

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

7th Sunday of Easter

May 21, 2023

...Jesus...looked toward heaven and prayed:

**“Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son,
that your Son may glorify you.”** John 17:1



Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30 PM	Tuesday, 8:00 AM
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Friday, 8:00 AM

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
caielo@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



Baptism Preparation

3rd Wednesday of every month. Call 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.

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

From the Pastor—Our call to Unity...

How do we show God's glory? This is a fundamental question that should answer whether we are going to be faithful disciples. Our Gospel for this week tells us exactly how we are to show God's glory. We do this through



our love, unity, and forgiveness; this is the only way that the glory of God can be brought to our world. Jesus offers a final prayer for unity among His friends, the same unity that existed between Him and His Father. It was important to Jesus that His followers would stay united with each other. Jesus prays that the whole church could be united with the same oneness of God, the Father and Jesus the Son. One of the greatest tragedies of our Christian Church has been the disunity that exists even today among believers. Throughout history we see some of the bloodiest disputes among believers in the Lord. So, what does this say about the command we are being given today? How are we as individuals supposed to make this dream of Jesus' a reality in our world?

The best way that we can show our love for the glory of God is by imitating Jesus. Ultimately, this is what discipleship means: imitate Jesus. This is how we are to live as disciples. This is the call of the new life of resurrection. Through our love, unity and forgiveness we imitate the love that Jesus prays for in John's gospel. Unity in life can bring much goodness, disunity among Christians is a scandal and every one of us has a responsibility to do whatever we can to make Christ's last prayer a reality. Through our efforts of promoting social justice and in securing the common good we can help bring about unity. Through our loving forgiveness we can guarantee unity within our own hearts, for love and unity among believers is the first form of our witness to the world. Our love for each other is God's love in us spilling over.

As Jesus was concerned with the immediate mission of His dearest friends, Jesus remains concerned with the mission of our church today. In the midst of changes and struggles we must never lose sight of the fact that Jesus does pray for the unity and glory of the church. As members of this sacred gift, we all hold deep within our hearts the responsibility to do all that we can to make this prayer of Jesus come to fruition. It is only through our works of mercy and peace that the real Glory of God is manifest to all of God's people here on earth.

As we await the celebration of the great feast of Pentecost and the coming of the Spirit, we all need to be mindful of this call. Every one of us has been given the strength of that Spirit to allow us to become instruments of God's peace and justice. This week ponder over the ways that you in your own way can help to make the Glory of God known to the people around you. By using the gifts that God has given us, we can all strive to build a stronger Kingdom here on earth.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Well, the good news is that we have reached our diocesan goal, and surpassed it by \$20,000! Thus far we have heard from 34% of our parish and have collected \$84,729. We surpassed our parish goal. Since we have reached our goal for the diocese, every penny that is given from this point on will stay 100% in the parish. We will be sealing and painting the parking lots with our DLA money this year. I am asking that the remaining 66% of our parishioners make some effort with this year's DLA. Please know that I am grateful to all of our parishioners for the many ways that you do support your church.

Stewardship of Treasure—May 14, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	9,177.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	975.00
Votives:	\$	266.50
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	145.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	110.00
Catholic Communications:	\$	20.00
Ascension:	\$	19.00

Total May 13/14 \$ 10,712.50

St. Vincent de Paul Store needs your help!

Help is badly needed for volunteers to pick up the furniture donations for the St. Vincent de Paul Store. Anyone with strong hands, arms, and back, if you can give a couple of hours, one or two days a month, it would be greatly appreciated. To volunteer, simply call the store at 724-684-5147. The store is located at 1701 Grand Blvd in Monessen.



Anniversary Reception

Fr. Len Stoviak, who served here from 1975-1978, celebrated his 50th Anniversary of Ordination on May 5. He is planning a Mass of Gratitude on **May 28** at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. A light reception will follow. His sister, Jane and he invite you to join them if you are able. Please remember him and all priests in your prayers.

Grounds Work Thanks

A special thank you to **Dayna Bethem** and **Joannie Brown** for doing some much needed weeding and general clean up of our parish grounds. Thank you and God bless you, Dayna and Joannie, for your dedication and service.

Grateful Thanks to Our Vendor/Craft Volunteers



Many thanks to our volunteers who made possible the Vendor & Craft Show on May 6th. Thanks to the volunteers who organized, helped and supported the Vendor & Craft show. The Vendor fundraiser netted over \$3,446 profit benefiting Saint Sebastian Parish.

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



Feast of Pentecost

Next week we celebrate the great feast of Pentecost! The Easter season lasts for fifty days, ending with Pentecost (the Greek word meaning “fiftieth”.) Ranking second only to Easter, the feast of Pentecost must be understood in the context of the Jewish feast by the same name. This prolonged festival celebrated the theme of harvest and thanksgiving. It evolved before the time of Christ into a memorial of the covenant. The weekdays between the Ascension and Pentecost are a preparation period for the outpouring of the Spirit. This great feast closes out the Easter season. It celebrates the overwhelming experience of God pouring out the Spirit upon the first community of those who believed Jesus was the Lord and Christ. Pentecost is called, therefore, the birth of the church or the birth of the church’s mission.

REMEMBER TO WEAR RED NEXT WEEK!

GRADUATION MASS

Graduation from High School is a milestone. This year we would like to celebrate our 2023 graduates on **June 4** during the 11:00 a.m. Mass, followed by brunch in our Parish Hall. A letter was sent to all registered 12th grade students with an RSVP for the Mass & Brunch (by May 26). If you did not receive a letter, please call Darleen at the Parish Office at 724-929-9300.

Thank You to Our Religious Ed Volunteers

On Monday, May 8, the final class of the 2022/2023 Religious Education Program closed with Ice Cream treats at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish Hall. The classes include Grades 1 –8 for students of Saint Sebastian and Epiphany of Our Lord Parishes.

Special thanks to our volunteer Religious Education teachers & aids:

Grade 1—*Colleen Lazar*

Grade 2—*Carrie Angelo & Michelle Watson*

Grade 3 & 4—*Darlene Klamerus*

Grade 5 & 6—*Paul Keefer*

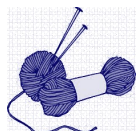
Grade 7 & 8—*Rachel Hoffman & Nicolette Heckel*



Thank you to Sissy Scheponik for being at the school entrance and for monitoring the school hall. God bless all teachers and aids for sharing their faith with the young.

A CALL FOR RELIGIOUS ED VOLUNTEERS. There is a need for teachers & aids for the 2023-2024 School Year. All clearances are needed. Please contact Scott Martin at 724-929-9300.

Brown Bag Sunday



Remember that on the weekend of June 10/11 we are going to have another “Brown Bag” collection. This time we are asking you to bring in skeins of yarn. We have a group of parishioners who are busy knitting and crocheting blankets, shawls and other items for our shut in’s, baptisms and nursing homes. They also distribute them to the hospitals for people going through chemotherapy. This is a wonderful way that we can touch the people of our community with love. We are asking that you bring in skeins of yarn (please be sure it is washable) over the weekend of June 10/11, and we will take it from there. If you have any questions about this, please give me a call. I am grateful for your generosity!

Liturgies of the Week

May 20—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Don Ondulick—Tim & Joan Timlin

May 21—Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Michele Cope—Daughter-In-Law, Kim

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, May 22

No Mass Today

Tuesday, May 23

No Mass Today

Wednesday, May 24

No Mass Today

Thursday, May 25

No Mass Today

Friday, May 26—St. Philip Neri

No Mass Today

Saturday, May 27—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Felix J. Lisovich—Donald Bergamasco

May 28—Pentecost Sunday

9:00 am H.S. Rosary Society—Rosary Society

11:00 am (Date of Birth) Joe Kubitzka—Wife, Betty Jane & Family

THE ROSARY IS PRAYED SUNDAYS AT 8:30 AM,

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—May 27/28

	Lector	Lit. Coord/EM	Server
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	R. Buretz
9:00 am	M. Shaughnessy	B. Moskovitz	C. Frank
11:00 am	M. Patterson	R. Messick	C. Hoffman

PRIOR TO THE 9:00 AM MASS. PLEASE JOIN US!

The **Ladies of Faith** of St. Sebastian invite all women of our parish, to join us at our regular monthly meeting on June 1 at 6:30 pm in the Parish Hall. Our newly elected officers President, Elaine Johnson, Vice President, Maggie Kelly, Secretary, Lisa Sassak, and Treasurer, Anita Carson, are looking forward to an exciting year of engaging spiritual and social events. All are welcome!



PLEASE NOTE: Fr. Mike will be away this week. For those wishing to attend daily Mass, the Church of St. Anne, Rostraver Twp. has Mass on Monday and Thursday at 8:00 a.m. St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis celebrates Mass Monday thru Thursday at 9:00 a.m.