



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

September 17, 2023

## Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 PM	<b>Tuesday, 8:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>Friday, 8:00 AM</b>

## Parish Staff

**Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor**  
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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

**FORGIVE**

— ✕ —

“Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive? As many as seven times?” Jesus answered, “I say to you, not seven times but seventy-seven times.”

MATTHEW 18:21-22

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPL

### 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**  
caielo@dioceseofgreensburg.org

**Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager**  
tmiller@sssbv.org

**School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143**

**School Website ~ sssbv.org**



## From the Pastor

### How do I live wisely?

Imagine if you can a world where everyone thinks and acts the same way that we do. Everyone has the same values from which they live; they have similar attitudes and opinions. If we were all on the same page, then there wouldn't be conflict or hurt feelings. This sounds nice and it would be a wonderful way to live life, but that is simply not reality. We are all individuals with our own opinions and ways of living, we all have our own expectations as to how others should live and conduct their affairs. We are unique and we all have our faults and weaknesses, as well as, strengths and gifts. As people, we bump shoulders and step on toes, we do offend others sometimes without even knowing it. When we are offensive to another, we usually feel justified in our opinions and we almost expect people to forgive us when we do them wrong. However, when the shoe is on the other foot and people offend us, we are not so ready to offer forgiveness or understanding.

Sirach, in our first reading this week, reminds us that we hold tight to injuries and we are not so quick to offer forgiveness, even though we expect to be forgiven when we show remorse. The book of Sirach comes from Israel's Wisdom literature. In the book, Sirach observes ordinary circumstances of life and addresses the question: "How do I live wisely?" This is this question we all need to be asking ourselves. Today's reading deals with anger, vengeance and forgiveness and how God responds to them.

Anger can be a powerful feeling in life and when we are not aware of it, can lead to vengeance, and even more severe behavior and attitudes. In his wisdom, Sirach invites all people not to hold on to anger or seek any type of revenge. Rather, seek always towards forgiveness and reconciliation. He also points out the simple fact that we are all in need of forgiveness, not only from one another, but also from God.

The Gospel for this week deals with the issue of just how often must we forgive. Again, this is a part of life that we all have dealt with in our lives. How much do we have to take before we bite back? As Jesus answers Peter's question, he points out the simple mission of the church, to forgive one another as we have been forgiven. This sums up the teachings of Jesus very clearly. We are to embrace one another with a forgiving heart and a reconciling spirit; not an easy thing to do! We all should spend a little time thinking about the grudges we hold against others, the hurts we harbor, and the anger that we allow to control us. Why do we hold onto such things, they bring no good to anyone? Jesus asks us to forgive seventy times seventy, or not to put any limits as to how often we are to forgive. Jesus goes to great length in pointing out how extravagant God's mercy and forgiveness are, we are all being asked the question as to how far our mercy goes and to whom do we extend forgiveness? Sirach has it right when we are asked how to live wisely. If we only took the time and made the effort to find answers to that question, maybe we would all be a lot better off in life.



## Stewardship, a way of life...

Remembering that Stewardship is the attitude with which we approach life, and all that we do in life. It is becoming aware of how much we have been given in life, and how blessed we are...

## Seminary/Clergy Formation Collection

This weekend, September 16th & 17th is the Seminarian and Clergy Formation Collection throughout the Diocese of Greensburg. Please prayerfully consider making a financial gift in support of our Seminarians, men who are preparing for the Permanent Diaconate, the ongoing formation of our clergy and our International Priests. Please respond using the tear-off portion of the letter that was mailed to you, a special collection envelope in your envelope set from the parish, or online at [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org). Also, please support the clergy of our diocese who have Hearts for the Mission with your prayers

### Stewardship of Treasure September 3, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,498.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	30.00
Votives:	\$	275.01
Catholic Accent:	\$	140.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	404.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	5.00
Catholic University:	\$	25.00
Assumption:	\$	5.00

**Total Sept. 2/3**      **\$ 7,382.01**

### Stewardship of Treasure September 10, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,293.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	528.00
Votives:	\$	267.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	382.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	185.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	68.00
Catholic Schools:	\$	37.00
Mission:	\$	932.00

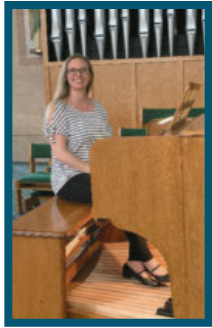
**Total Sept. 9/10**      **\$ 9,722.00**

## Shoe Box Gift Project

Items are needed for the St. Vincent de Paul Shoe Box Gift Project for Adults and Disabled Persons. You may bring the items to the Parish Office. **A list of items needed** can be found in the church pamphlet racks.

Thank you and God bless you.

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



**ORGAN RECITAL**

This afternoon at 3 o'clock we will have our Organ Showcased with a recital given by Amanda Nicholson. As we mentioned before, Amanda is an organist at St. Andrew the Apostle Parish in Donora, Charleroi and Monongahela. Amanda received her Bachelor's Degree in Sacred Music from Seton Hill University and her Master's Degree in

Organ Performance from Houghton College. There will be a reception in the Hall immediately following the recital. I do hope many of you will be able to come and enjoy this presentation.

**Religious Education Classes  
Begin This Monday,  
September 18, 2023  
6:30 pm—7:30 pm  
St. Sebastian Church**



**Looking Ahead....**



I know it is only September, but we need to start planning for our "Christmas Event" on the Third Sunday of Advent, December 17th! I am going to have a meeting on Tuesday, October 3rd at 6:30...I do hope you can come! The more people we have involved the nicer it

will be. I do believe this is a wonderful way of touching the community. So, mark your calendars for Tuesday the 3rd!

**Catholic Daughters of the Americas,  
Court Monessen #776:**

CDA is a national Catholic Organization for women dedicated to our patroness, the Blessed Mother. Our motto is Unity and Charity. All Catholic women, 18 years of age or older, who love and support the Church and wish to participate in social and charitable activities are welcome to join. Court Monessen will meet on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>, in the Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall at 7:00 p.m., beginning with the praying of the Rosary. It is a special blessing to be a Catholic Daughter. You are invited to share this blessing with us. For additional information, please contact Regent Debbie Genemore at 724-708-8335.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Fr. Mike will be away from Friday, September 22, following the 8:00 a.m. Mass until Friday evening, September 29. There will be no daily Mass here at St. Sebastian.

*Liturgies of the Week*

**September 16—Vigil**

4:30 pm James & Elizabeth Savarino & Tom Savarino—Carolyn Farrier & Family

**September 17—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Steven Rudinec—Daughter, Terri Gardner

11:00 am Joseph Jerry Chunkala—Joseph Chunkala & Family

**Monday, September 18**

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

**Tuesday, September 19—St. Januarius**

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Timothy Ambrose—Family

**Wednesday, September 20—Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gon & Paul Chong Ha-sang & Companions**

No Mass Today

**Thursday, September 21—St. Matthew**

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

**Friday, September 22**

8:00 am Thomas J. Costella, Sr. & Tony Brightwell—Pam, Patti, Tom & Families

**Saturday, September 23—Vigil**

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Merry K. Hewitt—Daughters, Sissy & Dayna

**September 24—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

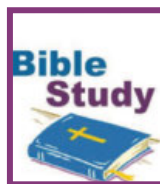
9:00 am (Date of Birth) Bill Picchiarini—Wife, Joan & Family

11:00 am Deceased of the Jarvis & Frederick Fam— M & K *Sacrament of Baptism*

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

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE—September 23/24**

	<b>Lectors</b>	<b>Lit. Coord/EM</b>	<b>Servers</b>
4:30 pm	J. Wasicek	K. Molesky	M. Wasicek
9:00 am	E. Bagay	R. Smereczniak	C. Frank
11:00 am	A. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	B. Henderson



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.





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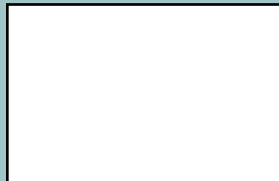
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