



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

September 3, 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

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

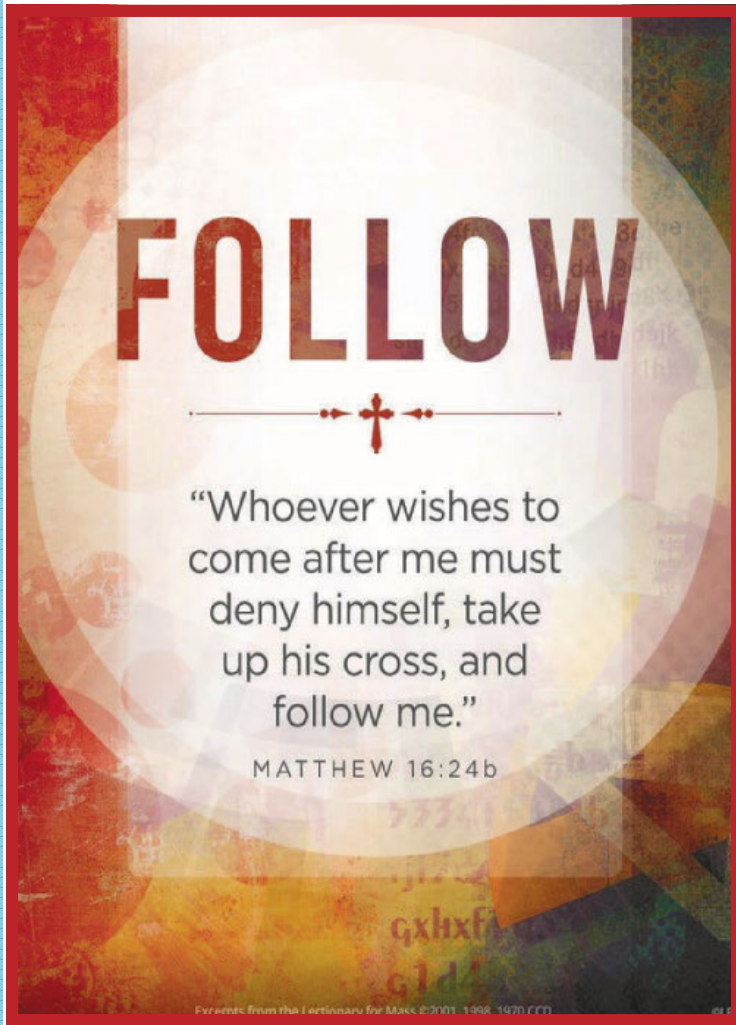
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(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—Our Limits Become Our Crosses!

In a roundabout way our readings for this week speak to us about pushing to our limits. We are being asked to discern for ourselves just what are our limits and how far can we push them. Our society today is absolutely obsessed with sports, Americans do love them. The Olympic Games attract millions of viewers. College football stadiums can seat in excess of 100,000 screaming fans. The TV schedule has more channels dedicated entirely to sports than to any other single kind of entertainment. Parents chauffeur their children to multiple games of multiples sports in any given week, often letting their own work slide in order to be spectators. A great number of college scholarships are for those gifted in sports. This list of proofs of our love of sports can go on and on. Perhaps part of our obsession rests in the sheer strength and endurance athletes' exhibit. It seems as though they reach a physical and emotional limit, and then regularly exceed that limit. Going beyond the limits of the ordinary is what makes champions.

Most of us experience limits in our lives; if not in sports, then in many other areas of life. But perhaps the one thing most of us face that pushes us to our limits is human suffering – whether physical, emotional, or spiritual. Suffering is something we simply cannot avoid because it takes us beyond the limits of human resilience, the threshold of pain, or our emotional self-control stability. People sometimes rationalize suffering as something gone wrong, as the absence of God or as being punished by God. In light of the cross and resurrection, however, suffering can become a more intense experience of God's presence and God's promise. This Sunday's gospel starkly tells us that the only way to life is through death, through suffering. The followers of Jesus must deny themselves and take up their cross; the followers must let go of their life in order to find life; unless one dies one cannot rise.

So, what are some of the "daily crosses" we must endure that push us to our limits? This will certainly be different for each of us. Maybe it has to do with patience or spreading ourselves too thin. Maybe we allow ourselves to get caught up into things that we have no business being in. This list can certainly go on and on, I am sure we can all think of many "crosses" that we must deal with every day. We are reminded today that it is not so much the crosses that become the issue, it is the way in which we accept them. Do we try to avoid them or deny that they are even there, or do we embrace them and deal with them the best we can. Eventually we all need to answer that for ourselves.

Sometimes our response to living the paschal mystery is enthusiastic because things are going well and we do not realize the demands. Then, when the going gets rough, when we are pushed to our limits, we kind of bog down and emotions tend to take over. The paschal mystery demands turning our heart toward God's love working in us, and this is not without its demands. Every day we must do all that we can to take up our crosses and deal with life!



Mission Co-Op Sunday—September 9/10

Sr. Maureen O'Brian, SC will be introducing the Sisters of Charity newest Mission in Pedro Carbo, Guayaquil, Ecuador. **The Mission:** In 2010 the Sisters of Charity of Seton Hill Korean Province celebrated 50 years in Korea. In gratitude for the Lord's blessings in South Korea and their mission in Yanji, China (1996) started a new mission in a poor area of Ecuador which consists of taking over a clinic, a school for children with disabilities and assisting with parish work. These sisters can do the work only if you can help them with your prayers and donations! Your prayers and donations will bring blessings of hope and healing! God Bless you for your generosity!

BIBLE STUDY

You know prayer is important but may still find it challenging. Many of the saints also struggled in prayer. What God did in the lives of countless saints, he can also do in people like us! We are pleased to offer Ascension Press 7-Week DVD Bible Study filmed in Italy by Dr. Sri.

When You Pray:

A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God

Tuesdays, beginning September 26, 6:00—7:30 p.m.

The Study Set cost is \$25 which includes: 7 sessions, book, workbook and online access. For more information or to register, please contact the Parish Office at 724-929-9300 or email Sherry at: sam626@zoominternet.net. We hope you can join us.

Stewardship of Treasure—August 27, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,148.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	65.00
Votives:	\$	109.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	63.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	56.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	5.00
Catholic University:	\$	335.00
Assumption:	\$	245.00

Total Aug. 26/27 \$ 7,031.00

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 boxes to the Parish Office. **A list of items needed** to fill the boxes can be found in the church pamphlet racks. Thank you and God bless you.

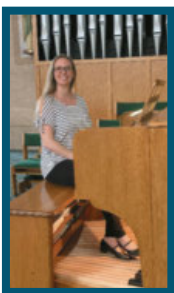
Fall Flea Market

Church of St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis, is holding a Flea Market on **September 9 and 10** from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm in their Social Hall. Come and find yourself some treasures. For information call 724-736-4442.



The Knights of Columbus and the **Epiphany Ladies** will hold a Spaghetti Dinner on **Sunday, September 17** from 11 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 1925 Grand Blvd., Monessen. Tickets are \$13 for adults and \$9 for children under 12. You can purchase tickets at the door, or from the Knights or the Ladies. For more information or to purchase tickets, you can call Dan Harkins at 412-855-0022.

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



ORGAN RECITAL

On **September 17** at 3 o'clock in the afternoon we are going to have a recital with our new organ. We are so blessed that we have such an instrument to add to our Liturgies. Amanda Nicholson, who currently plays at the churches of St. Andrew the Apostle, will be our presenter.

Amanda Nicholson is a music minister from St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Donora, Charleroi and Monongahela. She serves as organist, accompanist for the parish choir, and director of the Madonna school choir. Prior to St. Andrew, Amanda worked for Holy Family Parish in Plum, Oakmont and Verona. Amanda received her Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Music from Seton Hill University and her Master's Degree in Organ Performance from Houghton College. Amanda lives in Coal Center with her husband, Brian and 2-year old daughter, Brianna.

We are looking forward to her recital. Mark your calendars for the 17th, with a reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

Religious Education Classes

Faith Formation for this school year begins on Monday, **September 18th**. If your child (or grandchild) is at the age to receive **Reconciliation** and **First Communion**, or **Confirmation**, they need two years of formation for the sacrament. Registration forms are on our Parish website or copies are in the back of the Church. Classes will begin on **September 18**.

Volunteers are Needed: 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).



The Importance of Ministries

It seems like September is the month when we get back into a routine with life. The laid back schedules of summer are behind us and now we deal with the business of life and the hectic schedules it brings. In the church, September has become the month when we look at our obligations to ministry. Ministry is a lot more than just volunteering your time or your talents. It is a way of living our lives with the commitments our faith asks of us. Throughout this month give some thought as to how you share your Time, Talent and Treasure. Giving of ourselves means being good Stewards with the resources God gives to us. We do not often enough stop to think about how blessed we are. We may be grateful for the "things" that we have but we do not often think about the many other treasures that God has bestowed on us. If we do not appreciate the many ways that God has blessed us, how can we even begin to share with others? This month I am asking all of you to look at your life and become aware of just how blessed you really are. By recognizing our talents and how we can utilize our time, we can all work together in building a stronger Kingdom of God and become Good Stewards at the same time.



Liturgies of the Week

September 2—Vigil

4:30 pm Linda Rodriguez—Lynette Carpenter

September 3—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Nathan Terrence Dzimiera—Maher Family

11:00 am (Date of Birth) Rose McFall—Sons, Ronnie, Mike & Family

Monday, September 4—Labor Day

9:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, September 5

8:00 am Jackie Koliscak—Vickie Zajack

Wednesday, September 6

No Mass Today

Thursday, September 7

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, September 8—Nativity of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

8:00 am Nathan Campus—Elaine & Tom Barger

Saturday, September 9—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm Catherine Diederich—Dan & Mary Ann

September 10—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Intention of the Ladies of Faith

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—September 9/10

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	A. Peden
9:00 am	E. Bagay	B. Moskovitz	A. Frank
11:00 am	A. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	B. Henderson

Baptism Congratulations—To Charlotte Mae

Miller, daughter of Adam and Ashlyn (Jacoby) Miller who was baptized in Christ last Sunday. We welcome Charlotte into the Church and into our parish family. God bless her and her family.

The **Ladies of Faith** of St. Sebastian invite all women of our parish, to join our regular monthly meeting on Thursday, **September 7th** at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall.

Prayer Shawl Ministry—The Prayer Shawl Ministry will have two meeting times starting in September and ongoing: the first Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. and at 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Pick the time that suits you best on that day. We have a lovely high school student who has joined us and we would LOVE to have many more students! Please join us! If you would like to be on the email chain, please email Joannie Brown liberati17@yahoo.com and you will be added to the list. Hope to see you in on **September 6th**. For more information, please call Joannie at 412-657-7880.

Please Note: In observance of Labor Day, the parish office will be closed Monday, **September 4th**. Mass will be celebrated at **9:00 a.m. at Epiphany of Our Lord Church**.



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