



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012



May 28, 2023

## PENTECOST SUNDAY

“Let anyone who  
thirsts come to  
me and drink.”  
- Jn 7:37b

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1990, 1970 OCD, ©LPI

### Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 PM	<b>Tuesday, 8:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>Friday, 8:00 AM</b>

### Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

**Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal**  
[caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager**  
[tmiller@sssbv.org](mailto:tmiller@sssbv.org)

**School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143**

**School Website ~ [sssbv.org](http://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.

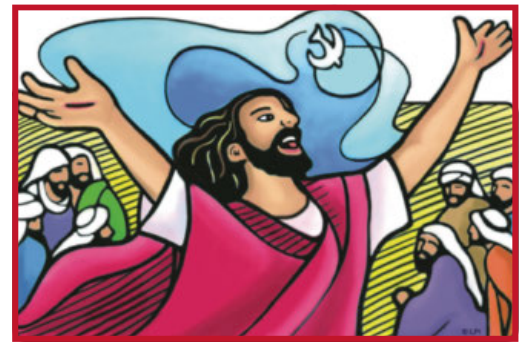
**Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor**  
[mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

***From the Pastor-The Great Celebration of Pentecost***

The Jewish feast of Pentecost is one of three yearly pilgrim festivals that come from the books of Exodus and Leviticus. This great feast which we celebrate today was originally an agricultural celebration that focused around the harvest of first fruits. As time rolled by the feast became more intimately associated with the gift of the Torah that was presented on Mount Sinai. This feast of Pentecost continued its popularity right through New Testament times attracting large crowds of people to Jerusalem. It is in this atmosphere that the ancient feast took on a new meaning for the followers of Jesus. In our first reading for today, Luke refers to “devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem.” He continues describing an impressive list of details in which he makes reference to “both Jews and converts to Judaism.”

It was during this great celebration that the disciples experienced the gift of the Holy Spirit. As we read the encounter of that tiny church, we must use caution not to make the “Spiritual” gifts of the Holy Spirit something that is far removed from every day talents. Although the reports about the Holy Spirit were extraordinary; as baptized / confirmed Christians those events can be clearly seen in our world today. Even the “tongues” that the eleven spoke were clear and fearful proclamations of life giving truths that all present despite their differences were able to understand. The gifts of the Spirit are always to benefit all. As our second reading reminds us, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit are meant for the well being of the community and not for the sole advantage of those who receive them. However the Holy Spirit touched the hearts of those early disciples, they were certainly blessed with whatever gifts they needed to begin the church. It was that same Spirit that has guided the Church throughout the ages. It was that Spirit who gave to us the gift of Pope John XXIII and the Second Vatican Council. It is apparent that the Holy Spirit is just as active and alive today as it was in first century Jerusalem.

One thing that we can certainly say about the Holy Spirit is that it is unpredictable – just as the wind of the Spirit blows where it wills – it is past master in the art of creating big surprises. More than 50 years has passed since Vatican II, we are all aware that the spirit of Vatican II has faded considerably and that we are more in the defensive mode of survival than in a creative and enthusiastic renewal drive. We look at decreasing numbers in membership and we lament the lack of visibility of the church. But have we ever thought that the Apostles were just a small minority and did not have at their disposal a whole battery of experts and theologians to set the world on fire with the gospel? Yet, what seemed most improbable was made possible thanks to the Holy Spirit. And so the Apostles went out and started, with a handful of other disciples, to speak with boldness, conviction and joy and to spread the good news of the Resurrection. On this day of Pentecost, let us pray together and free our minds so that the Spirit may blow where it wills and create the church, the world, and all of creation anew!



**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!

**Stewardship of Treasure**

**May 21, 2023**

Regular Offertory:	\$	5,662.50
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	307.00
Votives:	\$	348.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	180.00
Catholic Communication:	\$	423.00
Good Friday:	\$	15.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	15.00
Easter:	\$	25.00
Ascension:	\$	789.00

**Total May 20/21 \$ 7,944.50**

**Feast of Pentecost**

Today 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.



**GRADUATION MASS**

Graduation from High School is a milestone. This year we celebrate our 2023 graduates next Sunday, **June 4** during the 11:00 a.m. Mass. Following Mass a brunch will be served in our Parish Hall for those who have registered.



**Grounds Work Thanks**

We also want to thank **Thomas Octave** for the trimming, weeding and the much needed clean up of our parish grounds. Thank you and God bless you, Thomas, for your kind and generous help.



Since May 30, 1868, Memorial Day, initially called Decoration Day, has been as an annual day of remembrance to honor all those who have died in service to the United States during peace and war.

**Prayer for Memorial Day**

God of power and mercy, you destroy war and put down earthly pride. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, that we may all deserve to be called your sons and daughters.

Keep in your mercy those men and women who have died in the cause of freedom and bring them safely into your kingdom of justice and peace.

We ask this though Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

In Observance of Memorial Day, the Parish Office will be closed Monday, May 29. The office will reopen Tuesday, May 30th.

*Liturgies of the Week*

**May 27—Vigil**

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

**Monday, May 29—Memorial Day**

Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen at 8:00 a.m.

**Tuesday, May 30**

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Joe Barger—Rock & Shirley Russell

**Wednesday, May 31**

No Mass Today

**Thursday, June 1**

No Mass Today

**Friday, June 2**

8:00 am James “Mac” McKevitt—Cerella & James Coda

**Saturday, June 3—Vigil**

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation  
4:30 pm George Petrisin—Family

**June 4—Most Holy Trinity**

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Jim Clark—Family  
11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish High School Graduation Mass

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE—June 3/4**

	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Lit. Coord/EM</b>	<b>Server</b>
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	A. Peden
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	A. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	C. Hoffman

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

**Paschal and Altar Candle Flowers**

The flowers this weekend are in memory of the Deceased of the Patterson and Stringhill Families by Melanie, Bob & Cody Patterson.



The **Ladies of Faith** of St. Sebastian invite all women of our parish, to join our regular monthly meeting on Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet on Wednesday, **June 7**, in the Parish Center at 11:00 a.m. For more information call Joannie Brown at 412-657-7880.



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