



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

5th Sunday of Lent

In
the Lord
there is
mercy
and
fullness of
redemption

Psalm 130

March 26, 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

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Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager

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Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation

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Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary

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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.

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



From the Pastor

I Am the Resurrection and the Life... On this 5th Sunday of Lent we are presented with the dramatic story of Lazarus being raised from the dead.

In this gospel of John we can see that the raising of Lazarus by Jesus is definitely to be considered a “sign” that is more than a miracle; a revealing deed pointing towards Jesus’ true identity as “the Resurrection and the Life.”

Ezekiel in the first reading sets the stage for what is to unfold with the liturgy by speaking to us about the hope of life and resurrection. He was a powerful visionary and communicator and a man of hope. He speaks from the heart about the power and promise of Yahweh. He speaks to the people of a promise of raising a beaten people from the grave of defeat, slavery, humiliation and despair. It promises to restore all they imagine they have lost and more. This resurrection of Ezekiel speaks well of the power of God and fits right into the story of Lazarus.

The story of Lazarus being raised from the dead has implications beyond Lazarus’ return to life and bringing the crowd to belief. First of all, Lazarus’ death and being brought back to life foreshadows Jesus’ and our journey from death to life. Even as amazing as the raising of Lazarus is, the full extent of Jesus’ power over death would be revealed only in his resurrection and in ours. Second, the life that Jesus gives us is a life in which we never die at all. Resurrection is not returning to live more of this life; it is a gift of life ever after.

Unlike the story we find in Luke’s gospel where Mary has chosen the better part, in this gospel Mary seems to come out on top. While Mary will basically repeat what has been previously said by Martha, she appears to be struggling with grief and sorrow. On the other hand, Martha is definitely seen as the ideal believer, expressing not only the best of Jewish hope in a resurrection “on the last day,” but also the core of early Christian faith in the resurrection. If we read between the lines of this drama, we can clearly see the questions that the early Christians had about death and afterlife.

Today is a great opportunity for us, as individuals and as a community, to sit down and update where we stand with regard to our faith in a resurrection. The bottom line then is: do we believe in the resurrection of Jesus? Before anything else, we ought to be clear on that foundational matter and its implications.

We do not have all the answers, so we ought to remain modest concerning the way we speak of the afterlife. But, on the other hand, if we truly believe in the resurrection of Christ, we should know that he is “the first born of the dead” and the warrant of our own resurrection. There should be no compromising on both terms of the equation, and this should be a tremendous inspiration for us to live as resurrected people. The question is now ours to answer: “Do you believe this?” What will be our answer?

**ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH
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SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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BASKET AUCTION AND MORE!!!

Craft & Vendor Expo—Vendors are needed for the St. Sebastian Parish Craft Show on Saturday, **May 6**. For more information, call Kathy Rygiel at 724-326-0129.

Stewardship of Treasure—March 19, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,362.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	226.00
Votives:	\$	305.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	215.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	501.00
Good Friday:	\$	10.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	5.00
Easter:	\$	105.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	836.00
Heifer Project:	\$	391.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$	1,116.00
Home Mission:	\$	10.00

Total March 18/19 \$ 11,082.00

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.

Baked Goods Needed

Baked Goods are needed for the Joint St. Sebastian & Epiphany of Our Lord Purse Bash that will take place on April 30 at Epiphany Parish Hall.

You may bring your donation to St. Sebastian Parish Office on Friday, **April 28**, between 11:30 and 2:30. Thank you for helping make this joint effort a success.



Preparing for the Triduum

Next week we celebrate Palm Sunday which is then followed by Holy Week. This is one of the most Sacred weeks in our calendar. There are many services that we celebrate to add to the solemnity of the week. I will need some people to help with a few aspects of our liturgy on Holy Thursday. I am looking for **three people to carry down the oils at the beginning of Mass as well as people to have their feet washed.** This is an ancient practice of our faith, if you have never had your feet washed before, consider volunteering this year. If you want to be a part of either one of these, there is a sign-up sheet in the church.

Reconciliation

Our region offers the following opportunities for Reconciliation:

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**



Filling the Ark- Heifer International

At this rate, it won't be long until our ARK is filled! The generosity of our parish is sometimes overwhelming. It is gratifying to see that we are so willing to share what we have with those who have so much less. This week because of your generosity we were able to board:

1 Sheep; 1 Pig; 1 Water Buffalo; 1 trio Guinea Pigs; 1 Cow; 1 Ox
1 Camel; and 1 Llama

There are many animals who have yet to be placed on the ARK, if you would like to make a donation please put it in the collection basket.



Gift of a Buffalo: The Water Buffalo is certainly any farmer's friend! Thai farmers respectfully refer to the water buffalo as "the farmer's friend" because the animal provides the draft power that makes rice cultivation practical, particularly in remote areas. For farmers in Thailand and others throughout Asia, the huge animals provide high-protein milk for families and organic fertilizer for their farms. In the verdant, rugged mountains of the Philippines, farmer Bagwan and his wife Loge remember the days before Heifer International helped them obtain a water buffalo. "We had to do everything manually, even till our land," he and other barefoot villagers used sharpened sticks to prepare mountain rice paddies for planting. The arduous labor left the villager exhausted, often nursing bruised and bleeding feet. Hand planting produced barely enough rice to live on. "Today our water buffalo has improved the lives and health of our family," he said. Water buffalo allow subsistence-level farmers to harvest four times what they can produce by hand-planting.

Liturgies of the Week

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 and Family

Monday, March 27

No Mass Today

Tuesday, March 28

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Peter Bednarczyk—Daughter

Wednesday, March 29

No Mass Today

Thursday, March 30

No Mass Today

Friday, March 31

8:00 am (Death Anniv) R.J. Sokol—Lynn & Bobby

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 1—Vigil

12:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—April 1/2

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Server
4:30 pm	S. Wawro/J. Wasicek	K. Molesky	M. Wasicek
9:00 am	M. Shaughnessy/E. Bagay	B. Moskovitz	A. Frank
11:00 am	A. Hoffman/T. Sebetich	R. Hoffman	C. Hoffman

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: WILLIAM LAIRD. We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

With all that is going on in our lives today, I am so grateful to all of you who have responded thus far to the DLA appeal this year. As of last week we have received in pledges and gifts \$26,100.00! We have a ways to go to reach our parish goal of \$64,057.00. We have heard from 123 people. If you have not yet responded, won't you consider doing so? Remember that we would like to reseal and paint the parking lots. Please know how much I do appreciate everything that you do for your parish, and for whatever you are able to do with DLA this year, THANK YOU!

REALITY TOUR-Getting "Real" About Drugs

Reality Tour is a national parent and child drug education and prevention program held at the Belle Vernon High School. The next scheduled program is on **April 3, 2023** from 6-8:30 pm, arrive at 5:30 pm, at Belle Vernon Area High School, For more information, go to realitytour.org or call 724-797-0955.



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