

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

July 23, 2023

Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:30 PM

Sunday

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Tuesday, 8:00 AM

Friday, 8:00 AM

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor

mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager

dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation

smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music

ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary

ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary

dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.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.

KINGDOM

“The righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father.”

MATTHEW 13:43A

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal

caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager

tmiller@sssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



From the Pastor
Becoming Seeds of Hope!



Our liturgy this week offers us an abundance of hope as we listen to the readings. Once again we are presented with a few of Jesus’ stories or parables which give us an insight into our own behavior and attitudes. Through our readings we are given another glimpse of the “hope” we find in God. In both the first reading as well as the gospel we see God’s “mastery over all things.”

In our culture today “mastery” has somewhat of a different interpretation than what we get from the scriptures. Our notion of mastery today often includes power over others, control, domination, force and manipulation. In contrast God’s “might is the source of justice.” God’s mastery is exercised by care, justice and patience. God does not judge on the spur of the moment, rather God is patient and kind, leaving much room for hope.

God’s might is the source of divine mercy. God’s might makes it possible for God to be “lenient to all.” From such an understanding of God, we are shown a wonderful lesson. If God is merciful, we too should be merciful. Wouldn’t it be wonderful if everything in life worked out the way it was supposed to? There would be no worrying or fear about anything, because everything would be as it should be. Life is full of foiled plans, withered gardens, and all types of disasters. Jesus speaks to us in three parables describing the kingdom as we presently experience it: there are weeds among the wheat, a bush is in growth, and the dough is rising. None of these are finished products; it takes time and patience to bring forth the desired end.

The Gospel reminds us that even good people in life struggle with the problems and worries of evil. We are shown that all of life is a paradox between good and evil. It would be great if we were able to simply pluck the evil from life and let the good grow on its own. We are reminded that in life we live side by side with both good and evil, and we are influenced by both forces. Therefore, it is even more important to understand the power behind our choices.

Today we are told of a God that will always be there, regardless of our choices. In the book of Wisdom, we see that even though God is the sovereign creator of all, God does not destroy the wicked. The righteousness of God dispenses kindness and restraint as a sign of hope. Every day we read of terrorism and abuse of power. We find the oppression of poor and powerless peoples. There is corruption in government and high places of business and finance. As the workers of the vineyard, we all want to pluck out the evil.

Jesus reminds us that we simply cannot do that. We must learn to live side by side with both forces. Jesus tells us to be careful for we might root out the good along with the evil. Simply put, we are to trust in God’s gentle loving Spirit. Sometimes that Spirit is like yeast, causing slow change; sometimes it’s like a mustard seed, small at first, but finally growing into a large shrub. We must have faith and that good will triumph and God will accomplish great things.

There is much evil in our world, but there is also much good. Our task is to live with these contradictions, all the while offering understanding, love and hope wherever we can sow those seeds, and always remember that God is in control!

St. Sebastian Junque Sale



July 27, Thursday Pre-Sale, 6:00 pm—8:00 pm; must be 18 years of age and older, \$5 entrance fee.

July 28, Friday from 9 am—3 pm

July 29, Sat. from 9 am—12 Noon; 12—3 pm 1/2 price

July 29 Saturday from 5:30—7:30 pm \$2 a bag

For more information contact Bonnie at 724-322-0355.

Stewardship of Treasure

July 16, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,222.10
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	305.00
Votives:	\$	435.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	140.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	100.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	10.00

Total July 15/16 \$ 8,212.10

Brown Bag Sunday



Even though it is only the middle of July, the stores are already advertising “Back to School” Supplies. It is about time to start getting ready for our Brown Bag Sunday with school supplies. We will have our Brown Bag Sunday the Weekend of **August 12 - 13**. So...if you see any back packs or school supplies on sale pick them up now for the collection. Many students from our area have benefited from this collection in years past, know that you will be helping needy children with your generosity. As always I am grateful for your generous spirits and the many ways you share your goodness with others.

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Sumer Bible School “Make a Splash”

August 8—11, 9—11 AM

Our theme for Bible school this year is all about water! We have four days of fun planned for our children. Bible School is a wonderful way to connect our children to church in a different way than going to Mass over the weekend. It is an opportunity for them to learn a little more about their faith and have fun at the same time.

Thus far we do not have anyone registered. Last year we had to cancel our Bible School because there was no interest. Really, how very sad is that! It is all of our responsibility to hand over the faith to our children. If we don't do it, what will happen in the future? It is easy to put things off and overlook what is important. I encourage you to make the effort to help your children grow in our faith. It seems that people are only concerned with making the sacraments and that is as far as it goes. Faith is a part of our lives and we have to put forth a little effort so that it can grow in our hearts as well as the hearts of our children. There are registration forms in the church or you can call Scott Martin at 724-469-1095 for more information.

We also are in need of volunteers to help with Bible School. There are many ways that you can be of assistance. If you think you might be able to help, please give us a call.

Ladies of Faith—Ice Cream Social

Women of the Parish, please join us at the Parish Hall on **August 3** at 6:30 p.m. and meet the Ladies of Faith and find out what our organization does at St. Sebastian Church. There is no obligation to join. If you have any questions please contact Anita at 412-393-9319.



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 our parish office to register couples. 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** at 3:00 pm. All registered couples will receive a scroll signed by the bishop commemorating their anniversary.



Liturgies of the Week

July 22—Vigil

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 Kubitza—Betty Jane & Family

Monday, July 24—St. Sharbel Makhluf

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, July 25—St. James

No Mass Today

Wednesday, July 26—Ss. Joachim & Anne

No Mass Today

Thursday, July 27

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, July 28

8:00 am Dorothy Frederick—Children

Saturday, July 29—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm Carl & Rita Pesi—Son, George

July 30—Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Dave Moskovitz—Wife, Barb

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

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—July 29/30

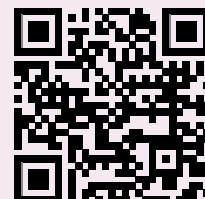
	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	R. Buretz
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	N. Jodon
11:00 am	M. Patterson	S. Kroskie	H. Miller

Altar Candle Flowers

The flowers this weekend are in memory of Lexi Pfile by Nunny & Parents & Brother.

EPIPHANY PARISH FESTIVAL

Plan for some great music and fun at the Epiphany of Our Lord Parish festival on Friday, August 4 (5 p.m.-9 p.m.) and Saturday, August 5 (Noon – 10 p.m.) as we embrace the '50s! Street Level Band will be on-site Friday evening. And harkening back to playground days, we are having an All Wheels Parade around the grounds. On Saturday we will have a car show, the Belairs, Elvis impersonator and American Pie Oldies Band! Weather permitting, fireworks at 9:30 p.m. and outdoor Mass at 10 p.m. Details on the website: www.eolparish.com





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