



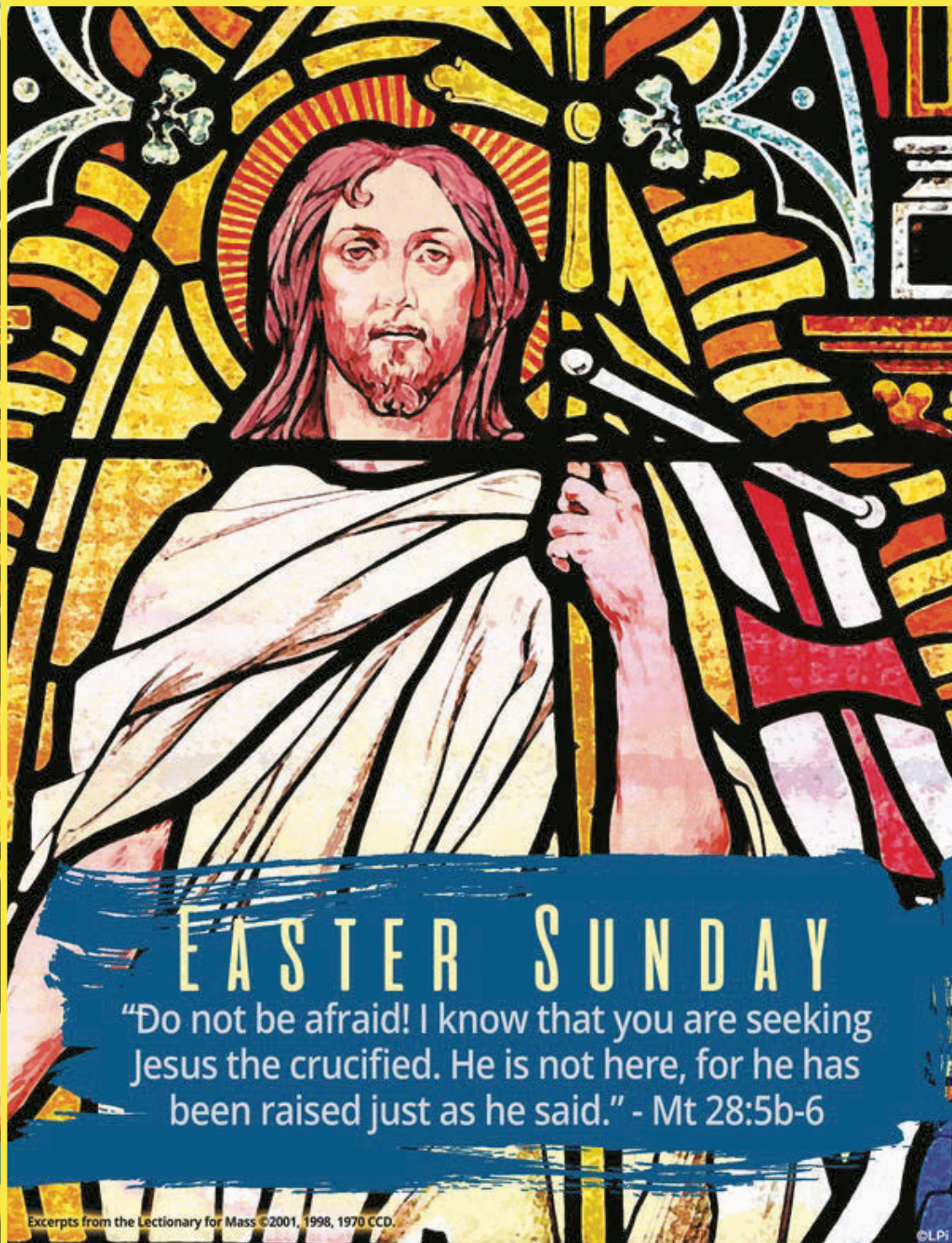
St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 9, 2023



EASTER SUNDAY

"Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said." - Mt 28:5b-6

**From the Pastor
We Celebrate Easter!**



The resurrection of Jesus is a paradox; we believe but we do not understand. The resurrection is a mystery which we can never understand but only believe. This mystery takes us beyond all which is familiar to us – to a realm where God’s glory and power lift us up to a new dignity of risen life. It is a freely given gift by the Divine One who has loved us from the beginning of creation, who breathed life into us, and who continues to beckon us to grow in the truth of who we are.

Easter is a celebration where we acknowledge who Christ really is, the one who shared in our humanity even to the point of accepting death, but who conquered death to raise us up to a share in His life. What exactly is it that we celebrate every year on Easter. We recognize the fact that Jesus rose from the dead; but, don’t we do that every time we celebrate the Eucharist? So, what makes Easter such a special celebration in our Church year? It might have something to do with the springtime of the year when everything in nature seems to resurrect. It might also have something to do with the fact that for forty days we have been anticipating this glorious day. Whatever the reason that makes this day so special, we like to celebrate it each and every year. We tell the wonderful story of the resurrection over and over again. Jesus squeezed life out of death and goodness and love triumphed.

The story of Easter is hard for us to accept because we have never seen or experienced anyone rise from the dead. So, we search for symbols to help us comprehend this great mystery. Just as at Christmas, Christians have come up with symbols to say something about resurrection. From ancient times the egg has been a symbol of fertility and immortality, and the church borrowed it and applied it as a visual lesson to the resurrection of Jesus. There is even a tradition that Simon of Cyrene, who helped Jesus carry his cross to Calvary, was an egg merchant. The legend has Simon returning to his shop after the crucifixion only to find that all of the eggs had turned miraculously into a variety of colors adorned with drawings. The butterfly is the most ancient symbol of the resurrection because they are born out of a caterpillar’s sleep in a cocoon, symbolizing the grave. They are transformed, as if with a glorified body, unconstrained by the limitations of matter, flying into the air.

These symbols are strong statements about life, and what happened on that first Easter morning is “life” itself. I pray that as you celebrate this day with your family and friends, the peace and the joy that resurrection brings to our lives may be yours in abundance. Have a wonderful celebration and rejoice in the fact that Jesus truly has risen and that same reward awaits each of us. Alleluia!!

Rev. Michael J. Crookston, Pastor

Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for April 2, will be in a future bulletin.



The Paschal Candle

This year the Paschal Candle is given in loving memory of Don Ondulick by his wife, Josie and Kim & Cliff Gorski.

Paschal Candle Flowers

This year’s Paschal Candle Flowers are given In Thanksgiving, by Mr. & Mrs. George R. Cowan and son, George.

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 next weekend **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.



CRAFT and VENDOR EXPO

On Saturday, **May 6, 2023**, from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. there will be 40 tables of crafters & vendors with wonderful items for sale in our Parish Hall. Admission is free; a basket auction and refreshments available.

**Stewardship of Treasure
March 26, 2023**

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,640.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	1,017.00
Votives:	\$	261.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	5.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	55.00
Good Friday:	\$	17.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	10.00
Heifer Project:	\$	390.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	228.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$	1,195.00
Easter:	\$	25.00

Total March 25/26 \$ 10,843.00

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

Our Return To Easter

*Even though we are baptized,
 what we constantly lose and betray is
 precisely that which we received at baptism.
 Therefore Easter is our return
 every year to our own baptism,
 whereas Lent is our preparation for that return
 the slow and sustained effort to perform,
 at the end, our own "passage or pascha"
 into the new life in Christ...
 Each year Lent and Easter are,
 once again, the rediscovery
 and the recovery by us of what we were made
 through our own baptismal
 death and resurrection.*



Liturgies of the Week

- April 8—Vigil**
 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
- Monday of Easter Week, April 10**
 No Mass Today
- Tuesday of Easter Week, April 11**
 8:00 am (Date of Birth) Joseph Uhlman—Wife, Terri
- Wednesday of Easter Week, April 12**
 No Mass Today
- Thursday of Easter Week, April 13**
 No Mass Today
- Friday of Easter Week, April 14**
 8:00 am (Death Anniv) Nathan Campus—Family
- April 15—Vigil**
 3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Bernard Gorski—Cliff & Kim Gorski and Family
 Sacrament of First Eucharist
- April 16—Second Sunday of Easter**
 9:00 am Judith Moody—Larry & Diane Bonde
 Sacrament of First Eucharist
 11:00 am (Death Anniv) Carlo Borriello—Rosetta Borriello & Family
 Sacrament of First Eucharist



Once again as I think back over our Lenten season and the celebration of Easter, there are many people who shared much of their time and talent and need to be thanked. This season requires many people to just celebrate the liturgies. I am grateful to all of our ministers, server's ushers who have so generously shared their gifts with us. I would like to thank in a special way the Adult Choir for adding so very much throughout the season. They have put in many hours of preparation and practice and we all were blessed with beautiful liturgies. The people who have helped to decorate the church certainly did an outstanding job not only at Easter but throughout the entire year, and we are all grateful to them. But, most of all I would like to thank you the people who make up our parish family. It is because of your support and dedication that we are able to gather each week and celebrate the gift of the Eucharist. As we celebrate these weeks of Easter, know that we are all blessed in more ways than we are even aware of!

Heifer Project

We have certainly done an outstanding job with our Heifer Project this year. As of last week we almost filled the ARK! I will let you know how much we collected last week. As a parish we certainly did a lot in helping the poor around our world. I am so thankful for all of your generosity and know that you certainly have touched the lives of many people. If you still want to make a donation to guarantee a "full ark," please drop it in the collection basket and mark it Heifer.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—April 15/16			
	Lector	Lit. Coord/EM	Server
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	K. Molesky	R. Buretz
9:00 am	B. Moskovitz	M. Shaughnessy	C. Frank
11:00 am	A. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	C. Hoffman

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: LINDA RODRIGUEZ and NANCY YETSCONSIH We extend our sympathy their families. May they rest in peace.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this 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 this Thursday, **April 13** in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.

In observance of the celebration of Easter Season, the Parish Office will be closed Monday, April 10.



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