

# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

July 16, 2023

## 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  
[mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich** Business Manager  
[dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**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)



## 15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold." - Mt 13:23

## Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

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

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

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

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

## From the Pastor

**“Let those who have ears, hear...”**

One of the most remarkable aspects of the scriptures is their “timeless” nature, and it is amazing how the readings remain so relevant and current. In many civilizations of ancient days, storytelling was the way in which they taught their people about their past. They also used stories to teach valuable life lessons. Many of the Fairy Tales were originally used to teach children about important facts of life and living. This week’s liturgy has Jesus telling a story to the people, a plain, simple story with a valuable lesson about life. The parable of the sower is not a lesson on agricultural technique nor is it a historical record with clues to ancient farming practices. The parable is about the seed, as it refers to “the word of the kingdom.” The sower (Jesus) scatters the seed extravagantly and indiscriminately. This is consistent with the abundance that characterizes the kingdom. This shows us how God’s kingdom grows.

Today’s parable gives us a lesson on hope. We have all had periods in life where almost everything we touch seems to go wrong. The same thing can be said with the elements of nature: it’s been raining too much, floods, earthquakes, it’s too cold. There are times when suffering seems to be all around us. Our liturgy today gives us a message that there is always hope in life. Even when things seem to be so wrong, there is hope for better times and a better life. St. Paul in the second reading tells us that we live in hope, seeing new life spring up everywhere, we sow the seeds of hope.

Anyone who has ever planted a garden knows that there are many variables that need to line up, if there is to be a good crop. There has to be a balance of sun and rain, the soil needs to be just right, there cannot be too much of one thing, everything needs to balance out. Our parable is telling us that God’s word does not always need everything to be just right in order to be successful. If you listen to the parable, the sower is literally wasting seed by throwing it on ground that will never produce. Things can always go wrong with seed and its growth. But, God’s mysterious plan is at work and good results will come despite some failures. There is hope! The sower’s work (God’s word); for the most part will succeed. The parable is a story that reminds us that we are both the sower and the soil. It is a story that can bring much comfort to us. What takes root in our hearts bears fruit that can yield even a hundredfold. We have the potential to bear much fruit and bring success and encouragement to all of life.

The parables are nice little stories that everybody can understand. Yet, they keep challenging us, and they yield their secrets only through careful listening and a genuine willingness to adopt Jesus’ views on God and on God’s Kingdom: “Whoever has ears ought to hear!”



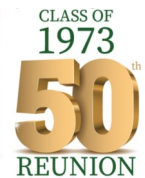
## Stewardship of Treasure July 9, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$ 7,325.85
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 547.00
Votives:	\$ 298.75
Catholic Accent:	\$ 124.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 89.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 28.00
Peter’s Pence:	\$ 5.00
Easter:	\$ 20.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 10.00
Good Friday:	\$ 10.00
Holy Thursday:	\$ 10.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$ 10.00
Lenten Folder:	\$ 45.00
Ascension:	\$ 10.00

**Total July 8/9      \$ 8,523.60**

## Mon Valley Catholic High School

will be celebrating their 50th anniversary reunion. The event will be held on **Saturday, August 26** at the Mon Valley Country Club, an informal meet/greet social will be held on **Friday, August 25**. Contact information on any classmate is appreciated. Please call Kathy Gales Costantino (724-258-7508 or 412-916-6900) or Susan Brandemart Pankiewicz (724-797-1712). All former faculty are cordially invited to attend. If anyone wishes to attend, please send an email to Dominic Pantoni at [Domenic.pantoni31@gmail.com](mailto:Domenic.pantoni31@gmail.com).



## St. John the Baptist Parish Festival

St. John the Baptist Parish, Perryopolis, will hold its festival **Sunday, July 16**, from 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Featured will be homemade ethnic and festival foods, a kid’s area, basket and cash raffles and live music from 1-3 p.m. For information, call 412-699-5257.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Due to unforeseen circumstances, the **Prayer Shawl Ministry** had to cancel on July 5 and will meet **Wednesday, July 19**, at 11 am in the Parish Center.

**Consider online giving, click the “my Eoffering” button on our parish website**



## Annual St. Sebastian Junque Sale

This year's Junque Sale will be held **July 28 & 29. Until July 21 we are collecting donations Monday thru Friday from 9 am—3 pm; ALSO we continue to collect on Tuesday & Thursday from 6 pm—8 pm in the Parish Hall.** 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.



## Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Bishop Kulick desires to recognize all couples celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary during the calendar year 2023. The Jubilarians, their children, relatives or friends should contact their local parish office to register couples for this recognition. The Jubilarians will be invited to join the bishop for a special Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass to be celebrated in Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on **Sunday, October 1, 2023** at 3:00 pm. Even though personal circumstances may not permit individuals to participate in the Mass, all registered couples will receive a scroll signed by the bishop commemorating their anniversary.

## Sympathy and Prayers

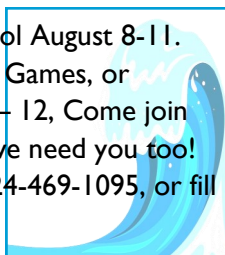
Please remember in your prayers those who have died: **John "Jack" Youshock**. We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

## Vacation Bible School—Make A Splash!

VBS will take place **August 8 – 11** at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish hall and grounds from 9:00—11:00 a.m. Water is the theme, so prepare to get splashed while hearing how Jesus uses water to teach us about God's love! Registration forms can be found in the church pamphlet racks. Please return your registration form by Tuesday, August 1.

## Help Us Make a Splash!

Helpers needed for Vacation Bible School August 8-11. Could you assist us with Crafts, Snacks, Games, or Storytelling. Youth helpers in grades 5 – 12, Come join the fun! Adult helpers ages 18 and up we need you too! (must have clearances). Call Scott at 724-469-1095, or fill out a form from church.



## Liturgies of the Week

### July 15—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Dr. David Brougher—wife, Carole

### July 16—Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish  
11:00 am (Death Anniv) Neil Cope—Frank Pendo & Donna & Brook Timko

### Monday, July 17

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, July 18—St. Camillus de Lellis

8:00 am Frank & Stella Kosik—Bernadette Zunic & Annette Snyder

### Wednesday, July 19

No Mass Today

### Thursday, July 20—St. Apollinaris

No Mass Today

### Friday, July 21—St. Lawrence of Brindisi

8:00 am Andrew C. Stefanick, Jr.—Wife, Ravenna & Family

### Saturday, July 22—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Lexi Pfile—Nunny & Family

### July 23—Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am In Honor of Jim & Joanne Hoffman's 65th Wedding Anniversary  
11:00 am Joe Kubitzka—Betty Jane & Family

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

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE—July 22/23

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	A. Peden
9:00 am	M. Shaughnessy	B. Moskovitz	N. Jodon
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	R. Messick	B. Henderson

### Readings for the week of July 16, 2023

**Sunday:** Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:1, 11, 12-13, 14 (Luke 8:8)/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or 13:1-9

**Monday:** Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Mt 10:34—11:1

**Tuesday:** Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 11:20-24

**Wednesday:** Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27

**Thursday:** Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30

**Friday:** Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8

**Saturday:** Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

**Next Sunday:** Wis 12:13, 16-19/Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16 (5a)/Rom 8:26-27/Mt 13:24-43 or 13:24-30