

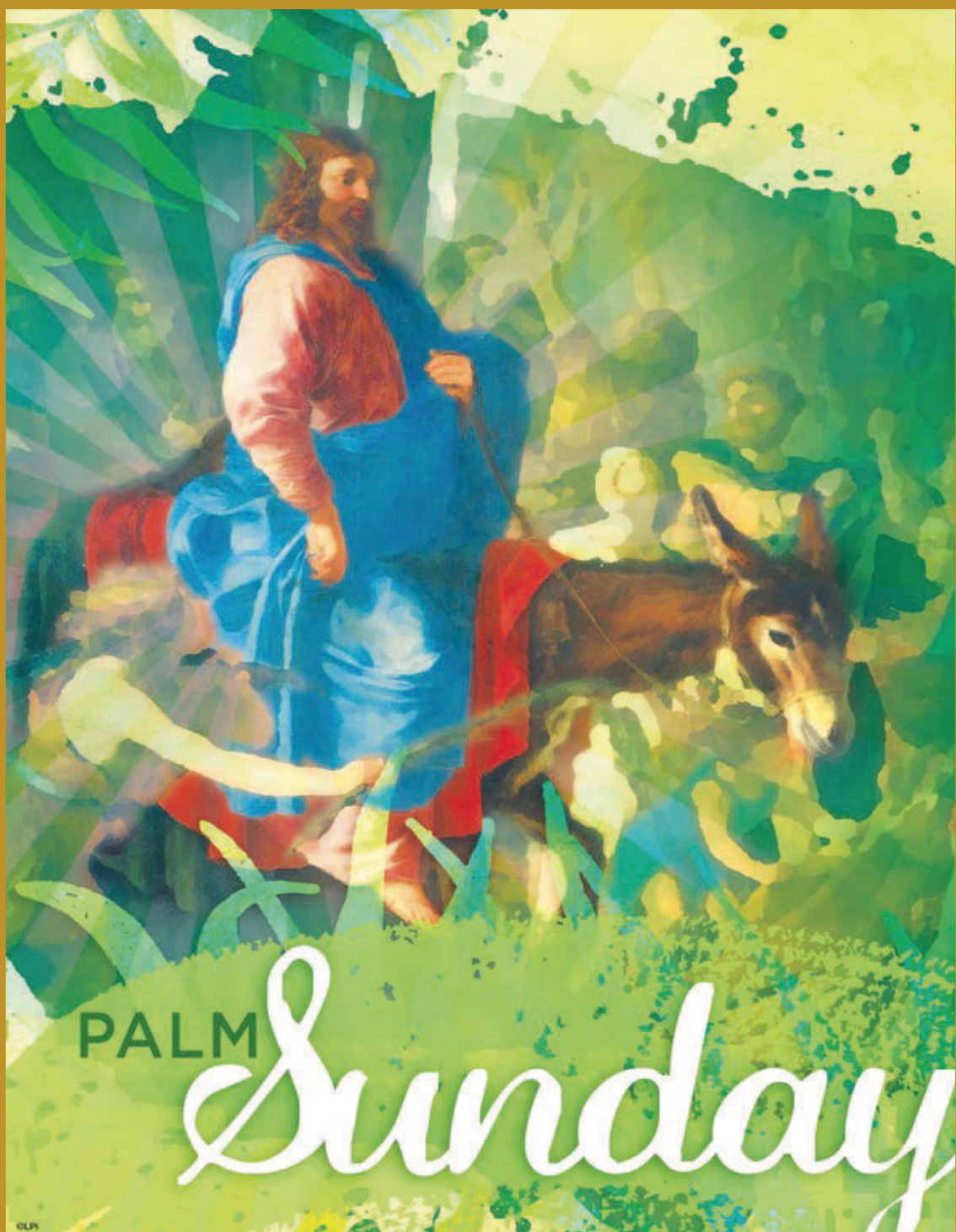
St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 2, 2023



GLP

From the Pastor Entering the Passion



All around the world, Christians are remembering the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the celebration of Palm Sunday. It is easy for us to allow ourselves to be caught up in the drama of what Holy Week is about. The truth of what we are and what we remember this week characterizes what we believe. It is in and through the death of Jesus that we define what our faith is all about. However, everything we find throughout the scriptures leads us to this week, so it cannot be separated from the rest of our Liturgical year.

We start off this week with a celebration or parade if you will. People are welcoming the man Jesus with triumph and honor. They are celebrating the man for what He was and for what they hoped He would become. In spite of their misunderstanding of what Jesus was all about, the people were drawn in by this event of His entry into Jerusalem; as they struggled with who Jesus really was. Apostles, friends and disciples who should know who Jesus was and what He was about, they were the ones who betrayed, denied and fled. One really has to look at this triumphant celebration and ask: what went wrong? As followers of Jesus the real irony is that only by our own entry into Jesus' dying and rising can we truly discover who He is. Until we do that, we may participate in a nice parade but we haven't a clue where it leads.

It is interesting to take a closer look at the role the women play in the Passion. It has been said that they are like the "bookends" to the drama: we meet them in the beginning and at the end. Regardless of what is going on, it is the women who are always the faithful ones. The men in the story were not very nice, pay attention to the women and learn from them. They have something to tell all of us.

If we pay attention to the passion narrative, we will see that it is basically a story of life. The feelings and behavior of the people involved give us a live perspective of living. There is joy and singing. There is faith, doubt, greed, treachery, false accusations, mockery and jeering. There is the despair of Judas, the lying of Peter, the pride and arrogance of religious and political leaders, betrayal by friends, and the tenderness of the women. Yes, it is all there – life at its best and at its worst. The Passion of Jesus is everybody's story.

Christ showed us by His own way of living and by His ministry that the only way to share in His glory is to die to self by becoming servants and disciples following Him to the cross. The only way to enjoy the passionate glory of risen life is to suffer the risk of dying. All of this is something that takes place more than just this once a year. It is the everyday of our ordinary human living: when we choose to respond to another instead of ignoring him or her, having patience rather than snapping, talking things through rather than staying angry. Yes, the paschal mystery unfolds in the little things in life that we turn into big ways to say yes to the Christ in others. This is how we get to know Jesus – by living as He did, by embracing the dying so we rise with Him to new life.

Rev. Michael J. Crookston, Pastor

Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for March 26, will be in a future bulletin.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Our DLA started only a few weeks ago and here we are already getting ready to celebrate Easter! We all know how important DLA is for the maintenance of the Diocese, this campaign provides the operating expenses for the Diocese to operate.

Everybody has their opinions about the Diocese and DLA, but what we all need to remember is that if it weren't for the Diocese, we wouldn't exist as a parish. Our Diocesan goal for this year is \$64,057, and we have only heard from 18% of our people or 158 families, and from them we have collected \$29,600 in gifts and pledges. Our parish goal is set for \$64,057 and we were hoping to reseal and paint the parking lots with our portion.

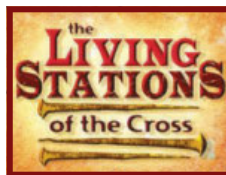
All I am asking is that you be a part in some way with DLA this year. If you have not yet responded won't you please consider doing so? Again, if you have any questions or concerns about this year's DLA, please feel free to call me. Please know how very grateful I am to all you for your many kindnesses and generosity!

Paschal Candle & Altar/Candle Ring Flowers

If you would like to have flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please contact the Parish Office. Flowers for the Paschal Candle are \$100, and flowers for the Altar Candle Rings are \$100 for the pair.

Mother's Day Fundraiser

The Ladies of Faith will be offering Hanging Flower Baskets from McShane Florist. You can purchase a Basket Voucher **this weekend** after all Masses **or** the weekend of **April 15/16**. The cost is \$20 per basket voucher. Take your voucher to McShane's on May 3rd and pick up a basket from their selections offered.



A presentation of the Stations of the Cross by the Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School Students will take place on Wednesday, **April 5**, at 11:00 am in the Church. All are invited to attend.

In observance of the celebration of Holy Week and Easter, the Parish Office will be closed April 6 through April 10. The office will reopen on Tuesday, April 11.

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.



"When attending devotions at St Sebastian, please refrain from parking in the Auto Clinic's lots. Be considerate of our neighbors and their patrons."

Three Days

The Triduum celebrates the heart of Christian faith, to which all leads and from which all flows: Jesus' redemptive death and resurrection; related to the Church year as Sunday is to each week. It begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and continues through Good Friday and Holy Saturday culminating with the celebration of the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. We invite you and your families to be as much a part of this year's celebrations as you are able.

Thursday: Mass of the Last Supper: 7:00 PM
(Followed by Eucharistic Adoration until 9:30 pm.)

Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 1 PM
Stations: 6:00 PM.

Saturday: Easter Vigil: 8:30 PM

Thursday: Chrism Mass 10:00 AM At the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg, the Chrism Mass is when the Bishop along with all of the priests of the diocese blesses and consecrates the Holy Oils that will be used throughout the year. It is also the Mass where the priests of the diocese re-dedicate their ministry to the people of the church as well as to the Bishop.

The Mass of the Last Supper

Holy Thursday liturgy marks the institution of the Eucharist. We remember that Jesus gathered with His Disciples for the last time and gave to them as well as to the future church this miraculous gift. It is through the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ that we are able to become "Church." As an example of what it means to be church and celebrate this gift, the women from our parish will "dress" the altar. Another important gift that Jesus gave to the Church is the example of what it means to serve as well as to be served. Through the symbolism of the washing of the feet, Jesus calls each of us to be of service to one another, as well as to be open to being served. As we commemorate what Jesus did for the Disciples through the washing of the feet, **I am asking people to volunteer to have their feet washed. If you would be interested in being a part of this special liturgy, there is a signup sheet in the back of the Church.**

Adoration after Liturgy

After the Liturgy on Holy Thursday there will be Eucharistic Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament will be in repose on the Blessed Mother side of the altar after Mass. As soon as Mass is over the altar will be stripped completely bare. While this is going on, I ask that the people remaining in church maintain a decorum of silence and reverence. You are welcome to come and spend some time in prayer until 9:30. Then the Blessed Sacrament will be taken from the altar and the church will be empty.

Blessing of Baskets

On Holy Saturday at 12:00 Noon we will bless Easter Baskets. It is a nice tradition to come and have your "Easter Meal" blessed. Remember this year everyone is "**expected**" to have a story to tell about their traditions!



April 1—Vigil

4:30 pm John Imbrogno—James & Mary Ellen Wright

April 2—Passion (Palm) Sunday

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Chuck Buzalka—Friend, Lovie

11:00 am Ben Tenuta & Picardi Family—Eolanta Tenuta

April 3—Monday of Holy Week

No Mass Today

April 4—Tuesday of Holy Week

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Carlo Borriello—Dan & Sharon
Mochnaly

April 5—Wednesday of Holy Week

No Mass Today

April 6—Holy Thursday

7:00 pm Special Intention—Eolanta Tenuta

April 7—Good Friday

1:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

April 8—Holy Saturday

8:30 pm Intention of the Celebrant

April 9—Resurrection of the Lord

9:00 am Intention of the Celebrant

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

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—April 6, Holy Thursday

| | Lector | Lit. Coord/EM | Servers |
|---------|--------------|---------------|---------------------------------|
| 7:00 pm | M. Patterson | S. Wawro | A. & A. Peden, A. & C. Frank |

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—April 7, Good Friday

| | Lectors | Lit. Coord/EM | Server |
|---------|------------------------|---------------|-----------|
| 1:00 pm | C. Gorski/B. Moskovitz | S. Wawro | E. Angelo |

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—Easter, April 8 & April 9

| | Lectors | Lit. Coord/EM | Servers |
|----------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 8:30 pm | C. Gorski/S. Wawro | K. Molesky | A. & A. Peden |
| 9:00 am | E. Bagay | R. Smereczniak | N. Jodon |
| 11:00 am | C. Rhodes | S. Kroskie | H. Miller |

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Wednesday, **April 12**, in the Parish Center at 11:00 a.m. For information call Joannie Brown at 412-657-7880.

Ladies of Faith will meet on Thursday, **April 13** in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.



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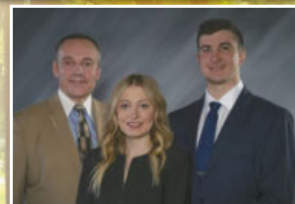
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