



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

August 20, 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

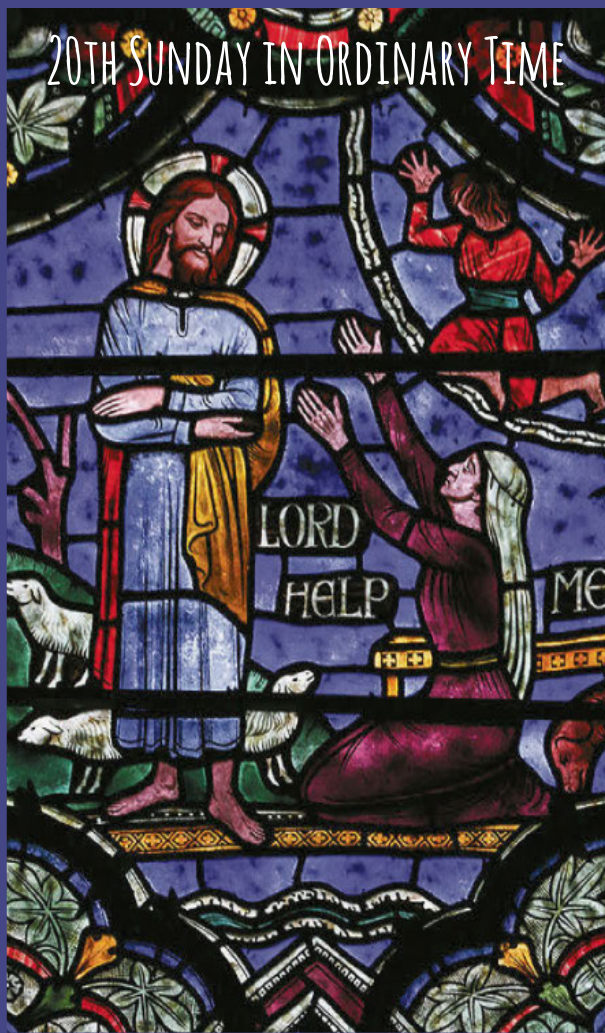
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(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.



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—Breaking down Barriers...

Our challenge for this week has to do with breaking down barriers wherever we may find them in life. Isaiah in the first reading alludes to barriers that kept people from worshipping together. Isaiah tells the people as he speaks to us: “Observe what is right, do what is just...” He further goes on to tell us that the house of God “shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.” Isaiah is expanding the boundaries of the worshipping community of Israel and foreshadows the future “catholic” (universal) mission of the church.

St. Paul in this last chapter of Romans speaks about the delicate issue of the future of Israel. He reminds us that God’s call is irrevocable and that God’s mercy will make it possible for all to be reconciled with God, and not just a chosen few. Matthew in his presentation this week does not specifically speak or refers to any barriers, but they are certainly implied. Today’s selection has Jesus withdrawing to pagan territory which in of itself breaks down a major barrier dealing with foreigners. This time, the initiative comes neither from Jesus nor from the disciples, but from this brave woman, a foreigner and a pagan, who dared to beg from Jesus deliverance for her daughter. The woman shows a great deal of courage, both as a woman and as a foreigner, to call upon Jesus.

Regardless of who the woman was or where she came from, Jesus recognized what was important, her faith; and grants her request. There were many boundaries around women in the day of Jesus, and we all know that the question of how the Bible deals with the issue of women – their identity and their role in society and in religion – has become a very sensitive one, especially among Catholics.

Any reflection on the place of women in church ministries will generate lively debates. Admittedly, the Bible has been the object of severe criticism for having made its own social prejudices against women. Yet, it has been observed that it is not so much the Bible that should be blamed as the reading we have made of it. For example we have focused so much on male heroes of the Bible (the patriarchs, Moses, David, to mention just a few) that we have left to oblivion women like Sarah, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah and many more. In the New Testament, we have focused so much on the twelve that we have forgotten great believers like Elizabeth, Mary the mother of Jesus, the Samaritan woman, Mary Magdalene, Martha and Mary and the Canaanite woman featured in today’s gospel.

Today’s texts invite a thoughtful meditation on America’s place among other nations; on moral issues around the treatment of women, migrants and exiles; or on similar topics about our shared human community. We must learn from the example of Jesus and be faithful to the Spirit that dwells within us. Like Isaiah tells us: Observe what is right, do what is just!



Special Collection

Diocesan Catholic Schools & Catholic University collection is next weekend **August 26/27**. Please be as generous as possible.

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, August 19/20** and next weekend, **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.



Stewardship of Treasure—August 13, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,400.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	758.00
Votives:	\$	207.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	83.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	165.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	25.00
Catholic University:	\$	35.00
Assumption:	\$	443.00

Total Aug. 12/13 **\$ 9,116.00**

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

Religious Education Classes

We are in the process of putting together our program for Faith Formation for this school year. There are many exciting things planned, so, remember, if your child (or grandchild) is at the age to receive **Reconciliation** and **First Communion**, they need two years of formation. If you have someone for **Confirmation**, they also need two years prior to being confirmed.

You can find registration forms for this year's program in the back of the Church. Classes will begin on **September 18**. If you would like to be a part of the formation process in our parish, please know that whatever gifts you have to offer, they are welcome. If you have any questions about formation you may contact Scott Martin our director (724-469-1095), or call the office (724-929-9300).



Shoe Box Gift Project

Empty shoe boxes are needed for the St. Vincent de Paul Shoe Box Gift Project for Adults and Disabled Persons. You may bring the adult size boxes to the Parish Office. The boxes will be filled and wrapped in October and given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution. **A list of items needed** to fill the boxes are included in this bulletin. These items may also be brought to the Parish Office. Thank you and God bless you for your kind generosity.

Brown Bag School Supplies

I want to say a heartfelt thank you to all of you who brought in school supplies for children in our area. Sometimes we just don't appreciate how much our generosity touches the lives of people. Know that many children will be "touched" by your generosity.

Parking When School is in Session

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School classes begin this **Thursday, August 24**. Please be reminded that the **parking lot** behind the Church is **not to be used** on days that school is in session. For safety reasons this lot is to remain empty until after 3:30 p.m. on school days. Please use the lower lot on Henry Street or the lot along Fayette and Henry Streets.

A Journey to JOY!

The Roman Catholic Churches of Uniontown have an exciting three-day event planned for **September 10, 11, 12**, at 7:00 pm. The nationally acclaimed actor, Frank Runyeon, will perform the Gospel of Luke, explore the Sermon on the Mount, and speak about Hollywood vs. Faith. Frank, a Catholic, has advanced degrees in Religion and American Studies. He has won national acclaim for his work as a translator and performer of Biblical texts, but may be best known for his many roles on television. His performances are funny, insightful and riveting. Each performance is an hour and will be held at 7:00 p.m. in St. Therese Church. Performances are free and family friendly, but please make a reservation so we can keep track of attendance to assure everyone has a seat. Reserve a spot through our website: www.faysouth.org. Also available is a limited number of reserved seating up front and close to the performance for a cost of \$10 per person.

Liturgies of the Week

August 19—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) 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

Monday, August 21—Pope St. Pius X

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, August 22—Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 am Felix & Juanita Lisovich—Daughter, Lynette Carpenter

Wednesday, August 23—St. Rose of Lima

No Mass Today

Thursday, August 24—St. Bartholomew

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, August 25—St. Louis/ St. Joseph Calasanz

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Thomas A. Sassak—Wife & Family

Saturday, August 26—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Peter J. Bednarczyk—Sons & Daughter, Kathleen
Sacrament of Baptism

August 27—Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

11:00 am Judith Moody—Cerella Coda

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—August 26/27

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	M. Wasicek
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	C. Frank
11:00 am	M. Patterson	R. Hoffman	C. Hoffman

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

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Delphine Nalevanko. We extend our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.

St. Joseph Icon

Monessen Knights of Columbus Council 954 will be presenting the St. Joseph Icon during 4:00 p.m. Mass on Saturday, **August 26** at the Epiphany of Our Lord Church. The Icon will also be here at St. Sebastian on Sunday, **August 27** during the 9:00 and 11:00 am Masses. The Icon will remain after each Mass for prayers and reflective meditation. Prayer cards will be available for your needs.



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