

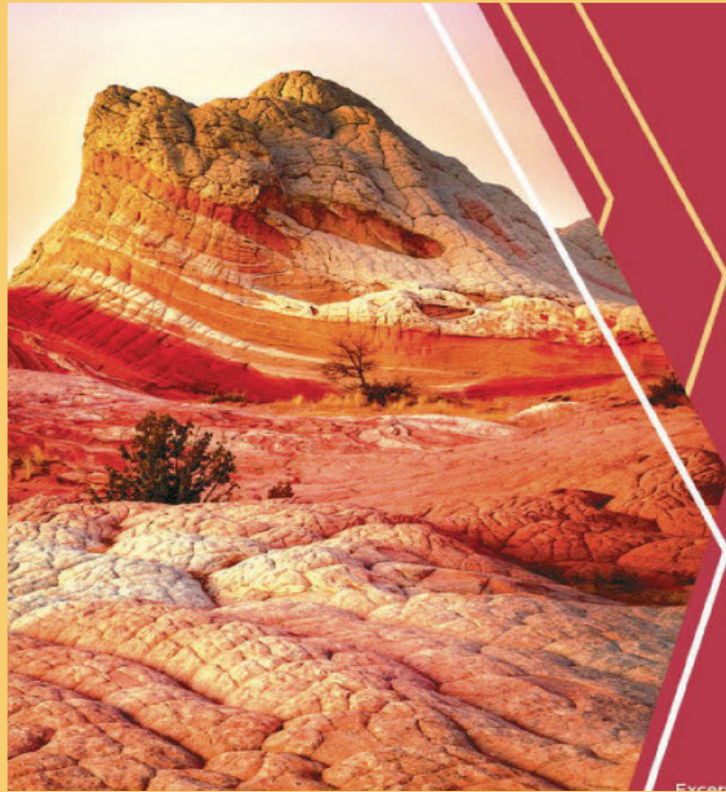
St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

May 14, 2023



6th SUNDAY OF EASTER

“I will ask the Father,
and he will give you
another Advocate to
be with you always,
the Spirit of truth.”
- Jn 14:16-17a

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

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
tnmiller@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-The Holy Spirit of God

Focusing on God's presence within is a prevailing theme found throughout our liturgy this week. For the first time during this post-Easter season, the "Spirit of truth" makes an appearance. The success of the early church was primarily because of the gift of the Holy Spirit that enlightened the hearts and minds of the people. This presence of God enabled them to deal with many hardships and yet triumphantly speak of God's glory through the gift of Jesus. In our first reading from Acts we hear of the success of Philip in his evangelization of Samaria. This has traditionally been referred to as the second Pentecost, less spectacular than the first one in Jerusalem, but essentially with the same result: "they received the Holy Spirit."

The second reading for this week takes up the delicate issue of suffering in life. The author clearly tells the people, as he speaks to us, that suffering is not to be considered a punishment for sin, for it often comes "for doing good." The Old Testament notion of God punishing for wrongs done was a hard concept to break for the early disciples. The author clearly reminds us that suffering is certainly not the will of God. Rather God's will is that everyone finds true and lasting happiness.

In the gospel for this week, Jesus once again speaks about commandments. In our world today a lot of people think of commandments as burdensome and restrictive, interfering with their freedom. We are reminded in the gospel that the way we should look at commandments is that they are an expression of our love for God. It is easy for us to fall into the mindset that we obey commandments simply because it is law, we are being reminded today that they are an expression of love for God. The gospel begins and ends with the invitation to love Jesus by keeping His commandments. But this gospel is not just about our love; rather it speaks clearly about God's love for us. God does everything possible to share divine life with us, even to sending the Spirit.

On our own it is impossible either to know God or love God. This is why the gospel is so reassuring when Jesus promises us the Spirit who "remains with us, and will be in us." If we wish to grow in our love for God, we must first become attentive to the Spirit who dwells within us. We get to know the Spirit within us (who is really the presence of the risen Jesus in us) by taking sufficient time to be aware of the Spirit so near us.

Even though the relationship of Jesus to the Father is a difficult concept to grasp, at least we can relate to the "father and son" image. But how should we represent the Spirit as a Person in God? The only real image we find in the scriptures is that of a dove, but is that all we can say about this Spirit of God. It is true that we as Catholic Christians have a lot to learn about the Spirit. There is no doubt that the charismatic movement helped with the understanding of the Holy Spirit, but do we understand how that Spirit works in and through our lives? We know that the Spirit was present at creation, has inspired the prophets, and rested upon God's Servant and Messiah. It is the Spirit who has given us Jesus (the virginal conception) and has rested upon Him all His life, raising Him from the dead, to establish Him as Son of God in power. The same Spirit is also a gift from the Risen Christ to the church. The Spirit is the one who enables us to acknowledge God as Creator. The Spirit is always with us!

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Time is running out, we are getting to the last few weeks for our campaign for this year. Thus far we have heard from a little over a third of our parishioners and they have given \$50,540. We haven't even met our diocesan goal, let alone our parish goal. For a parish of our size we should be way beyond this point. There are almost 2/3 of our parish who have not responded, and I am not really sure why. With only a few weeks left in the campaign, I am asking that you please respond in some way.

Stewardship of Treasure—May 7, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,437.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	158.00
Votives:	\$	125.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	387.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	125.00
Good Friday:	\$	10.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	10.00
Catholic Communication:	\$	10.00
Ascension:	\$	55.00

Total May 6/7 \$ 8,317.00

Annual St. Sebastian Junque Sale

This year's Junque Sale will be held **July 28 & 29**. We are collecting donations on Tuesdays & Thursdays starting from 10 am—12 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.

Brown Bag Sunday



It is time to do another Brown Bag Sunday! This time we are asking you to buy yarn for our "Prayer Shall Ministry."

When purchasing yarn be sure it is washable and it usually comes in 7 oz. skeins.

You can bring your yarn to Mass with on the weekend of **June 10/11**. I thank you all in advance for your generosity!



Mother's Day

This week we celebrate a day dedicated to our Mom's. Although we appreciate all that our mothers do for us throughout the year, today we let her know how much she is loved and appreciated. Although it is one day found nestled within the course of the year, today we pause to honor and remember our Mothers. It is always with a sense of joy and love that we remember the life that we have because of them. Just as Mary said yes to God and became a part of God's plan for salvation, so too are our mothers: co-workers with God in bringing life and love to our world. I would like to extend to all of our Mothers a very Blessed and joy filled day, and for all of our mothers who are no longer with us we offer our prayers of gratitude and love. A Joyful and Blessed day to all Mothers.



Baptism Congratulations

To **Gianni Stephen Gherardini**, son of Jacob Gherardini and Morgan Megela, who was baptized in Christ last Sunday. We welcome Gianni into the Church and into our parish family. God bless him and his family.



May 2023 Eucharistic Revival



Bishop Kulick's May Faithful Challenge is to serve the poor and spend time in prayer to the Blessed Mother. From the very beginning, the Gospel's tell the story of Mary, a person who embraces both material and spiritual poverty.

Summer Priesthood Vocation Camp QVD

Attention all Catholic young men entering grades 9-12! Do you know where your life is going? The Lord Jesus has a great plan for you! You are invited to attend the *Quo Vadis Days* Camp to spend time with other young men your age who are open to God's call in their life. QVD will be led by the seminarians of the Dioceses of Greensburg and is supported by the Office for Priestly Vocations. This camp will be held **July 23 to 26** at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. If you are interested, please visit greensburgpriest.org for more information and registration.

LIVE THE LITURGY—Inspiration for the Week

Sometimes we look for God in all the wrong places. We are paralyzed with fear, with self-doubt, with despair. Let's not forget the extraordinary miracles we have witnessed this Easter season. Let us bring the memory of this holy time with us into the rest of our year. ©LPI

Liturgies of the Week

May 13—Vigil

4:30 pm Intention of the Celebrant

May 14—Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Intention of the Celebrant

11:00 am Intention of the Celebrant

Monday, May 15

No Mass Today

Tuesday, May 16

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Virginia Dwornick—Daughter, Sue & Shelby Ferguson & Family

Wednesday, May 17—Ascension Vigil

6:30 pm Isabella Rhea Herron—Dennis & Jeanne Faieta



Ascension Thursday, May 18

Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord—9:00 AM

Friday, May 19

8:00 am Ruth Melnick—Chris & Dick Giannamore

Saturday, May 20—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—May 20/21

	Lector	Lit. Coord/EM	Server
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	A. Peden
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	S. Kroskie	H. Miller

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

Paschal Candle Flowers

The flowers this weekend are in memory of Mildred "Sis" Bethem by Ron & Dayna.



Altar Candle Ring Flowers

The altar flowers this weekend are in memory of Merry K. Hewitt by Dayna & Sissy.





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