



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

25th Sunday in Ordinary Time



September 24, 2023

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

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

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ 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

From the Pastor

My Ways are not Your Ways...

"My thoughts are not your thought, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord."

This one sentence sums up today's Scriptures. The readings put together are a warning against reducing God to our comfortable images and assumptions. As you hear the words of the Gospel, whose side are you on? It is easy for us to look at justice and fair labor from our own experience. Most of us have a strong sense of fairness, not only in seeking employment and being hired, but also in the gospel's terms of jobs and labor and wages and getting hired. However, if God were to treat us fairly, only giving us what we deserve, we would be poor, indeed! Mercifully, God does not treat us fairly, but with superabundant generosity. The parable is ultimately about God's generosity in granting salvation, something we can never deserve but are given because of God's holiness and God's ways above our ways. Salvation can never be measured; it is a most generous gift of our holy God.

By today's standards the land owner in the gospel was wrong for the way he settled accounts. However, Jesus is quick to tell us that it was his money and he was free to do with it as he pleased. Isn't this how we look at life? We live almost like we are earning God's grace and that we are entitled to it. When someone comes along who doesn't live as we feel they ought, and things go well for them, we don't always share in their joy. We ask our self how God can give so much to someone who does so little.

Isaiah is so right in reminding us that God's ways and thoughts are not ours, and we should all be thankful for that. God simply cannot be confined to human understanding and thought. The whole purpose behind the scriptures is making us aware of the richness of God's mystery. Every author in every book of the Bible testifies to their own understanding of God's mystery and divine presence in life. We need the bigger picture. We ought to remain open to the different and at times conflicting viewpoints about God. It is clear from our readings today that the mystery of God can never be completely understood. We ought to be humble about what we know about God. We ought to hold that God is the Almighty and the Holy One, but at the same time the All-Humble and All-Loving God who walks with us on our daily journey and wishes to communicate with us in the secret of our hearts. God keeps reaching out and calling us to work in the vineyard and God will always surprise us by being overwhelmingly generous and merciful to each one of us. Let us not pretend that we know everything that can be known about God, and let us make room in our lives to be wonder-filled by the thoughts and the ways of God.

If this parable teaches us something about how great God is and how generous, then we are called to this same greatness and generosity. Wouldn't nations be different if debts could be forgiven and those who have were generous to those who have not? Wouldn't families be different if hurtful behavior ceased and was forgiven generously? Wouldn't individuals be different if we measured another only by their goodness? Ultimately, God's ways are not ours, and that is something we all need to work on.



Seminarian and Clergy formation Collection

This weekend, Sept. 23 and 24, is the annual Diocesan collection for our seminarians, men preparing for the Permanent Diaconate, the ongoing formation of our clergy and our International Priests. Please be generous in supporting the needs of our seminarians and clergy through this collection. In addition to your financial support, please pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life so that the Lord may continue providing men with Hearts for the Mission.



Stewardship of Treasure—September 17, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,862.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	383.00
Votives:	\$	122.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	265.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	125.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	249.00
Mission Co-op:	\$	1,302.00
Seminarian/Clergy:	\$	100.00

Total Sept. 16/17 **\$ 9,406.00**

Prayer and Perfect Pairings

Registration is now open for our Prayer and Perfect Pairings event on Friday, **October 20**, at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg. This five-course dinner features delicious recipes from local priests paired perfectly with wine. Reserve your sponsorship and seat today! Seating is limited. Visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/PrayerandPerfectPairings for tickets and sponsorship information. Proceeds will be used to support Eucharistic Revival efforts in the Diocese of Greensburg

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.

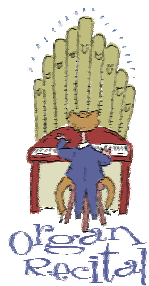


When You Pray:

A Clear Path to a Deeper Relationship with God Tuesdays, beginning September 26, 6:00—7:30 pm

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.

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



Last weekend we had our recital for the Organ. For all of those who came we were given a wonderful exposure to what the organ can do. Amanda Nicholson who played did a magnificent job and certainly entertained all in attendance. I am thankful to the Ladies of Faith who provided refreshments after the recital.

Faith who provided refreshments after the recital.

NEWS FROM ST. SEBASTIAN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Thank you to all of the Parishioners that helped to donate school supplies for the students of St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School. Your kindness and generosity are truly impacting the lives of our students. We have just kicked off our big fundraising event for the SSRCS Walk-A-Thon, and we need your help for the next 3 weeks. Please visit; <https://getmovinfundhub.com/community-share-webpage/6502f220d0463> to help by making a donation or simply sharing the link with friends and family.



We appreciate any support you can provide for the fundraiser to help us purchase student incentives, prizes, awards, signage, water, snacks, etc. Our goal is to provide our students with a fun, healthy, and educational experience while raising money to enhance their school experience. Your donation makes a huge difference in creating and providing these memorable events, while increasing the quality of educational enrichment provided at St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School. As a sponsor, your business will appear on our School Fundraiser webpage along with a link to your website. The webpage showcases the fundraiser and is seen by all parents and donors when clicked. Plus, your business will appear on all event signage, and we will do "shout outs" to your business on the day of the event. If you choose to move forward as a business sponsor, please click this link, <https://getmovinfundhub.com/events/6502f220d0463/create-sponsor> and simply fill out the requested information.

Lastly, this year's outing is planned for Saturday, October 7, 2023, at Cedarbrook Golf Course. The day will feature a breakfast, lunch at the turn, dinner, and prizes! Everyone will receive a welcome gift presented to participants at registration. If each family could try to put together or enter one foursome, we could fill the course and make a lot of proceeds for the school. If you are unable to participate, you can still support us by sponsoring a hole. Registration: 7AM Shotgun Start: 8:30AM. Team cost \$380, check payable to: SSRCS (St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School) 815 Broad Ave. Belle Vernon, PA 15012. Sponsor: Standard Hole \$100, Prize Hole (Par 3) \$300. Questions? Call or text John Stawovy at 724-323-6425.



Liturgies of the Week

September 23—Vigil

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 Family—M. & K. *Sacrament of Baptism*

Monday, September 25

No Mass Today

Tuesday, September 26—Ss. Cosmas & Damian

No Mass Today

Wednesday, September 27—St. Vincent de Paul

No Mass Today

Thursday, September 28—St. Wenceslaus/St. Lawrence Ruiz & Companions

No Mass Today

Friday, September 29—Ss. Michael, Gabriel & Raphael

No Mass Today

Saturday, September 30—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
 4:30 pm Christina & Carl Rihtarcik—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*

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—Sept. 30/Oct. 1

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	R. Buretz
9:00 am	G. Klamerus	B. Mallonee	N. Jodon
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	R. Messick	Volunteer Needed

Readings for the week of September 24, 2023

Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a
Monday: Ezr 1:1-6/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Ezr 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Ezr 9:5-9/Tb 13:2, 3-4a, 4befghn, 7-8/Lk 9:1-6
Thursday: Hg 1:1-8/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51
Saturday: Zec 2:5-9, 14-15a/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Lk 9:43b-45
Next Sunday: Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32



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