



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

August 13, 2023

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

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water." He said, "Come." Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus.  
- Mt 14:28-29



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](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**  
**Calming the Stormy Waters of Life**



Of all the emotions we deal with in life, fear is the one that is mentioned most frequently in the scriptures. As people, we are all afraid of something, it is the most basic of all human emotions. Fear paralyzes us in more ways than we can even imagine, and most of our fears are taught; some are instinctive. Do you ever just sit down and think about what you are afraid of in life? Facing new challenges can induce fear, as it so often does in the scriptures.

The readings in our liturgy today invite all of us to come into Christ's presence even when the storms rage and it's hardest to believe. So, how do we deal with all of these fears that plague our lives? We are told throughout the scriptures that only by trusting in God's loving presence can we overcome even our deepest fears. It becomes our task in life to tune into God's voice. Like Elijah, often we find God where we least expect. God always speaks to our hearts, and in this confusing world that we live in sometimes like Elijah, we need to go into a quiet cave just to hear that voice. This must be the first step we take in trying to learn more about God's presence in life.

Once we hear God speaking to us, we need to learn how to trust in what God might be saying. It is so hard to trust when we don't know what is going to happen. We all would love to see life turn out the way we want it to but that is not the case. People don't always react how we would like them to, they don't always behave how we wish they would. How many times have we heard people lament over the fact that their children don't go to church anymore? We all need to trust that in some point in their lives God will speak to their heart and they will be back. But rather than trust in God taking care of things, we feel that it is our responsibility or that in some way we have failed.

In the gospel this week we can clearly see that the disciples did not trust in who Jesus was. They allowed their own fear to overcome their need to trust. The scenario that Matthew gives us this week is so much like life. We often feel like the disciples trapped in a boat full of fear not knowing what to do. It is the fear that makes us feel powerless. Only when we realize that when we trust in God's love and care, all will be well.

Sometimes God will speak to us in the storms of our lives, other times in silence as Elijah discovered. Whenever and however God chooses to speak to us, it is that gentle voice that will make us ready to meet any raging storm.

**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.

July Expenses	Amount
Maintenance	\$ 200.00
Phone	\$ 168.92
Electric	\$ 1,323.48
Other Utilities	\$ 598.80
Misc. Office	\$ 999.48
Church/Liturgy	\$ 1,198.34
Payroll	\$ 22,833.64
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 15,079.00
(Breakdown)	
Accent	\$ 771.80
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,959.06
Dio. Assessment	\$ 4,032.08
Insurance	\$ 3,220.06
Data Processing	\$ 96.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 42,401.66</b>

Week	Collection
July 2	\$ 8,337.00
July 9	\$ 8,532.60
July 16	\$ 8,212.10
July 23	\$ 7,580.00
July 30	\$ 8,505.00
June EOfferings	\$ 3,679.49
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 44,846.19</b>



**Consider online giving, click the "my Eoffering" button on our parish website.**

**Stewardship of Treasure**  
**August 6, 2023**

Regular Offertory:	\$	9,655.80
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	29.00
Votives:	\$	113.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	468.00
Catholic University:	\$	25.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	83.00
Assumption:	\$	20.00

**Total August 5/6**      **\$ 10,393.80**

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Currently, the Prayer Shawl Ministry meets on Wednesday mornings at 11: a.m. Starting **September 6th** will have evening meetings in addition to the morning ones, on the first Wednesday of the month from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Crocheters, knitters, quilters, weavers, beading, whatever your creative outlet is, ALL ARE WELCOME! If you would like to learn...come. If you want to chat...come. If you want to share your talents with our elders in our communities...come. Hope to see you in the Fall!!! Joannie Brown 412-657-7880

**Fall Fundraiser**

The Ladies of Faith have paired up with McShane's Florist for a Fall Mum Fundraiser. All Mums are \$15 for 10" Mums in a variety of beautiful colors. Vouchers will be sold **this weekend**, as well as **August 19/20** and **August 26/27**.



Mums can be picked up at McShane Florist, 1066 Rostraver Road, Belle Vernon. Date to be announced. All proceeds benefit St. Sebastian Church.

## Sharing our Time and Our Talents,

It is hard to believe but here we are already in the second week of August and it certainly won't be long before school starts again. It is during this time of the year that we think about sharing who we are for the greater good. As I look at our parish family I am sometimes overwhelmed at the generosity and goodness of our people. There are so many who give so much of their time to help and be a part of our parish activities. There is however one area of our parish life that that we need to enrich, and that is our Liturgy.

The Liturgy is the very heart of our parish and it is the very purpose of why we exist. Too many times we allow ourselves to get caught up in issues that really don't count for much and they take us away from what is important. The Liturgy is our whole purpose for being and we all should be as active during the liturgy as we possibly can. I have listed below areas that we can use assistance with during our liturgy. If you think that you might be able to lend a hand, please know that your gifts are most welcome.

**Greeter:** This ministry is simply people at the door greeting people and welcoming them as they come in.

**Usher:** This ministry is open to everyone and it consists of taking up the collection and getting people to carry the gifts in during the liturgy.

**Lector:** Proclaiming the word of God is a primary function of the Liturgy. Sharing this with the members of our parish family does enrich our celebrations. This is open to all members of our parish. We are going to start having children read during the liturgy, so if you are in 7-12 grade, please know we would love to have you serve as a lector.

**Eucharistic Minister of Holy Communion:** We are all called to bring the presence of Christ to the people in our world. During the Liturgy we have the opportunity to share in this ministry through the distribution of the Holy Eucharist. We also have the opportunity to share the Eucharist with those who are homebound.

**Server:** To serve at the Altar of Jesus is a true honor and privilege. If you are in third grade or older and wish to be a part of this, you are most welcome.

**Washing the Altar Linens:** This ministry is a lot easier than one might think. It consists of doing the purificators (the white cloths used to wipe the chalice during distribution of communion) as well as a few towels. You can pick them up any time during the week and return them at your convenience.

**Music:** The music during our liturgy adds such a touch of elegance. If you are interested in being a cantor, member of choir, if you play an instrument, organ or piano, know we can use your gifts.

I ask that you look at the ways that you might be able to help during the liturgy. In a few weeks you will have the opportunity to sign up for one of these ministries.

## Liturgies of the Week

### August 12—Vigil

4:30 pm Catherine Diederich—Sepesky Family

### August 13—19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Clare A Chatlak—Andrew & Kim Garnic & Family

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

### Monday, August 14—Vigil

6:30 pm Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Tuesday, August 15—Solemnity of the Assumption

8:00 am (Date of Birth) William D. Weaver—Wife & Family

### Wednesday, August 16—St. Stephen of Hungary

No Mass Today

### Thursday, August 17

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Friday, August 18

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Jim Posey—Wife Mariann

### Saturday, August 19—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm (Death Aniv) LeRoy Nicolaus—Wife, Marlene & Family

### August 20—Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Vincent & Eleanor Mancuso & Brother, Vince—Daughters & Sisters

11:00 am (Date of Birth) Helene Wozniak—Mary Ann Garafalo

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

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE—August 19/20

	Lector	Lit. Coord/EM	Server
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	A. Peden
9:00 am	B. Moskovitz	M. Shaughnessy	N. Jodon
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	S. Kroskie	H. Miller

## Altar Candle Flowers

The flowers this weekend are in loving memory of Catherine Diederich by her Family.

## Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: David Lynn Conn. We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

## Brown Bag Sunday

Brown Bag Sunday is this weekend, August 12 - 13. Many students from our area have benefited from this collection. Your generosity will be helping needy children. As always I am grateful for your generous spirits and the many ways you share your goodness with others.

## Feast of the Assumption

August 15<sup>th</sup> is a Holy Day of Obligation. We will celebrate Mass at Epiphany on Monday at 6:30 pm. Mass is celebrated here at St. Sebastian's at 8:00 am. on Tuesday. The Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday,

August 15 in observance of the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The office will reopen on Wednesday, August 16.

