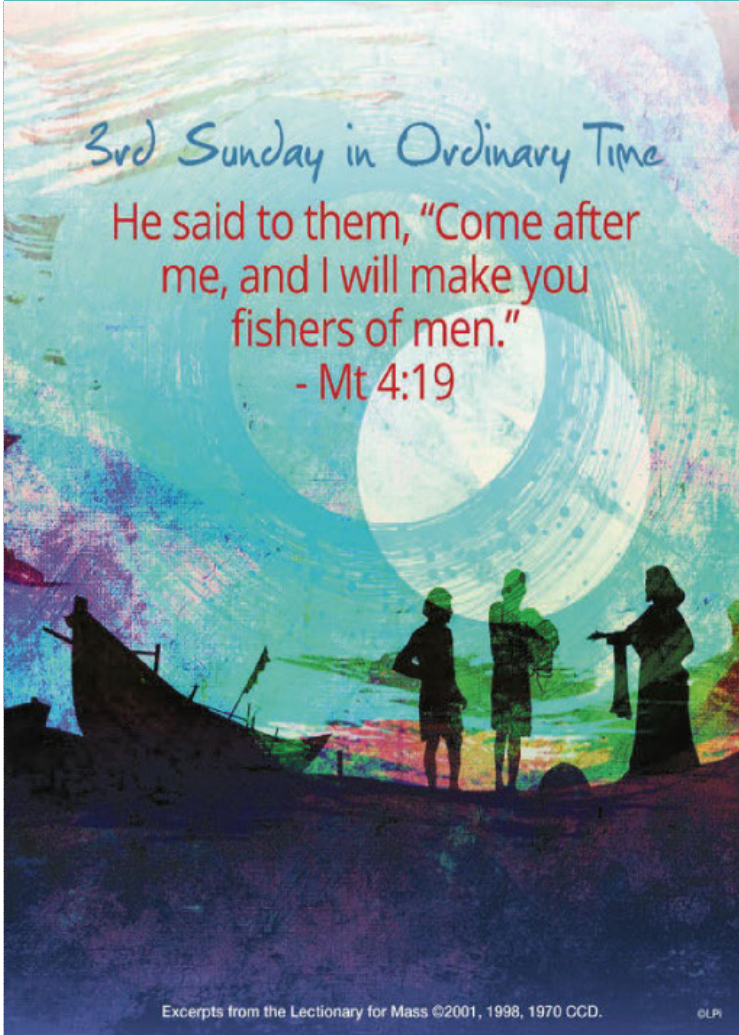
Sunday

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Tuesday, 8:00 AM

Friday, 8:00 AM



3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

- Mt 4:19

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor

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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.

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



From the Pastor—**No Compromising Discipleship**

The message from our readings this week is very clear and yet in spite of its simplicity, it is difficult to make a part of our lives.



We are reminded of the centrality of Jesus in the mission of the church, and our call to discipleship. If we all looked at our lives as individuals and then looked at our community, we would have to admit that there are many distractions that keep us from following the demands Jesus puts on us.

St. Paul moves from his comforting prayer and support of the people of Corinth to a sharp criticism of their behavior. He is very specific in addressing the unity and the divisions that were present in the community. Paul was much saddened by the reports about these divisions in the community of Corinth. He quickly addresses the people about how they need to realign their priorities and focus on what really is important, namely the mission of Jesus.

We are all aware of the challenges posed to our Christian communities today. There is certainly a decline in church attendance in some places, shortage of priests and ministers in many places, internal problems of divisions between conservatives and progressives, loss of exposure and influence of Christian discourse and leadership, and the increasing number of religious groups and the rise of other major religions, like Islam and Buddhism. Even though there are many problems facing us today, we all need to put into perspective what our call is really all about.

Ultimately the question we all need to be asking ourselves is: what is the gospel in which we believe and where do we stand, for the sake of the gospel, on major issues today? Are we taking enough risks, or are we satisfied just to follow the crowd? If we are Disciples of Christ, we should have something to propose concerning vital issues for everyone: environment, equitable salary and use of resources, immigration, refugees, military disarming, peace and justice, humanitarian assistance, human rights, dialog between cultures and between religions.

The gospel has no readymade solutions for such huge problems. Yet the life of Jesus and his message make no compromise whatsoever when it comes to justice and compassion for the poor and the little ones. These are non-negotiable gospel values that could change a lot in the world of today. Instead of withdrawing into our own internal problems, we Christians should be committed to joining all men and women of good will to attend the needs of the world, so that the message and the life of Christ "might not be emptied of their meaning."

We practice following Jesus in the simple, everyday things that come our way: the friend who needs a listening ear, the elderly parent who needs a comforting phone call, the sick child who interrupts our sleep. In all of these instances, do we hear Jesus' call to repent? Jesus invites us to turn from ourselves toward those in need. Turn from darkness to light. Repentance is the condition for following Jesus to the fullness of the kingdom. It is the condition for taking up his saving work.

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 15, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$ 7,893.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 260.00
Votives:	\$ 154.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 150.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 566.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$ 145.00
Mission Coop:	\$ 805.00
Christmas:	\$ 375.00
Family/Child Services:	\$ 20.00

Total January 7/8 **\$ 10,368.00**

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.

Please Patronize The Bulletin Sponsors

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 Purse Bash

A Purse Bash & Unique bake sale will be held on Sunday, **April 30** at Epiphany Parish Hall from 2—5 pm. Tickets are \$30 and available in the Parish Office. Only 200 tickets to be sold! Please make checks out to: Epiphany of Our Lord. We will also be selling tickets before & after masses on the weekends of January 28/29 & February 04/05.

Pastoral Council

There will be a meeting of the members of the Pastoral Council on Thursday February 2 at 6:30 in the Parish Center.

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

Confirmation Parent Meeting

Tomorrow, 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. 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 **6:00 pm**, at St. John the Baptist Church, Perryopolis.



Furthering Our Faith

Consider joining us for our Bible Study/Adult Ed beginning Monday, February 13 as we continue to explore what we do and why we do things as Catholics. We will meet in the Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall at 6:30 p.m. This session will be a little different than others in the past. We will continue loosely following "What We Believe." If you already have the book, know that we will be following the chapters. If **you do not have the book, no problem, you can still participate.** If you would like to order one, let us know by Jan. 24. The book is \$16. If you would like to order the book and the workbook, it is \$30. **There is no fee to participate and you can do so without the book.** The study will run for five sessions. This is an amazing opportunity to learn more about our faith and have your questions about the church tradition and laws answered. Please call the office or let us know if you will participate, by **Friday, February 3**. If you would like to order a book/workbook, the deadline is **Tuesday, January 24**. Again, the book is not necessary to participate.

Prayer Shawl Ministry

A donation of a gift card, yarn, or money is being requested by the Prayer Shawl Ministry of St. Sebastian Church. Whatever you can do will be greatly appreciated. And please consider joining us--the more hands working together, the more people we can serve. Donations can be left at the church office, or call Joannie Brown, 412-657-7880, and she will pick the donation up. Thank you!

3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Liturgies of the Week

January 21—Vigil

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

Monday, January 23

No Mass Today

Tuesday, January 24—St. Francis deSales

8:00 am Paul Joseph Grata—Don Bergamasco

Wednesday, January 25—The Conversion of St. Paul

No Mass Today

Thursday, January 26—Ss. Timothy & Titus

No Mass Today

Friday, January 27—St. Angela Merici

8:00 am Leonard Stringhill—Melanie & Bob Patterson

Saturday, January 28—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Mary Louise Barger—Donna Bitonti

January 29—Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Susan McPhearson—MaryAnn & Helen Zelinski

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—January 28/29

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	J. Wasicek	K. Molesky	K. Molesky	A. Peden
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	A. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	C. Hoffman

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

Bereavement Support

St. John the Baptist Parish will offer Bereavement Support beginning this 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.

The Season of Lent

It's hard to believe, but Lent will be starting in a month! Just so you can mark your calendars, St. Sebastian will have a service with the distribution of Ashes at 4:00 pm and a mass at 6:00 pm. Epiphany's mass will be at 9:00 am and the distribution of Ashes will be at Noon. Also, during the Lenten Season, we will have Stations of the Cross on Friday evenings at 6:00 pm. I will rotate between St. Sebastian and Epiphany. If there is anyone who would like to lead stations on the weeks that I am not here, please let me know.



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