

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 16, 2023

Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:30 PM

Sunday

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Tuesday, 8:00 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.



2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER (DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY)

Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe." - Jn 20:26-27

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC, GLPI

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

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From the Pastor—Without Seeing We Believe

We find ourselves in the glorious season of Easter! The beauty of the Resurrection is once again made real for us through our celebration of Easter. The readings for this season all speak about the resurrection experiences of not only the disciples but also of the early Christian Communities. As we listen to the stories we should be able to see how relevant they are even for this day. There are many ways that we are able to relate to the experiences of those early followers and apply the grace that the risen Lord brings to our lives today.

If you notice the readings for the season of Easter come from the New Testament. There are testimonies from those early followers of Jesus. We hear of their joys as well as their struggles. A common theme that we can find throughout these readings deals with the rapid growth of the early church. In our first reading this week Luke summarizes the situation, character and activities of this church. We are told that the people were “of one heart and mind.” Unity is definitely a gift that they celebrated. They held everything in common and shared all that they had with those who were in need. It is good to take this first reading and slowly go over it line by line and feel the joy that was present among the people. We would certainly do well to compare their experiences with our own in the communities we live in.

St. Peter in the second reading makes reference to some of the trials that these early Christians had to endure. He compares Rome to Babylon as it was experienced in the Old Testament. Although at the time of Jesus, Babylon was no longer a great power, but only a tiny, unimportant place, the name certainly refers to Rome whose authority was beyond question throughout the world known to the author. By the time this letter was written the government had already been persecuting the Christians and there was much suffering and fear. Here, the people are reminded of the purpose of their journey through life, and that all will certainly come to fruition in the risen Lord.

The Gospel presents us with the real question for the week: can we believe without seeing? This has always been the primal question with all believers. Thomas becomes the great teacher for us through his own experience. He simply could not believe what was being said about Jesus, he needed to see for himself, he needed concrete proof.

When Thomas is confronted with the Risen Lord, Rather than touch Jesus, he utters a profound profession of faith. Clearly the gospel is about seeing, but another, deeper layer is gradually unfolded. Thomas’ seeing is concerned with the physical presence of the risen Christ and His wounds. However, Jesus leads the disciples into the deeper meaning of seeing: today we “see” Jesus through our being faithful to the mission He gives us. What does it mean to believe in the resurrection of Jesus? Like Thomas, many of us struggle with belief. Too often, however, our struggle is similar to Thomas’: we want tangible evidence. The twist of the gospel lies in the kind of tangible evidence we are given: the tangible presence of the risen Jesus is found in our being sent to continue the mission of Jesus. The tangible evidence of the presence of the risen Jesus is found in receiving the Holy Spirit so we can do the good works of faithful disciples. Believing in the risen Jesus means more than accepting the fact of His resurrection; it means doing as Jesus does. We experience this Risen Lord when we offer to others “peace, forgiveness and new 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.

March Expenses	Amount	Week	Collection
Maintenance	\$ 221.25	Mar. 5	\$ 10,329.25
Phone	\$ 168.86	Mar. 12	\$ 9,931.00
Electric	\$ 1,000.47	Mar. 19	\$ 11,082.00
Gas	\$ 1,014.35	Mar. 26	\$ 10,837.00
Other Utilities	\$ 230.25		
Misc. Office	\$ 2,422.48		
Church/Liturgy	\$ 1,240.00		
Payroll	\$ 22,113.84		
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 16,214.84		
(Breakdown)			
Accent	\$ 771.80		
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,959.06		
Dio. Assessment	\$ 4,032.08		
Insurance	\$ 3,220.06		
Data Processing	\$ 110.00		
Increased Offertory Mailing	\$ 1,121.84		
Total	\$ 44,626.34		
		Total	\$ 42,179.25



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

Stewardship of Treasure—April 2, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$ 8,721.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 120.00
Votives:	\$ 193.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 125.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 36.00
Eastern Europe:	\$ 5.00
Heifer Project:	\$ 45.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 5.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 90.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$ 1,430.00
Holy Thursday:	\$ 45.00
Good Friday:	\$ 55.00
Easter:	\$ 185.00
Home Mission:	\$ 5.00

Total April 1/2 \$ 11,060.00

Stewardship of Treasure—April 9, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$ 8,672.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 48.00
Votives:	\$ 383.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 171.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 110.00
Easter:	\$ 7,379.00
Good Friday:	\$ 1,115.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 7.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$ 745.00
Holy Thursday:	\$ 1,117.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 15.00

Total April 8/9 \$ 19,777.00

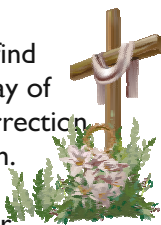
Baked Goods Needed—Baked Goods are needed for the Joint St. Sebastian & Epiphany of Our Lord Purse Bash that will take place on April 30 at Epiphany Parish Hall.

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.

CRAFT and VENDOR EXPO—On Saturday, **May 6**, from 9 am until 2 pm 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.

The Season of Easter

With the celebration of Easter behind us, we find ourselves in the Season of Easter. Until the day of Pentecost our liturgies will focus on the Resurrection of Jesus and the beginnings of the Early Church. In looking back at our celebrations for the Triduum and Easter, I am thankful for all of our ministers who gave of themselves so that our liturgies would be rich and meaningful. I want to thank all of our parishioners for making this Easter such a special one, and together we share the joy that the Risen Christ brings as we continue on our own Journey of Faith.



Divine Mercy Sunday

Bishop Larry J. Kulick invites the faithful of the Diocese to join with him in a celebration of God's mercy on Sunday, April 16, Divine Mercy Sunday. The liturgy is scheduled for 2 p.m. in St. Joseph Chapel at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. The Chaplet of Divine Mercy will be prayed during this time of Eucharistic Adoration. Weather permitting, there will be an outdoor Eucharistic procession.



A grateful heart...

The season of Easter is a time for hope in life, and hope always brings with it a lot of love. This year I turned "70" and I must say that it certainly was a birthday to remember! Someone gave me a towel that says:

Being 20 in the 70's was way more fun than being 70 in the 20's! I certainly agree with the first part of that saying, but since I am only starting the second part, the jury is still out. I cannot remember a birthday where I felt so much love from so very many people, and that certainly does beat out the fun in the 70's. I want to thank everyone who made my transition from the 60's to the 70's a whole lot easier. Please know how grateful I am to all of you, and know that I am humbled by your love and support.

First Holy Communion

This weekend and next our second graders will be making their First Holy Communion. This is always a life giving time for our parish family. I ask that you keep these children in your thoughts and prayers as they share in the gift of the Eucharist.

Mother's Day Fundraiser

This weekend the Ladies of Faith are offering vouchers for Hanging Flower Baskets from McShane Florist. The cost is \$20 per voucher. Take your voucher to McShane's on **May 3rd** and pick up a basket from their selections offered.



Liturgies of the Week

April 15—Vigil

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

Monday, April 17

No Mass Today

Tuesday, April 18

8:00 am Eva Goozdich Mauro—Bob & Sharon Niccolai & Family

Wednesday, April 19

No Mass Today

Thursday, April 20

No Mass Today

Friday, April 21—St. Anselm

8:00 am Helen Triplet, Bertha Whitten & Rudolph Delopitro—Sister, Alexia Jones

Saturday, April 22—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
4:30 pm James Monack Sr.—Parents, Frank & Deanna Monack
Sacrament of First Eucharist

April 23—Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Dr. David Brougher—Wife, Carole
Sacrament of First Eucharist

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—April 22/23

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	J. Wasicek	C. Farrier	M. Wasicek
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	M. Patterson	S. Kroskie	B. Henderson

Paschal Candle Flowers—This week the Paschal Candle flowers are in memory of the Deceased members of the Mazzei and Biondo families by the Nick Francia Family.



Altar Candle Ring Flowers—This week's altar flowers are in memory of Isabella Rhea Herron by Dennis and Jeanne Faieta.

Sympathy and Prayers

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

D.L.A.—Lent is behind us and so is the major portion of our Diocesan Lenten Appeal. Thus far we have only heard from 27% or 210 of our parishioners. From these parishioners we have collected \$44,360. We still have a way to go to reach our diocesan goal of \$64,057, however I am sure we will make it. We have set an additional \$10,000 as our parish target to seal and paint the parking lots. If you have not yet made a contribution, won't you please consider doing so? From the **73% of our parish that we have not yet heard from**, we should be well over our goal!



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