



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

October 22, 2023

29th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Repay to Caesar
what belongs to
Caesar and to God
what belongs to God.”
- Mt 22:21



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

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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@ssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ ssbv.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 Giving to God as to Caesar

With all of the political rhetoric that is going on these days, the famous line, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God" will receive a lot of attention. This can be useful as long as it does not become an occasion for moralizing or political commentary. For the scriptural context is much wider, and understanding that is the foundation of good citizenship as well as effective discipleship. The foundation is that God is the Giver of everything. Knowing "what is Caesar's" and "what is God's" comes only through knowing God's call and gift.



The church-state question introduced in today's gospel is as old as the hills. History has shown us many examples of people living in societies where one or the other is supreme, and they don't seem to make it. It is only when the two entities; ones religious beliefs and the laws of any given country, can harmoniously coincide. The question of relationship between state and religion, politics and religion, is a very touchy issue, and finding the right balance is no easy task. On one hand we find the convinced militants – some would say activists – who miss no opportunity to campaign for social justice and challenge both civil and religious authorities. On the other hand, there are those who pretend that religion should stay away from any political issue and care solely about spiritual matters.

Both sides may actually claim today's gospel with Jesus' concluding statement, "Repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God," as an argument in favor of their position, up against the position of the other side. Well, Jesus' answer shows that He doesn't see the question as "either...or": "Repay to Caesar...and to God..." Jesus does not discredit or discard political authorities but simply puts them into perspective. For Him politics and religion have their own autonomy. It remains for everyone to discern "what belongs to Caesar" and "what belongs to God."

Isaiah in the first reading shows how the power of God has authority even over non-believers. It is the power of God that will ultimately show justice. The Second Vatican Council follows along with this teaching. It is expressed by the Council that the church pledges to work with any persons or groups whose goal is justice, peace and works of charity even though they may not share our faith. Once we discover what image we wish to reflect, our lives and its decisions will fall into place. Conflicts and differing opinions will always be a part of our society. We must always learn to listen to the Voice of God in our hearts and be true to ourselves.

Living in this world and our response to it is connected to our religious stance that God is sovereign. When God is truly the center of our lives, there is no problem with giving others their due. Doing good for others not only improves our own world but strengthens right relationships with one another.

World Mission Sunday

Every year during the month of October we celebrate World Mission Sunday. We celebrate the Eucharist in union with Catholics throughout the world for the missionary activity of the Church. Pope Francis reminds us, especially in this year of crisis, that we are personally called to mission to bring Christ's love to those most forgotten. This is a responsibility of all the baptized. The Pope asks us to respond this Sunday through prayer and generous sacrifice to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Our prayers and material support will sustain priests, religious, and lay pastoral leaders in more than 1,100 mission dioceses in Asia, Africa, the Pacific Islands, and parts of Latin America and Europe. This week we will take up the collection for World Missions.

Stewardship of Treasure—October 15, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,100.50
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	393.00
Votives:	\$	358.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	50.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	105.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	20.00
World Mission:	\$	75.00

Total Oct. 14/15 **\$ 8,101.50**

Annual Report

We are currently compiling the annual report which will be mailed to all of our parishioners over in the next couple of weeks. As always when you get the report, read over it and if you have any questions you can call the office.

This report not only shares the financial information from our parish but also the statistics of what makes us Saint Sebastian Parish. You will see the number of people who belong to the parish along with the other sacraments celebrated this year.

Holiday Craft Show

Saint John the Baptist, Perryopolis is hosting their annual Holiday Vendor and Craft Show on Saturday, **November 4** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Shop from many popular vendors including: Tastefully Simple, Kiss My Sass Jewelry, Scentsy, Pampered Chef, Thirty-One, Dee's Custom Designs and much more. Basket Raffle, 50/50 Drawing, Food available. Call Mari- anne for more information at 724-366-0917.

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

All Saints and All Souls

In two weeks we will celebrate two great feast days honoring all of those who have died. We recognize the countless people who have attained the honor of eternal glory through the Sainthood of Jesus Christ. On Wednesday **November 1** we celebrate the feast of All Saints, which is a **Holy Day of Obligation**, we will celebrate Mass at **6:30 pm** here at Sebastian’s on **Tuesday, October 31**, and at **9:00 am** at Epiphany on **Wednesday, November 1**. Thursday, **November 2nd**, we recognize those souls who have not yet attained the glory of Sainthood with the celebration of All Souls. There will be a Mass in memory of all those who have died on at **9:00 AM at Epiphany** and at **6:30 PM at St. Sebastian’s**. I encourage everyone to come and pray for all of their loved ones who have died.

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!

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.

Liturgies of the Week

October 21—Vigil

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

Monday, October 23

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany Of Our Lord

Tuesday, October 24

8:00 am (Date of Birth) John Dunlop—Alexia Jones

Wednesday, October 25

No Mass Today

Thursday, October 26

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, October 27

8:00 am Paul Hayduk—Ron & Sherry Messick

Saturday, October 28—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
 4:30 pm (Death Anniv) James “Mac” McKevitt—John Imbrogno Family

October 29—30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am John “Pete” Biggins—Brother, Mike Biggins
 11:00 am Charlotte Roche—Sister, Mary Ann

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—Oct. 28/29

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

Readings for the week of October 22, 2023

Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10 (7b)/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21
Monday: Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 12:13-21
Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38
Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Lk 12:39-48
Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 12:49-53
Friday: Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77, 93, 94/Lk 12:54-59
Saturday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16
Next Sunday: Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (2)/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40

WEDDING SOUP ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

QUARTS _____

PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED _____

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



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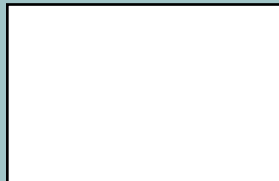
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