

St Sebastian Catholic Church

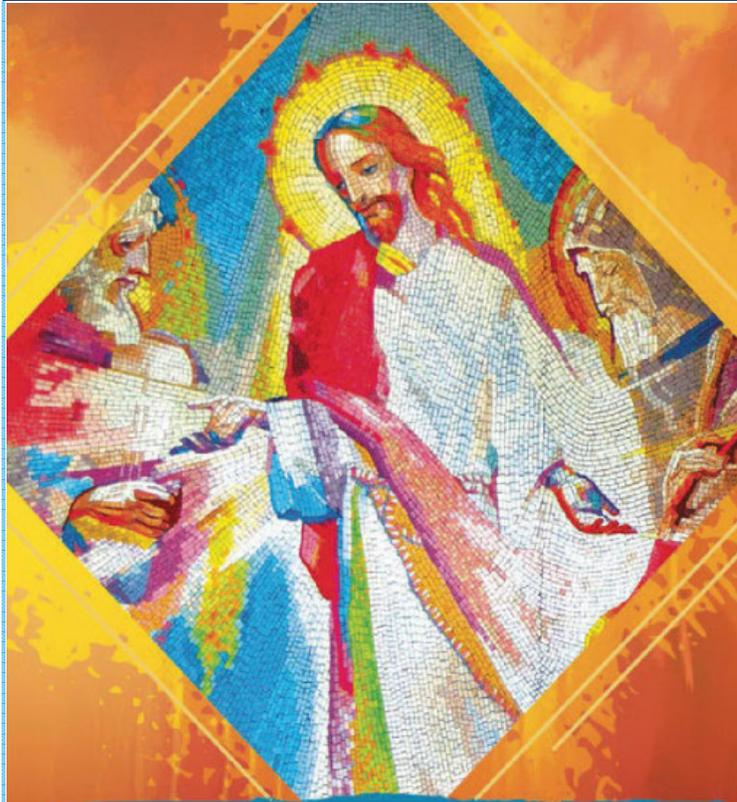


A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

March 5, 2023—2nd Sunday of Lent

Mass Schedule



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

His face shone like the sun and his clothes
became white as light. - Mt 17:2

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD, ©LPI

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
dllisovich@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

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.

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
tmiller@sssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



From the Pastor—Where Will Our Journey lead us?

There are a number of “personal” challenges laid out for us from our readings this week. The familiar story of the Transfiguration of Jesus tells us of God’s dream for who we shall be by grace. Abraham shows us what is necessary for the success of our journey; that we should leave home with all of its familiar surroundings and venture into God’s unknown future. Then, Paul advises us not to expect that our own hopes and plans will be a trustworthy guide to what God might have in store. All of this points to our own journey of faith and life.

First we hear how Yahweh reaches out to Abram with a promise. The very first word spoken to Abraham by God is simply “go.” This is where his journey begins; he starts a pilgrim journey towards a land yet unknown to him but which God promises to show him. A true leap of faith demonstrating the trust Abraham put in that command. Abraham has to put all of his trust in God’s word. His personal story now becomes the story of a people; a story brightened up by God’s countless blessings. The question we are to ask ourselves is: who and what have we left behind in order to be faithful to God’s call?

While we tend to understand faith, Catholic or otherwise, as the adherence to a given set of beliefs and rules, it is all the more refreshing to be sent back to the beginnings of biblical faith and to be reminded of what the first steps and the essence of faith are. What comes first is God’s word which is clearly an invitation to set out on a journey, whose destination is known by God alone. Do we walk with this kind of faith, or do we have to be certain where our journey will take us? Are we open to something new that God may have in store for us or do we not like surprises on our journey? Abraham went as the Lord asked. This is faith, pure faith at its best: trusting in the Lord and in all of the promises made, opening our lives to a journey towards unknown territory.

Paul advises in the second reading that we should not trust our own hopes and plans to be a trustworthy guide to what God might have in store. To what extent have we kept that kind of flame alive? Sometimes we focus way too much on the internal problems facing our church today. We worry about what tomorrow might or might not bring. We forget that God keeps calling us to new challenges and to new discoveries, accomplishments and rewards. Have we lost sight of our final destination or would it be that on our own journey in faith we have never experienced the rewards and the blessings of the journey itself?

The Transfiguration reminds us that it is all about our journey and where that journey will lead us. While it was safe for the disciples to remain on the mountain where everything was familiar and comfortable, Jesus quickly reminds them that their journey does not end there, that they must go down from the mountain, into the world where both pain and love co-exist. There Peter, James, and John will find God; and so will we. We cannot stay on top of the mountain like the Disciples wanted to. We cannot hold onto God and try to keep God locked up in some remote place. God must be found in the everyday routine of our lives, at the foot of the mountain where we live. It is there that we must “listen to Him,” no matter where our journey might lead us or what change might be waiting for us in life.

MONTHLY OVERVIEW—Listed below is a breakdown of what our monthly expenses were as opposed to the amount of money taken in. We will be providing this to you on a monthly basis.

Feb. Expenses	Amount	Week	Collection
Maintenance	\$ 200.00	Feb. 5	\$ 10,158.55
Phone	\$ 169.79	Feb. 12	\$ 8,931.00
Electric	\$ 1,221.95	Feb. 19	\$ 10,242.64
Gas	\$ 1,423.43	Feb. 26	\$ 11,518.00
Other Utilities	\$ 258.62	Total	\$ <u>40,850.19</u>
Misc. Office	\$ 943.65		
Church/Liturgy	\$ 1,480.00		
Payroll	\$ 21,922.51		
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 15,018.00		
(Breakdown)			
Accent	\$ 771.80		
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,959.06		
Dio. Assessment	\$ 4,032.08		
Insurance	\$ 3,220.06		
Data Processing	\$ 35.00		
Total	\$ <u>42,637.95</u>		



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

**Stewardship of Treasure
February 26, 2023**

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,865.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	450.00
Votives:	\$	75.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	40.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	120.00
Eastern Europe:	\$	20.00
Heifer Project:	\$	740.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	1,249.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$	1,166.00
Home Mission:	\$	<u>793.00</u>

Total February 25/26 \$ 11,518.00

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.

DLA: “One Body in Christ”

If we have learned anything from our experiences with COVID, it is the simple fact that we do need each other. The longing for being with people was felt by practically everyone in our society. This indicates to all of us how important it is to be part of the Body of Christ and our need for one another. During the Lenten season, we all work to deepen our awareness of building a relationship with the Lord and with each other. Through fasting and almsgiving and prayer we can grow into a deeper relationship not only with God but also with our Church. With that in mind I am asking that you consider sharing your blessings to help our faith community Grow in the Lord. You can make your donation to the 2023 Diocesan Lenten Appeal at Dioceseofgreensburg.org/One Body in Christ.

FIRST EUCHARIST PARENT/CHILD WORKSHOP**March 11 from 9—11 a.m.****St. Sebastian Church**

Parents/Guardians and children, who are to make their First Holy Communion this Spring,, are required to attend this meeting if they did not attend the meeting at St. John the Baptist.

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**

**Filling the Ark**

Thus far our ARK is empty. We have a long way to go to fill it up. Remember if you wish to make a contribution to the Heifer project, just drop your donation into the collection basket.



The gift of a goat: Did you know that more people rely on goats for milk than Cows. They're a great alternative for families who live in rocky mountainous Areas or own little land. Goats often give about four quarts of milk a day – just the right amount if you don't own a refrigerator. Goat manure makes a fantastic fertilizer for increasing vegetable crop yields, and goats give birth to two kids a year, providing a steady source of income.

Sights and Sounds Theater show: "Moses"

Friday, **June 23, 2023**. the cost \$178 with a \$75 deposit due by **March 17, 2023**. The bus will leaving from St. Paul Parish, Greensburg at 10:00 am. Trip includes the show and Amish style dinner at Plain & Fancy. Participants can register, pay their deposit, and sign the trip waivers online at <https://scholasticatravel.groupcollect.com/go/15477a>
 For further information or questions please contact Sharon at 724-989-6034.

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 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.

Liturgies of the Week**March 4—Vigil**

4:30 pm Bill Monro—Pat & Lou Toth

March 5—Second Sunday of Lent

9:00 am David Yencsik—Sister, Mary & Family

11:00 am (Death Anniv) Minnie Hauth—Daughters Kathy & Donna

Monday, March 6

No Mass Today

Tuesday, March 7—Ss. Perpetua & Felicity

8:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Wednesday, March 8—St. John of God

No Mass Today

Thursday, March 9—St. Frances of Rome

No Mass Today

Friday, March 10

8:00 am Freddy Fundy—Koury Family

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 11—Vigil

1:00 pm Lenten Reflection/Stations of the Cross

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm Sam & Phil Iacovangelo—Children, Tammy & Tim

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

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—March 11/12

	Lector	Lit. Coord	EM	Server
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	S. Wawro	R. Buretz
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	M. Patterson	R. Messick	R. Messick	B. Henderson

Stations of the Cross

The stations have been a Lenten Devotion probably since Lent has been celebrated. Through the years there have been many different versions of the stations. During Lent we will use a different Station of the Cross booklet each week starting at 6:00.

St. Sebastian's Lenten Reflection

All women are invited to attend an Afternoon of Lenten Reflection, sponsored by the Ladies of Faith of St. Sebastian, on **March 11**, from 1:00-3:00 PM in St. Sebastian Church. Our guest speaker will be Seminarian Mario Porreca, followed by the *Stations of the Cross, Through the Eyes of Mary*. We look forward to seeing you there.

**Music Help Needed**

St. Anne Church, Rostraver is in need of an Organist/Keyboardist/Choir Director. An understanding of Church music is needed. Responsibilities include playing for weekend and holy day liturgies, funerals, and weddings, organizing and directing the choir, and providing music for other Parish functions when needed. Please call St. Anne's office if interested. 724-872-3555.



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