

St Sebastian Catholic Church

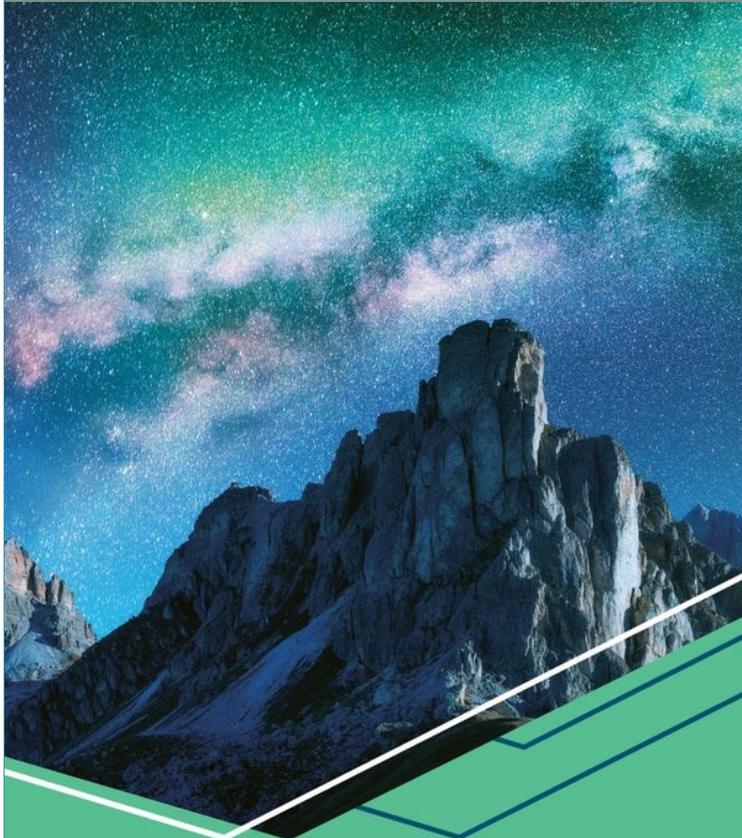


A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

January 8, 2023

Mass Schedule



Saturday 4:30 PM	Tuesday, 8:00 AM
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Friday, 8:00 AM

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager
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Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation
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Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music
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Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary
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Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary
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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. - Mt 2:10-11a

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

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Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
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Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
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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

“...but upon you the Lord shines.”

Each of the readings for this celebration of the Epiphany of the Lord echoes both the joy and gratitude that arise when God’s light appears in the midst of human cares. Isaiah in the first reading speaks of a people reflecting the joy and enthusiasm of the return to Jerusalem and Judah after some seventy years of exile to Babylon. Epiphany is from a Greek word which means “manifestation.” This reading is filled with references to light, splendor, radiance and glory. God is Light, not only for his own people but also for all nations. The Epiphany is about the universality of salvation, as exemplified by the pilgrim journey of the magi as told in the gospel. Isaiah speaks to us about the joy that can be found when we are able to recognize the light that God brings to the problems of life.

St. Paul in the second reading addresses a community of people who were distraught over many challenges that confronted them in life. They were exposed to many different religious cultures and “mystery cults.” It was difficult to stay true to the message of Jesus. Paul gives us a clear statement on the church and its mission. He looked at the Gentiles as being on equal footing with believers coming from Jewish backgrounds and did not have any problem viewing them as “co-heirs, members of the same body, and co-partners in the promise of Christ Jesus through the gospel.” Like Isaiah, Paul gives us a strong example of the universality of salvation. The gospel presents us with the all too familiar story of the Three Kings or the Magi. For centuries now people have been fascinated with the story of the Magi. Eastern Rite and Orthodox churches celebrate the Epiphany, rather than Christmas as the time of gift-giving in imitation of the Magi bringing gifts to Jesus. The star, along with the manger, has been the most popular image on Christmas cards. Ultimately this feast points to the wonder of God’s plan for all people. It deals with life and all of the divisions we are faced with in our world as well as in our hearts. Like Isaiah, it is light that guides the Magi to the Christ child, bringing them into the presence of God. These Magi are not ordinary men. The Greek word “magi” refers to a priestly cast known for their wisdom and ability to interpret dreams and decipher astrological phenomena. The gifts that they brought; gold for a king, frankincense which is a symbol of prayer rising to God and myrrh, a symbol of one who will die, suggests that these men have received a special revelation or epiphany from God as to who the child Jesus was. The Magi’s journey symbolizes for us our own human experience, our journeys both physical and spiritual. In celebrating this feast today we all give witness to a universal truth based on the experience of all people and their quest to find God. Their journey reflects our own lives, our own stories, our own gifts which we bring to God.

Salvation is meant for all, if we are willing to follow God’s signs of the gift. Although we may not abandon everything in life just to follow a star, the story helps us to recognize that in our daily living God does lead us. We just have to have the faith and insight to recognize that guiding light. If we walk by faith following our own stars in life who knows what might be at the end of our journey.



Stewardship of Treasure December 25, 2022

Regular Offertory:	\$	8,734.10
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	50.00
Votives:	\$	684.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	10.00
Christmas:	\$	6,199.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	250.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	15.00
Oplatki:	\$	68.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	48.00
World Mission:	\$	10.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	5.00
Family/Child Services:	\$	884.00

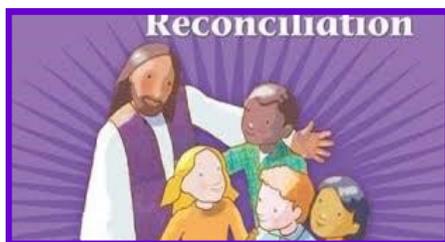
Total December 24/25 **\$ 16,957.10**

Stewardship of Treasure January 1, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	10,690.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	138.00
Votives:	\$	220.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	229.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	80.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	1,555.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	25.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	33.00
Military Collection:	\$	1.00
Christmas:	\$	2,660.00
Family/Child Services:	\$	310.00

Total December 31/January 1 **\$ 15,941.00**

Tax Statements—It is that time of year when we start to think about gathering all of our “stuff” for taxes. If you would like your statement, please give us a call at the office and we will get one to you.



Sacrament of First Penance

This Thursday, January 12, at 6:30

p.m. our second grade parishioners will receive the Sac-

rament of Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time at **EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD CHURCH**. Please keep our young parishioners in your prayers as they prepare to receive this Sacrament.

A Quote from the Bishop....

Bishop Kulick said the death of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI calls us as a faith community, into a time of remembrance and a time of prayer.

"I join with the faithful in the Diocese of Greensburg and Catholics throughout the world as we mourn the loss of our Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI," Bishop Kulick said. "He dedicated his life to serving the Church in a variety of capacities. He was a consummate theologian and one of the great intellectual lights of the Post-Conciliar Church. He faced many modern-day challenges in his papacy and proved himself to be a gentle shepherd. May God grant him eternal rest and peace," Bishop Kulick added.

Women's Scholarship Available

The 2023 annual scholarship of the Catholic Women's College Club will be awarded to a deserving Catholic senior girl who is a current resident of: Belle Vernon, Bentleyville, California, Charleroi, Donora, Finleyville, Fredericktown, Monessen, Monongahela or Rostraver Twp. and has a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Applications for the award are available at the guidance offices at Belle Vernon, Bentworth, Beth Center, California, Charleroi, Monessen, Ringgold, Geibel, Serra, Seton LaSalle or Greensburg Central Catholic High Schools. Deadline for the application is March 13, 2023.

Liturgies of the Week

January 7—Vigil

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" McKevitt—Pete & Karen Vesely
11:00 am Felix J. Lisovich—Ken & Maria Kite

Monday, January 9—Baptism of the Lord

No Mass Today

Tuesday, January 10

8:00 am Clement Gigliotti—Bob & Sharon Niccolai & Family

Wednesday, January 11

No Mass Today

Thursday, January 12

No Mass Today

6:30 pm *Sacrament of First Reconciliation at Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen*

Friday, January 13—St. Hilary

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Sarah Bednarczyk—Sons & Daughter, Kathleen

Saturday, January 14—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

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

Praying the Rosary

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



MINISTRY SCHEDULE—January 14/15

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	S. Wawro	A. Peden
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	C. Rhodes	S. Kroskie	S. Kroskie	H. Miller

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: WILLIAM M. MONRO, Jr and JOHN J. LEPUTA.. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

Faith and Fear—When I was little, you could tell I believed in the destructive power of the monsters who lived beneath my bed because I would never let my ankles anywhere near the bottom of the mattress. (It's common knowledge that bare ankles are premium monster bait — ask any child you know).

You can often tell what a person believes by what they fear.

But here's the thing: belief isn't always enough. It's obvious that Herod believed in Christ's power because of how terrified he was by it and by the room he made in his life for the possible impact of the Messiah. In fact, if belief was the only measure of orthodoxy, you could stand most modern Christians next to Herod and he would tower above them.

Remember, there's something just as bad as disobeying God: discounting Him. I know I am guilty of that in a thousand small ways each day. In the person I ignore or the opinion I sneer at. In the unkind words I let roll from my tongue. In the prayers of thanking that I don't say because I am "too busy."

I believe in God, but I do not fear Him — mostly because my very modern understanding of the concept of "fear" would lump God in with those monsters beneath my bed.

But what if we understood fear in a more traditional sense — awe, reverence, and wonder? "All kings shall pay him homage, all nations shall serve him." — Psalm 72:11 When Herod heard the news of the coming of the Messiah, it compelled him to do something. Not the right thing, mind you, but something. It moved him into action. So, then, it should move us all.

We saw his star at its rising, and have come to do him homage. — Matthew 2:2 ©LPI