

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

March 12, 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

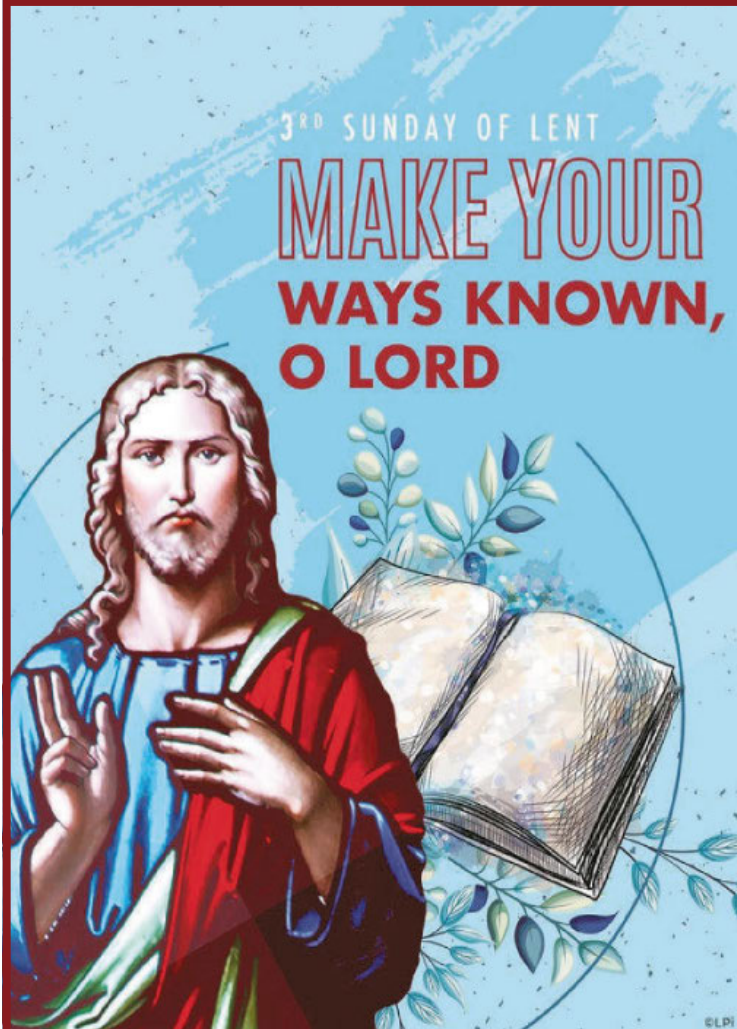
Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager
dlisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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



Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
tnmiller@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.

PLEASE NOTE: As of March 20 the Saturday confessions will be canceled in lieu of the Lenten Penance Services.

From the Pastor-Thirst for Living Water

What does it mean to “thirst for living waters” as prescribe today in our readings, and furthermore, where do we find this water? This was the question that Jesus posed to the woman at the well and it is being asked of us as today. Sometimes we don’t think about the gift we find in our faith and how much that faith satisfies our “hungers” in life. Water is definitely a theme in today’s liturgy. It is no wonder that such a simple thing as water has become such a powerful symbol of our faith. Everything we are as children of God is because of the “water” from our Baptism. This cleansing gift of God has embraced us into a family of eternal goodness and life.

Our first reading plunges us into the lives of the people of Israel who were literally “thirsting” for the waters of life. It is amazing how quickly things changed for those people. They had just witnessed the greatest miracle of all when their God led them from the bondage of Egypt to freedom. They experienced the miraculous presence of God as they were led through the waters of the red sea. Now, here they are a short time later wondering if God was even with them. How quickly they forgot all that God had done for them. This experience of the people of Israel speaks very clearly of our own experiences in life. How easily we can become unappreciative of God’s greatest gifts and, even though we consider ourselves belonging to the very family of God, we do question God’s presence among us. We cannot become too critical of those people sojourning through the desert, for we are often guilty of the same crime.

The gospel reading although lengthy, speaks so eloquently about the gift we can share through the presence of Jesus. Jesus, who is in the awkward position of asking the woman at the well for water, is in the privileged position of being able to offer the woman “living water.” Throughout scriptures, the symbol of living water is directly linked to “the gift of God” or God’s presence among the people. In the gospel of John, “living water” is the Spirit which is how Jesus himself remains in his disciples after his resurrection and ascension.

The source of our own living waters if found in the baptismal font. There we are plunged into the death of Christ. There we receive a share in divine life. The living waters of baptism promise eternal life for all who are faithful to baptism’s commitment and live faithfully their identity as members of the Body of Christ.

Unlike the Samaritan woman at the well, we will not come face-to-face with Jesus at a well to have a chat about identity and everlasting life. However, we do meet him every time we gather for the Eucharist, listen to his word and feast at his table. There, week after week, we encounter our identity and receive the gift of everlasting life. The Lord, which we share in through the Eucharist, is as fresh flowing as living water. To have living water as an internal spring, means that believers will never thirst for God, for the Spirit is in them leading them to “eternal life.”



“Servants of the Holy Spirit”
 is a group whose focus is on opening yourself to the Holy Spirit and letting the Spirit work through you.
 We will be hosting an evening of
 Praise, Worship and Reflection in the Church on
Sunday, March 26 at 6 pm
All are invited to join us, bring along a friend!
...formerly the Valley of Hope Charismatic Prayer Group

Location:
 St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
 3332 Pittsburgh Street, Perryopolis, PA 15473
 For more information call Mary: 412-582-5981



Stewardship of Treasure—March 5, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$ 7,603.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 45.00
Votives:	\$ 365.25
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 447.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 65.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 40.00
Heifer Project:	\$ 638.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 198.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$ 825.00
Home Mission:	\$ 103.00

Total March 4/5 \$ 10,329.25

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

We are starting our third week for this year’s DLA campaign. Thus far we have collected \$3,320 in pledges and gifts. We have a long way to go! Remember that our Diocesan goal is \$64,057 and our parish goal is set at \$74,057.

This year from the portion we get back from DLA, we are going to seal our parking lots and paint them. Together we can make it happen. I am asking that you take part in this year’s DLA. If you have any questions please know that I am available to talk with you. I am grateful for all that you do for our parish and please know that whatever you are able to give will be most appreciated.

Consider online giving, click the “my Eoffering” button on our parish website.

Reconciliation

Lent is a time when we turn inward and recognize the many ways we are in need of God's forgiveness. The Church provides us with the most amazing sacrament of forgiveness which brings comfort and peace to us all. Our region will offer the opportunity to receive Reconciliation at the following places:



Seven Dolors, Yukon, **March 20—11:00 am**
Holy Family, West Newton, **March 21—6:00 pm**
St. Edward, Herminie, **March 23—6:00 pm**
St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis, **March 27—6:00 pm**
Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen, **March 28—6:00 pm**
Church of St. Anne, Rostraver, **March 30—6:00 pm**
St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon, **April 1—12:00 pm**

Gift of a Llama

Domesticated by the Incas 6,000 years ago and selectively bred for their gentle nature and fine fiber, llamas appear intelligent and serene. They play a pivotal role in the cultural life of indigenous communities on the high plains of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Women weave fleece into warm clothing to wear or sell. They load them up with goods for market and trek with them across rugged slopes at high altitudes. As they travel, llamas' padded feet do not damage the fragile terrain and their selective browsing doesn't destroy sparse vegetation.



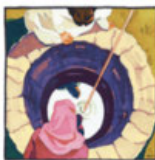
Gift of Bees

The way bees work together is a lesson for us all. They produce food, care for the young, recycle waste and create an effective, efficient community. They pollinate fruits, flowers and vegetables in the process – a benefit for us all. Bees can as much as double some fruit and vegetable yields. A package of Heifer International bees and a hive give a family better crops, candle wax, pollen for medicine and honey to eat and sell.



The Well

Men in the Diocese of Greensburg are invited to get out of their comfort zone and make Catholicism a way of life at "THE WELL – BE NOT AFRAID," the Diocesan Men's Conference, Saturday, **March 25**, at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. It will be a day of inspiring speakers, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation and Mass celebrated by Bishop Larry J. Kulick. Cost is \$50 and includes lunch. Scholarships are available through the Diocesan Francis Fund. Register now at: DioceseofGreensburg.org/TheWell.



Liturgies of the Week

March 11—Vigil

1:00 pm Lenten Reflection/Stations of the Cross
4:30 pm Sam & Phil Iacovangelo—Daughter, Tammy

March 12—Third Sunday of Lent

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Bill Picchiarini—Wife, Joan & Family
11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, March 13

No Mass Today

Tuesday, March 14

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Rose McFall—Sons, Ronnie, Mike & Family

Wednesday, March 15

No Mass Today

Thursday, March 16

No Mass Today

Friday, March 17—St. Patrick

8:00 am Sam Suppa, Jr.—Wife, Annette & Children & Grandchildren
6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 18—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Edna Patricia Garnic—Andrea Garnic & Family

March 19—Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am (Date of Birth) William Monroe, Jr.—Sue Dunlop
11:00 am Romaine Kerestes—Daughter, Amy



MINISTRY SCHEDULE—March 18/19

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	J. Wasicek	K. Molesky	K. Molesky	M. Wasicek
9:00 am	E. Bagay	M. Shaughnessy	M. Shaughnessy	C. Frank
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	S. Kroskie	S. Kroskie	H. Miller

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

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: **Marie Tonarelli & Dolores Frazier**. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

Epiphany of Our Lord Fish Fry

Epiphany of Our Lord Fish Fry is on Fridays of Lent, 11:00 am. - 6:00 pm. Dine in or take-out. For free local delivery call 724-684-5512. Take out only Good Friday





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