

# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

**October 1, 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](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager**

[dlisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dlisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation**

[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music**

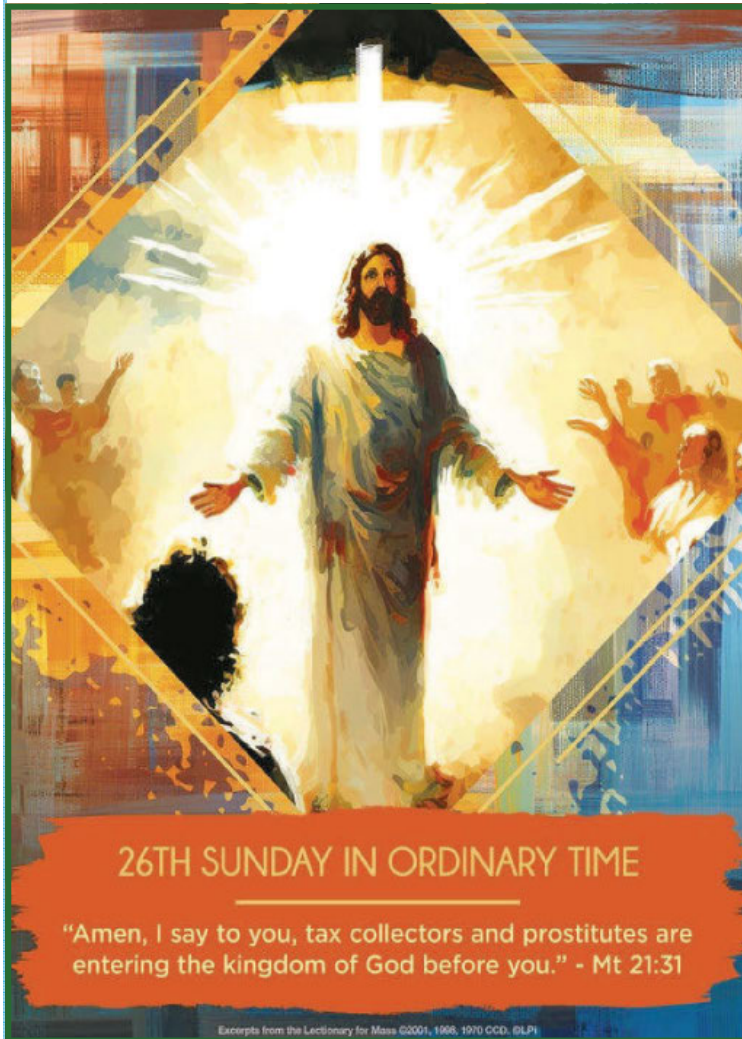
[ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**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)



**26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

"Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." - Mt 21:31

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1988, 1970 CCD, BLP

## 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

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

### May our actions speak for us...?



It is easy for us to look to others for the things that go wrong in our world. We can never walk away from our own moral responsibilities. It is easy to find excuses and pretend that it is somebody else's fault: parents, educators, dubious company, society in general. Ezekiel in the first reading makes it explicitly clear that God's covenant implies a high moral standard for each and every one of us. Moral responsibility is here and now and everyone has to account for their own faults and is expected to rise up to the blessings we have received. There is no such thing as being tied to a fateful past, the future is wide open. God encourages each of us to choose what the right path to life is.

Thinking of oneself as religious can be dangerous. Deeds reveal the heart, not public posture, a lesson we learn too often from public figures, if not often enough about ourselves. Ezekiel reminds us that: actions, not reputations, matter. This can be a real sobering message for religious people. We can deceive ourselves exactly through our habits of religious practice. These truly serve only if they make us sensitive to God's new invitations. Otherwise they turn us in upon our own self-satisfaction, something Paul warns against in the second reading.

Ezekiel reminds us wisdom of plain speech and honest action is what we should be about. We all should be more aware of and think about the choices we make in life, and be responsible for them. As people, we are so quick to blame others for our own faults and weaknesses. It is easy to find something to cover our tracks just to make ourselves look good. We do this all because we are not always responsible for our own actions. St. Paul tells us that we need to be more Christ – like by being a little more humble in our speech and actions.

In this short parable or story that Jesus presents in the Gospel, we get the message loud and clear that we need to say what we mean and do whatever it is we say. If we all followed this course of action in life, we would not find ourselves in situations where we are “over committed.” The parable is a reply to the Jewish leaders for their being scandalized at the way Jesus deals with sinners and tax collectors. In this story Jesus reminds us that it is conversion and honesty that really matters. Ask yourself how you have evaded responsibility for your actions and habits in the past. If we take the time to look at how others see us, maybe we could learn something about ourselves and stop blaming others for our mistakes. It all gets down to personal responsibility and how we are all ultimately responsible for our own words and actions. We all have choices to make in life; we just need to think a little more about our choices and our personal responsibility to them. Saint Anthony of Padua reminds us of the importance of combining doing and saying: “The word comes alive only when actions speak, I beg you, may your words be few and your actions speak for you.” All too often, we are full of words and empty when it comes to actions.

## Being Good Stewards

It is now time to renew your commitment to living the life of a good and faithful steward. Our parish has been blessed with an overwhelming abundance of gifts and talents. It is how we choose to use these gifts and talents that matters most. As we look at the ways we can be good stewards, we need to look beyond ourselves to the welfare of our community. The love we have for Christ must be the impetus behind how we choose to live. Growth in our awareness of Christ's message is a vital part of life for any Christian. It is also basic to renewal in parish life. An important part of this spiritual growth is embodied in the principle of Stewardship. Through Stewardship, we thank God for our blessings by returning to God a portion of the time, talent and treasure we have been given.

Stewardship means helping the Church's mission with time, money, personal resources of all kinds. This sharing is not an option for Catholics who understand what membership in the church involves; it is serious duty. Christian stewardship successfully bridges the material world around us and the world of the Spirit within us.

During this week pray about how you might be able to serve at liturgy. Do not be shy about sharing your gifts with the community. If you have any questions or concerns about any of the ministries, please feel free to call. I do thank you in advance and appreciate the time and talents you share with your church.

### Stewardship of Treasure—September 24, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,627.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	31.00
Votives:	\$	127.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	181.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	83.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	189.00
Thanksgiving:	\$	5.00
Mission:	\$	400.00
Seminarian/Clergy:	\$	205.00
Easter:	\$	15.00

**Total Sept. 23/24**      **\$ 7,863.00**

## Mystery Dinner

Fall is the time to get cozy — with a cozy mystery dinner that is! The Epiphany Ladies will host a Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday, **November 4** at 6:00 p.m. at Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall, 44 Pennsylvania Blvd., Monessen. Put on your sleuthing cap and pull out your saddle shoes to join the 1950s themed “A Dance with Death” by the Murder Mystery Company. Dressing to the theme is optional. Tickets are \$40 and include dinner, dessert and show. BYOB. For more info, or to purchase tickets, call the church office at 724-684-7661. Tickets are limited.

## The Saint Vincent College Concert Series

presents an organ recital: “Classicism, Impressionism, and Cubism: The Visual Arts and its Impact on Music” with J. Christopher Pardini, Sunday, **October 8<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 PM in the Saint Vincent Basilica. Admission is free.

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



## Religious Education for 1st Grader's

Parents, is your child in the 1st Grade in the Public School System? If so and you wish your child to receive the Sacraments of First Penance and First Holy

Communion when he/she is in the 2nd grade, then please register them for Religious Ed classes today! Registration forms can be found in the church pamphlet racks, at the Parish Office and on our Parish Website. Please take this opportunity for your child to grow closer to Jesus and learn of His great love for us. Classes are on Monday evenings from 6:30—7:30 p.m.

## Blessing of Pets

On Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of October we will celebrate the feast of St. Francis and it is an opportunity for us to bless all of our pets. I will bless the pets in the parking lot at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, **October 3<sup>rd</sup>**. If you would like your pets to be blessed, just show up and we will take care of everything else.



## Christmas on Broad



On Tuesday after the pet blessing we will have a meeting for anyone who would like to help with our Christmas event this year. Bring with you any ideas to help celebrate Christmas!

The more people we have involved the nicer it will be. I do believe this is a wonderful way of touching the community.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**—The Prayer Shawl Ministry meets 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](mailto:liberati17@yahoo.com) and you will be added to the list. Hope to see you in on **October 4th**. For more information, please call Joannie at 412-657-7880.

The **Ladies of Faith** of St. Sebastian invite all women of our parish, to join our regular monthly meeting on Thursday, **October 5** at 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall.

### Matters of Sexual Misconduct Information

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — please contact PA ChildLine immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, ext. 1221.

## Liturgies of the Week

### September 30—Vigil

4:30 pm Christina & Carl Riharcik—Son, Steve

### October 1—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Deceased of the Novinsky & Tretinik Families—  
Barb Moskovitz

11:00 am Dr. David Brougher—Wife, Carole  
*Sacrament of Baptism*

### Monday, October 2

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Tuesday, October 3

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Bruna Campus—Family

### Wednesday, October 4

No Mass Today

### Thursday, October 5

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Friday, October 6

8:00 am Deceased of the Pietrowski & Bogdanski  
Families—Family

### Saturday, October 7—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm Trasatti & Flora Families—Tammy Trasatti

### October 8—27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 am (Death Anniv) Joseph E. Manack—Wife, Loretta & Family

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE—October 7/8

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	A. Peden
9:00 am	M. Shaughnessy	B. Moskovitz	A. Frank
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	S. Kroskie	Volunteer Needed

## Altar Candle Flowers

The flowers this weekend are in memory of the deceased members of the Novinsky and Tretinik Families by Barb Moskovitz.

## Baptism Congratulations—To Serena Kathleen

**Guarinoni**, daughter of Joseph & Kendy (Pellegrene) Guarinoni who was baptized in Christ last Sunday. We welcome Serena into the Church and into our parish family. God bless her and her family.

## Praying the Rosary

Since October is the month of the Rosary, Our Ladies of Faith will be reciting a Scriptural Rosary prior to the 9:00 a.m. Mass on October 8, starting at 8:15 a.m. Please feel free to join us. In addition there will be a donut social after this Mass in the Church Hall. All parishioners are welcome to join us in fellowship.

## 14th Year of the Epiphany Rosary Crusade

There will be a public recitation of the Rosary at Epiphany of Our Lord Church, 44 Pennsylvania Blvd, Monessen on Saturday, October 14 at 12-Noon. Bring a lawn chair and dress for inclement weather. For more information call Shirley Beneccio at 724-684-7099.

**Sympathy and Prayers**—Please remember in your prayers those who have died: CATHERINE MATSON. We extend our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.





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