



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

October 15, 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
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

Baptism Preparation

Third Wednesday of every month. Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

Religious Education/Formation

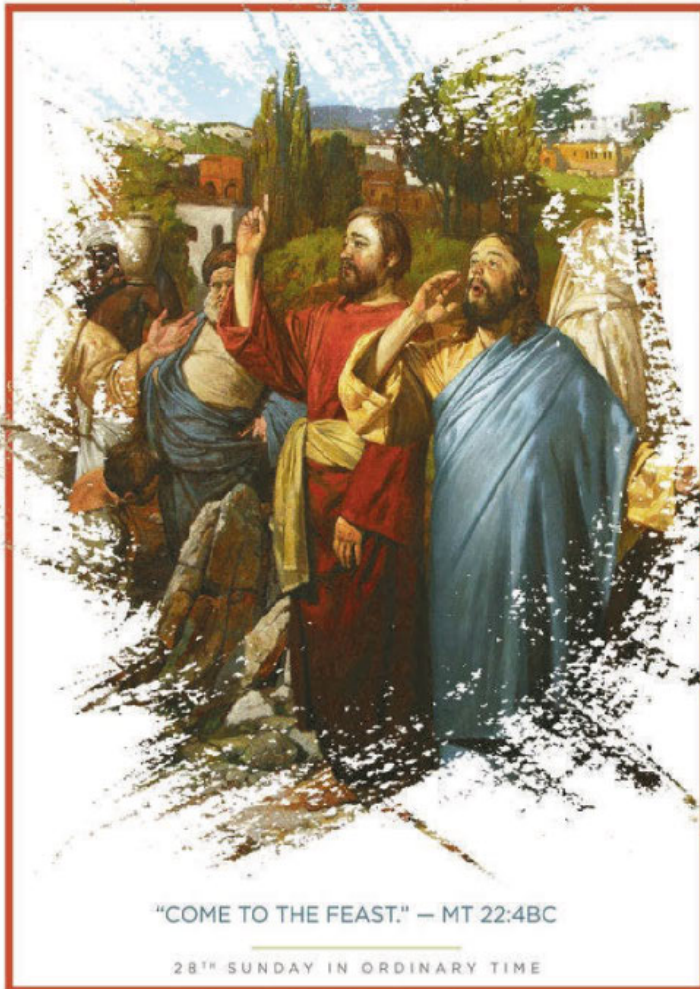
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(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



"COME TO THE FEAST." — MT 22:4BC

28TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS: ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCC, ©LW

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

We are all called!

Jesus reminds us in the gospel this week that “Many are invited, but few are chosen.” If this is taken out of context, one can easily conclude that only a small number of people are to be saved. We must be careful to look at the entire picture before we come to such erroneous conclusions. Both the first reading as well as the gospel speaks to us about banquets reminding us about the gift of eternal life that lies at the end of our time on this earth. In both instances, attending these festive occasions or not has serious ramifications: the judgment about who enters eternal life.

It is easy for us to identify with the Kings disappointment when he went to such great lengths to prepare a banquet and have the invited guests refuse to come. How disappointing for us to plan any “party” awaiting with anticipation and joy only to have our hopes dashed when people do not show up. In the invitation issued from Jesus’ story the invitation is extraordinary: it comes from a king, it involves a lavish feast for the wedding of his son, it is issued several times. Who could refuse? Yet, people foolishly do and with tragic consequences. But in fact, even more is at stake for us than a royal dinner. The first reading reveals the wedding feast to be nothing less than the messianic banquet of eternal life. The wedding feast is obviously a symbol of God’s covenant. This is the invitation that is issued to us; our response is either to receive or reject eternal life. This is what is at stake in accepting the invitation: eternal life!

How we respond to God’s gifts, or fail to, is the thread running through these stories. What we need to do is look into our own hearts and determines in what ways do we “ignore the invitation.” How do we forget the invitation to “come to the feast,” not just about Sunday Mass, but about the life God gives at every moment? What God wants is the wedding feast to take place and the house to be filled with guests. Yet, God cannot force anyone into it, nor can God spare anyone from a free and full response.

Instead of spending time speculating about the number of people who are to be saved, we should see to it that we respond properly to God’s call, which is an invitation to salvation for all. We are called to change our lives to be in accordance with our commitment to be a disciple. In today’s gospel, the main thrust of the parable is that God’s salvation, symbolized here by the wedding feast, is actually offered to an ever increasing number. Ultimately, many do accept the invitation and come to the feast. Out of the great number of guests attending, only one is in fact rejected, because he does not wear the wedding garment. Therefore we can clearly see that many found salvation and only one was rejected.

There is no doubt that God wills that all be saved, but Jesus warns us as well. Whoever wants to enter God’s kingdom and have a share in the wedding feast has to go through the narrow gate or to wear the wedding garment. That is, we have to go through the paschal mystery. Salvation is free but remains demanding and implies changes in our lives for us to produce fruits that are worthy of God’s kingdom.

Country Christmas on Broad

We are planning on having our Country Christmas this year. There are many ways that you can be involved, and many things that need done. I think it should be a lot of fun for everyone. If you would like to help in any way with this, there will be a meeting on **November 6th** at 6:30 in the Church. At this meeting we will know what has to be done and how many people we will need. I hope to see many of you there on the 6th!



Stewardship of Treasure

October 8, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,837.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	685.00
Votives:	\$	77.00
Assumption:	\$	100.00
All Souls:	\$	15.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	70.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	286.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	30.00
World Mission Sunday:	\$	5.00
Mission Co-Op	\$	100.00
Total Oct. 7/8	\$	<u>9,205.00</u>

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

WEDDING SOUP SALE—NOVEMBER 4!!

Pre-order only—Wedding Soup at \$9 per quart. You may mail your order and payment to the Parish Office or drop in collection by **November 1**.

Pick up on **November 4** between 4:00 pm–6:00 pm from the Parish Hall.

Help is needed to make the soup.
Please call Terri at 724-929-8675.

WEDDING SOUP ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

QUARTS _____

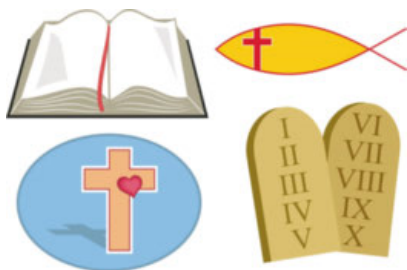
PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED _____

PICK-UP ON NOVEMBER 4 BETWEEN 4–6 P.M.

Faith Formation

Our program has started for the year, and there are several issues we must address as a parish. Faith Formation is a program for you and we support you in this process. There are many people who have not registered or attended so far. There are no children registered for first grade or fourth. We also are in need of more adults to help with the program.

Formation is not just for the sacraments, it is to help build our relationship with God, Church and one another. It is our Baptismal commitment to provide the information to pass on our faith. If we are to have a future, we all need to get involved.



Liturgies of the Week

October 14—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Carol Durko—Joe Valent

October 15—28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Walter & Helen Fryske—Daughters

11:00 am Thomas R. Hartman—Wife & Family

Monday, October 16

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, October 17

8:00 am Mario Fazzini—Elaine & Tom Barger

Wednesday, October 18

No Mass Today

Thursday, October 19

8:00 M Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, October 20

8:00 am (Death Anniv) William Haugh—Daughters, Kathy & Donna

Saturday, October 21—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm Mike & Vi Mendicino—Family

October 22—29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 am (Date of Birth) John Dunlop— Wife, Sue & Family
Sacrament of Baptism

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



Religious Education for First Grade Students

Two Years of Religious Education are necessary for your child to make his/her First Holy Communion

Please take this opportunity for your child to grow closer to Jesus and learn of His great love for us. Registration forms on line, at the office & in church.

October Count

Throughout the month of October it has been customary to count the people who attend church. This count is important when we look at the Diocese and see where we are going and how we can best manage the support and coverage of our parishes.

Mystery Dinner

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. Come to the 1950s themed “A Dance with Death” by the Murder Mystery Company. Tickets are \$40 for dinner, dessert & show, BYOB. For more info, or to purchase tickets, call 724-684-7661.

Senior Dinner

On Thursday, **October 19** at 4:00 o'clock we will have our annual Senior Parishioner Dinner. Anyone who is “70” and older is invited to come. If you are able to come, there are sign-up sheets available in the church. We will need a count so that we can adequately prepare.



MINISTRY SCHEDULE—October 21/22

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	S. Wawro	C. Farrier	R. Buretz
9:00 am	E. Bagay	B. Moskovitz	C. Frank
11:00 am	C. Rhodes	R. Messick	H. Miller



Are you a Trivia or Jeopardy Fan?

Since there is NO Steeler game on **November 5th**, plan to join us for pizza and Catholic Trivia from 2-5 PM, in St. Sebastian Parish Hall. Please register for this free event on the Sign Up Sheets in the back of the church, so we can provide sufficient quantities of pizza. This event is hosted by the Ladies of Faith, and is presented by Bill Kersting, who is approved by the Office of Evangelization of the Diocese of Greensburg. Come join us for an afternoon of Catholic Trivia guaranteed to provide fun for young and old with a unique element of Eucharistic Catechesis. All are welcome!





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