



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

March 19, 2023

Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:30 PM

Sunday

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Tuesday, 8:00 AM

Friday, 8:00 AM

4th Sunday of Lent

BELIEVE



“Do you believe in
the Son of Man?”

JOHN 9:35B

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

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Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

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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—From Darkness into Light

Once again during our liturgy for the fourth week of Lent we celebrate another scrutiny with those who are journeying to share in the waters of Baptism of Easter. Although our focus is on that sacrament our readings shed light on all of our journeys not only through Lent but also through life. In a very human way we can clearly see from our first reading that we certainly do not see life in the same way that God does. As we are presented with the drama of Samuel following God's command in selecting a successor for the King of Israel, we are shown that it is not merely by appearances that God sees us. It is quite clear that God's ways are mysterious. God's standards are not our standards. Even Samuel, though a man of God would have been satisfied with the eldest son, a man of lofty stature. But God does not choose according to appearances. God looks at the heart. David will indeed prove to be a man of great gifts and skills. But he too will have serious flaws and commit terrible sins. Yet God does not require perfection from those he chooses, but love, passion, and commitment. How many times have we all felt that we just were not worthy of something? We allow ourselves to become so enveloped with our own faults and weaknesses that we do not allow any room for goodness. It is good to remember this reading and remind ourselves that God does not require perfection and that God looks at the heart.

St. Paul in the second reading tells us that the majority of Christians of the first century were not born into their religion. They became Christians in adulthood. Therefore in the letter to the Ephesians it makes perfect sense to compare the Christians to their former life by reminding them: "For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord." Now we are introduced to the theme of darkness and light which leads right into the Gospel where we hear the story of the man born blind, literally living in darkness and how he came to live in the light of Jesus.

Even though the theme of light and darkness seem obvious, there are a number of issues that we can learn and grow from. If we pay close attention to the story as it is given, we can see that there are various steps of the blind man's coming to faith in Jesus. This can exemplify the journey we all make in getting to know Jesus a little better. Even though we use this example for those who are preparing for Baptism, it is an excellent opportunity for all of us who share in the Eucharist to examine and assess our own journey of faith. Maybe we are taking our faith for granted; if so, we may be getting nowhere or, even worse, going backwards.

It doesn't matter who we are or where we are in life, we always have something to learn about Jesus. In many ways we are all in the same position as the man born blind who gets progressive insights on who Jesus is. Recovery of sight was an easy accomplishment; spiritual insight is more difficult and takes much more time. Our being sent and witnessing to the Good News of Christ does not have to be as extraordinary as the man born blind. Our witness unfolds in the everyday actions of our lives. We must meet life's obstacles not as daunting but as challenging us to deeper faith and more authentic worship. We have to be careful not to be like the Pharisees who pretend to know more and teach lessons to everyone, while becoming completely blind to the light of Christ.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

We are moving along with our DLA this year. We have heard from 96 people and we are at \$19,908. I am asking that you please consider making a contribution to this year's campaign. Remember that we would like to seal and repaint our parking lots with our portion of this year's campaign. If you have any questions about this year's DLA please feel free to contact me.

Heifer Project

Our Lenten Stewardship project for this year is the Heifer Project. Hopefully we will be able to fill the ARK so that many people will have much better lives because of our generosity! If you would like to make a contribution, please just mark it Heifer and we will fill that ARK!

A Gift of a Pig: To help hungry, undernourished families put protein back in their diets at little cost, Heifer teaches farmers how to raise healthy pigs even with scant resources. A farmer who may not be able to manage cows can raise pigs. In Latin America, pigs eat rejected bananas or damaged yams that otherwise would be wasted. They grow to market weight while producing manure that improves crop production. Around the world, using resources once considered worthless, impoverished families supply themselves with the protein and income they need to build better houses, put their children in school and improve their lives.



A Gift of a Rabbit: Why rabbits? Because even a family without the land or resources to raise cows or even goats can find a warm dry spot – in a hutch on a back porch or perhaps even in a cool burrow dug beneath a garden planter – where rabbits can thrive. They can be fed with vegetable waste and kitchen scraps, so they conserve farm resources as they grow. And, like other livestock, rabbits are sources of healthy protein to help feed the hungry. Their nitrogen-rich manure makes excellent fertilizer to put on crops as compost. And everyone knows how rabbits proliferate. Here's a gift that multiplies! With as many as 40 offspring a year, a trio of rabbits can provide a family with a steady source of protein and income.



Stewardship of Treasure—March 12, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	8,367.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	60.00
Votives:	\$	260.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	92.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	105.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	125.00
Heifer Project:	\$	85.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$	837.00
Total March 11/12	\$	<u>9,931.00</u>



Order of Christian Initiation for Adults

Becoming Catholic

Please keep our Candidate, **Brandon Ricker**, in your prayers as he journeys with us through Lent to the Easter Vigil.

Holy Week



With Holy Week quickly approaching there is much to be done with the Liturgies. We will need extra people to serve in various capacities, also on **Holy Thursday we will need people to have their feet washed**. If you are interested in being a part of this for the Liturgy, I will have a signup sheet in church.

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 offers the following opportunities for Reconciliation:

Seven Dolores, 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**



The Prayer Shawl Ministry



Prayer Shawl Ministry

would like to thank everyone who donated monetarily or with yarn. It is GREATLY appreciated. Your gift provides for those in our parish community and beyond. To donate, you may mail it to, or, drop it off at the

Church office. Questions? Please call Joannie Brown 412-657-7880.

Epiphany of Our Lord Fish Fry

Epiphany of Our Lord Fish Fry on Fridays of Lent, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Dine in or take-out. For free local delivery call 724-684-5512. Take out only Good Friday between 11 am to 4 pm.

Liturgies of the Week

March 18—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Scotty Billy Jr.—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

Monday, March 20—St. Joseph

No Mass Today

Tuesday, March 21

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Catherine Diederich—Family

Wednesday, March 22

No Mass Today

Thursday, March 23—St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

No Mass Today

Friday, March 24

8:00 am James "Mac" McKeivitt—Sons, Brian, Pat & James McKeivitt

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 25—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Don Ondulick—Karen Heasley

March 26—Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

11:00 am Niccolai & Thot Families—Bob & Sharon
 Niccolai & Family

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—March 25/26

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	C. Farrier	C. Farrier	A. Peden
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	C. Rhodes	R. Messick	R. Messick	M. Ceccarelli

Readings for the week of March 19, 2023

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a,8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Next Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



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