



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

5th Sunday of Easter

May 7, 2023



“In my Father’s house there are many dwelling places.”

John 14:2

Mass Schedule

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

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.

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
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Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
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School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



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

From the Pastor- “...there are many dwelling places.”

One of the great mysteries of life has to do with what lies ahead of us after this life is ended. We ponder what heaven might be like, where it is and how will we be when we get there. Ever since religions embraced the idea of eternal life people have wondered about what God might look like. Today we are given a glimpse of what Jesus refers to when he speaks of eternal life and the presence of God. Jesus speaks of dwelling places in this Sunday's gospel. However, the dwelling places that Jesus speaks of are not row houses nor sprawling, multi-million dollar mansions.

Jesus speaks of his “Father's house,” dwelling places,” and “preparing a place.” At first we, like the disciples, might think of this as a physical location, a destination such as we could find if we knew “the way.” Jesus leads us to a deeper understanding when he reveals where he and the Father dwell: within one another. One surprise of the gospel is that Jesus' dwelling place is not a space but a relationship: “I am in the Father and the Father is in me.” The way to this dwelling place is Jesus who leads us into the heart of God. The gospel is challenging us to enter into a profound relationship with Jesus, which ultimately means we share a profound relationship with the Father as well.

In the second reading St. Peter, like St. John, speaks of our intimate relationship with God in Christ, but he uses different images. God dwells not in a house of stone, but in a spiritual house made of living stones. We are that spiritual house, those living stones, because we are chosen and precious in the sight of God.

Another surprise of the gospel is that there are, indeed, “many dwelling places” as many as there are faithful disciples who are the spiritual house, the living stones, the presence of the risen Jesus for each other. The astounding message of the risen Jesus is that we ourselves are the living, risen Jesus. Jesus charges us to do the works that he does. The first “work” is to open us to God's indwelling – everything else depends on this.

In the gospel we find once again that the disciples do not have a clue as to what Jesus is speaking about. Try to imagine that after three years of faithful listening to Jesus, of witnessing his deeds of compassion and innumerable healings he had been performing, of receiving Jesus' instructions and warnings about their own future mission, and as Jesus is about to “pass from this world to the Father,” the Twelve still get almost everything wrong and seem to be completely at a loss when Jesus speaks about the events that are about to unfold. These are the people whom we look to as the leaders of our faith! The gospel of Jesus was as much of a challenge to those disciples as it is to us today.

As our Liturgies move toward Pentecost, we find ourselves more and more challenged to encounter the risen Jesus. We do that in our everyday lives by doing the works of Jesus and by recognizing the risen Jesus in each other. The practical challenge here is that our baptism plunges us not only into a relationship with the “Triune God” but also into a profound relationship with each other. Therefore, our belief in the resurrection and the good news of salvation is played out concretely in the way we treat others in justice, mercy, forgiveness, and love. Relationships always make demands on us. Moreover, we cannot have a relationship with Jesus and the Father without relationships with each other. That is both the challenge and the good news!

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.

| April Expenses | Amount | Week | Collection |
|-------------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Maintenance | \$ 214.54 | Apr. 2 | \$ 11,060.00 |
| Phone | \$ 169.79 | Apr. 9 | \$ 19,777.00 |
| Property Taxes | \$ 3,281.51 | Apr. 16 | \$ 7,800.00 |
| Electric | \$ 951.22 | Apr. 23 | \$ 8,105.59 |
| Gas | \$ 807.48 | | |
| Other Utilities | \$ 189.62 | | |
| Easter Flowers | \$ 1,319.00 | | |
| Misc. Office | \$ 803.75 | | |
| Church/Liturgy | \$ 2,974.80 | | |
| Payroll | \$ 22,337.09 | | |
| Diocesan Expenses | \$ 15,040.50 | | |
| (Breakdown) | | | |
| Accent | \$ 771.80 | | |
| Ed. Assessment | \$ 6,959.06 | | |
| Dio. Assessment | \$ 4,032.08 | | |
| Insurance | \$ 3,220.06 | | |
| Data Processing | \$ 57.50 | | |
| Total | \$ 48,089.30 | | |
| | | Total | \$ 46,742.59 |



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Stewardship of Treasure—April 30, 2023

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------|
| Regular Offertory: | \$ 6,280. |
| Utilities & Maintenance: | \$ 196. |
| Votives: | \$ 374. |
| Cap. Project/Roof Fund: | \$ 120. |
| Catholic Accent: | \$ 250. |
| Good Friday: | \$ 20. |
| Holy Thursday: | \$ 30. |

Total April 29/30 \$ 7,270.

Ravioli Sale:

The Church of St. Anne, Rostraver is offering Ravioli (meat or cheese) for sale on May 13, 9:00 am—12-Noon. Cost is \$12 per dozen. Sauce is \$7 per quart and Meatballs are \$7 per 1/2 dozen. For more information, call 724-872-3555.

Purse Bash:

Last week we had our first “Purse Bash” and it was a tremendous success. We paired up with the ladies from Epiphany and together they put off a tremendous event. All who came certainly had a wonderful time! I am grateful to everyone who helped make this event such a success.

Parish Office Closed:

The Parish Office will be closed on **Monday, May 8 & Wednesday, May 10** while staff attend the Eucharistic Congress in Greensburg.

Baptism Congratulations:

To **Enzo Joseph Tyler**, son of Bryan & Liza (Baldini) Tyler and to **Scarlett Kathryn Gates**, daughter of Douglas & Brianna (Stonick) Gates, who were baptized in Christ last Sunday. We welcome Enzo and Scarlett into the Church and into our parish family. God bless them and their families.



Last Day of Religious Education Classes:

This Monday, May 8, the final session of the 2022-2023 Religious Ed school year will take place at 6:30 pm at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish Hall, Monessen. An ice cream treat will be given to all in attendance!!

Next Edition Of The Catholic Accent To Air On WPXI This Month:

Intentional Disciples, those who love and care for others with a purpose, are featured on the next edition of "The Catholic Accent" television program airing on WPXI, Channel 11, on Sunday, May 14, at 11:30 a.m. The program will also air on Sunday, May 21, and a half dozen more times on MeTV. Join Bishop Larry J. Kulick as he discusses the call of intentional discipleship locally and its role in the National Eucharistic Revival.

More than 1,000 people in one day visited Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg to participate in a one-of-a-kind immersive experience. "The Catholic Accent" highlights other unique events in store for our faith community.

And, "The Catholic Accent" helps you plan your summer by featuring the upcoming festivals scheduled at parishes across the Diocese, including a special international food festival. "The Catholic Accent" is always on at TheAccentOnline.org.

DLA:

With only a few weeks remaining in this year's campaign, we still have a long way to go! We have heard from 238 of our parishioners and this accounts for only 31% of our entire parish. That means almost 70% of our parish families have not responded in any way whatsoever. Our Diocesan goal has been set at \$64,057 and we only have \$49,650 of that collected in pledges and gifts that means we have a little over \$14,000 just to reach our diocesan goal. Our parish goal was set \$10,000 above that and we were hoping to seal and paint our parking lots.

If you have not yet responded to this year's campaign won't you please consider making a contribution?

Liturgies of the Week

May 6—Vigil

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

Monday, May 8

No Mass Today

Tuesday, May 9

8:00 am (Death Anniv) William D. Weaver—Wife & Family

Wednesday, May 10—St. John f Avilia

No Mass Today

Thursday, May 11

No Mass Today

Friday, May 12—Ss. Nereus & Achilleus

8:00 am Jackie & Jason Koliscak—Rayanne & Barry
Welsch

Saturday, May 13—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm Intention of Celebrant

May 14—Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Intention of Celebrant

11:00 am Intention of Celebrant

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—May 13/14

| | Lector | Lit. Coord/EM | Server |
|----------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| 4:30 pm | J. Wasicek | K. Molesky | M. Wasicek |
| 9:00 am | B. Moskovitz | M. Shaughnessy | A. Frank |
| 11:00 am | A. Hoffman | R. Hoffman | C. Hoffman |

Paschal Candle Flowers:

This week the Paschal Candle flowers are in memory of Dorothy Frederick by her Children & Grandchildren.

Altar Candle Ring Flowers:

This week's altar flowers are in memory of Dorothy Frederick by her Children & Grandchildren.



Dates Still Available:

There are two weekends still available to sponsor Paschal Candle & Altar Candle Ring flowers for the Easter season: May 20/21 & May 27/28.

Sympathy and Prayers:

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: **JACK S. KOSCHALK**. We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.



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