



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 30, 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Easter

# ENTER

“Whoever enters  
through the gate is  
the shepherd of  
the sheep.”

JOHN 10:2

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

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## 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**  
[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music**  
[ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary**  
[ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary**  
[dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto: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.

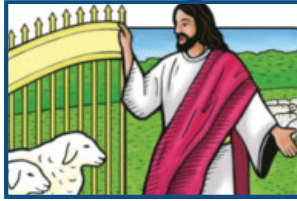
### Reconciliation

**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—We are called to be Shepherds!***

There are many ways that we may image Jesus. We refer to Him as our Savior and Glorified King; we may be able to relate to the title of the Suffering Servant or the Gentle Carpenter. Today on this fourth Sunday of Easter we



look at Jesus as the Good Shepherd and the gate. Sheep can be found either in their pasture or in their holding pen. The sheepfold was usually made of fieldstone or mud brick, was generally uncovered, and high enough so the sheep couldn't jump over. Keeping the sheep together in an enclosed area at night made it easier for the shepherd to protect them from wild beasts and thieves. There is only one opening in the wall between the open grazing land and their enclosures: the gate. At night, the shepherd stood at the gate as the sheep entered one by one and inspected each sheep. Those scratched or injured would be tended and their wounds anointed with oil; the thirsty would be watered. When all were accounted for and safely inside, the shepherd would sometimes lie down and sleep across the entrance to the sheepfold: thus, the "shepherd" was also "the gate."

As pastoral as it sounds, the gate was often the only thing that prevented danger from entering and doing harm to the sheep. We are reminded in this gospel story as well as in the second reading that danger and death are always lurking near. It is only with perseverance and steadfast faith that we are able to endure. Our second reading shows us how we are to respond to the call of Jesus. Even when surrounded by enemies and persecution or even the little aggravations of life, we are to respond with patience and return no insults. No small task when you really stop to think about it!

As Peter speaks to the crowd on Pentecost he gives a blueprint showing us just how to enter into that sheepfold. It is through our baptism that we are given the promise of eternal life. It is through baptism and the gift of the Spirit that we share in the ministry of Jesus. Faith, as Peter reminds us, cannot simply be lip service. This is a fundamental part of our life with Jesus that we too often forget. Faith calls for a radical change in life and for commitment to the gospel.

This season of Easter reminds us that the risen One, the Good Shepherd, is truly there for us, calls us by name, and leads us to abundant life. Thus does Jesus model for us how we, too, are to be both gate and shepherd in life, dealing with the hardships we face with patience in suffering, doing good, returning no insult or threat and hand ourselves over for the good of others. This may seem like a tall order, and it is. However, Jesus is always there, walking "ahead" of us, guiding us toward being good shepherds ourselves.

We are reminded this Sunday that our simple, everyday actions of being faithful to the gospel are how we live out our baptism, our entry into following Jesus. When we embrace our baptismal commitment we enter through Jesus the gate into a life of being gate and shepherds ourselves.

## ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH FUNDRAISER CRAFT & VENDOR EXPO

SATURDAY MAY 6, 2023

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

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### Stewardship of Treasure April 23, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,180.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	1,100.00
Votives:	\$	130.59
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	115.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	50.00
Good Friday:	\$	55.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	35.00
Easter:	\$	335.00
Lenten Season Offering:	\$	105.00

**Total April 22/23**

**\$ 8,105.59**

### Annual St. Sebastian Junque Sale

This year's Junque Sale will be held **July 28 & 29**. We will be collecting donations on Tuesdays & Thursdays starting this week, **May 2** from 10 am—2 pm and 6 pm—8 pm. We are not accepting clothing, televisions, exercise equipment, dictionaries or encyclopedia's or large furniture. If anyone needs an appointment to donate items, please call Bonnie Halinka at 724-322-0355.

We are in need of volunteers and anyone needing community service hours.

Consider online giving, click the "my Eoffering"  
button on our parish website

## First Holy Communion

Last week, **Phillip Angelo, Cameron Bury, Bennett Gido, Owen Pitek, and Brielle Shutterly** celebrated their First Holy Communion. This is a special time in their lives, as well as, the life of our parish family. May the Grace of God continue to grow stronger in their hearts. Congratulations!



## Good Shepherd Sunday

World Day of Prayer will be observed today, also known as "Good Shepherd Sunday." The purpose of this day is to publically fulfill the Lord's instruction to, "Pray the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His harvest" (Mt 9:38; Lk 10:2). Please pray that young men and women hear and respond generously to the Lord's call to the priesthood, diaconate, and religious life, societies of apostolic life or secular institutes.

### Thanksgiving for Vocations

We thank You for all the vocations that You have given us. Send Your Holy Spirit to guard and guide these men and women. In thanksgiving we ask Your blessings upon those who have so generously responded to Your call. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen.



## Registration open for Eucharistic Congress

Registration is open for the Diocese of Greensburg's Eucharistic Congress. "Creating a Eucharistic Community: Forming Disciples of Christ in Love and Service" will feature engaging workshops, speakers and national experts who will provide insight into fostering a Eucharistic culture in parishes, schools and the Diocese. Diocesan and parish staff and members of the general public can select from one of two sessions: **May 8-10** or **May 9-11**. To view a list of speakers, visit [DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival](http://DioceseofGreensburg.org/EucharisticRevival). Attendance is free for the first 400 people to register.

## Transformation – A Men's Prayer Gathering

On Monday, **May 1**, gather with men from throughout the Diocese of Greensburg and be renewed in your faith journey. "Transformation – A Men's Prayer Gathering" will begin at 6:45 p.m. at St. Vincent Basilica Parish (downstairs in the crypt). Take a break from your hectic schedule and be renewed with leadership development, spiritual growth, prayer, music, Eucharistic Adoration and Reconciliation. The gathering will conclude at 9 p.m. There is no charge to attend.

## Diocesan Lenten Appeal

There are 5 weeks left in this year's DLA campaign, and we still are short of our Diocesan goal of \$64,057. We have only heard from 30% of our parish and from that group we have amassed \$47,935 in gifts and pledges. I was hoping to reach our parish goal of \$74,057 so that we can seal and repaint the parking lots. If you are in the 70% of our parishioners who have not yet responded, won't you consider making a gift to the campaign this year?

## Liturgies of the Week

### April 29—Vigil

4:30 pm Felix J. Lisovich—Lou & Pat Toth

### April 30—Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am In Memory of Helen Yencsik's 100th Birthday—Daughter, Mary & Family  
11:00 am Thot & Niccolai Families—Bob & Sharon  
Niccolai & Family  
Sacrament of Baptism

### Monday, May 1—St. Joseph the Worker

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, May 2—St. Athanasius

8:00 am Jim Pascoe—Patti & Family

### Wednesday, May 3—Ss. Philip and James

No Mass Today

### Thursday, May 4

No Mass Today

### Friday, May 5

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Conrad Lama—Dennis & Mini  
McManis

### Saturday, May 6—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
4:30 pm Sean Bishop—Petrisin Family  
Sacrament of Baptism

### May 7—Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish  
11:00 am (Death Anniv) John Dunlop—Wife, Sue & Family



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

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE—May 6/7

	Lector	Lit. Coord/EM	Server
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	A. Peden
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	C. Rhodes	S. Kroskie	B. Henderson

## 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 **May 8, 2023** from 6-8:30 pm, arrive at 5:30 pm, at Belle Vernon Area High School. For more information, go to [realitytour.org](http://realitytour.org) or call 724-797-0955.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Parish Office will be **closed** next week on **Monday, May 8** and **Wednesday, May 10**. The staff will be attending the Diocesan Eucharistic Congress at Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg.





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