



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

December 10, 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

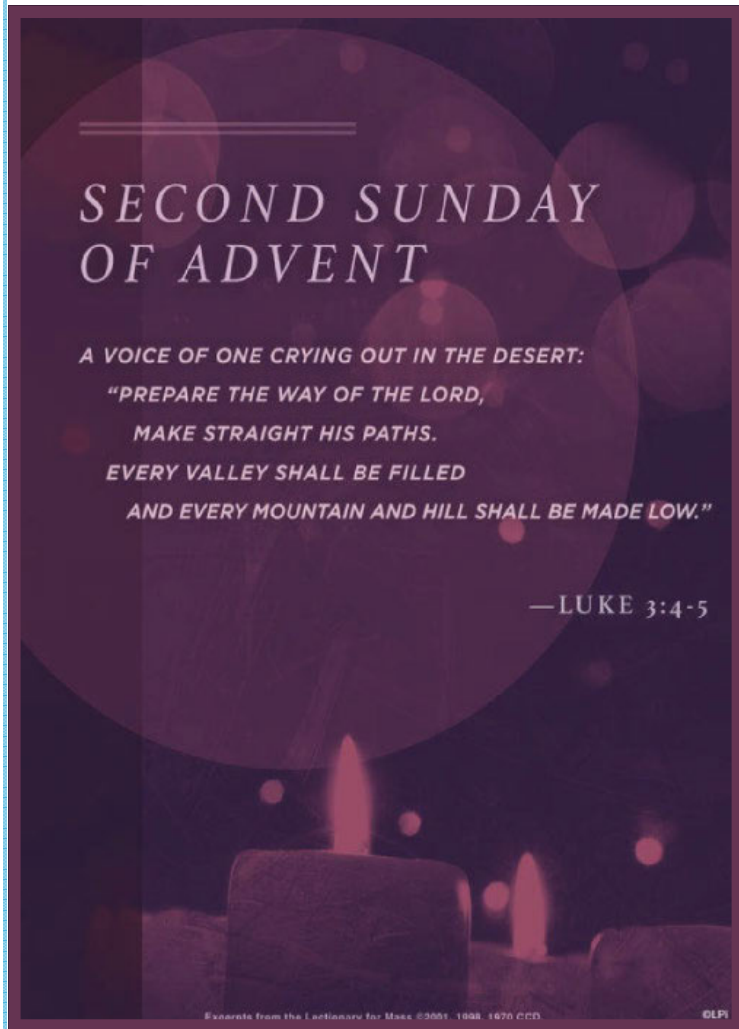
Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager
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Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary
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Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary
dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org



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

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

Throughout December the Saturday confessions will be canceled in lieu of the Christmas Penance services.

From the Pastor



We have all heard the stories of Advent over and over again, and yet even though they were written so very long ago, the history that we hear does not only apply to past events. The pains and frustrations of people so very long ago are the same pains and frustrations we feel every day, even though the events of history are different. It is ironic how we as people never seem to change or learn from the past, we just keep doing the same things and making the same mistakes over and over again.

Advent offers to each of us an opportunity just to sit back and become aware of life as we are living it. Our days are all filled with many tasks, and most of the things we do, we do without much thought. We go through our “routines” without really thinking about what we are doing. Then there are all of those chores we just can’t seem to get started with. For many of our tasks in life it is the beginning that is most difficult, just getting started. Once we begin, energy and stamina seem to kick in and we get finished. Our gospel for this week opens with the words: “The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God.” We are told about a messenger who would get things ready, but is this really the beginning? The real beginning is when the people go out and encounter John, and as the gospel unfolds the people go out and encounter Jesus. This is the beginning we all need to focus on. How do we encounter this Jesus the Son of God? Advent then becomes the many ways that we prepare for these encounters.


We do not know a lot about John but we certainly learn a lot from his message. One thing is very clear and that is his ministry was not about himself but about the “one mightier than I (who) is coming after me.” Everything that John did, pointed to the coming of Jesus. He proclaimed repentance, prepared for Jesus and died, this was the pattern of his life. It should also be the pattern for our own lives: proclaiming the gospel of repentance, prepare for Christ’s many comings and to die to ourselves daily. By our Christian living we not only point to Christ, but we also make present the Christ who dwells in us. The challenge of gospel living is the beginning – getting started.

During this second week of Advent we are called upon to reflect over our lives. What have we learned from the past, how have we grown because of it? How have we dealt with our mistakes, faults and weaknesses? Do we follow the wisdom of scripture and treat people with compassion and mercy pointing them to Christ? This is what the season is all about, getting ready for our many encounters with Jesus.

The baptism of repentance proclaimed by John is just the beginning; repentance leads to baptism “with the Holy Spirit” through which we are empowered for mission, and the mission calls us to participate with Christ in bringing about “new heavens and a new earth.” Through our own baptism we participate in the life and ministry of Jesus. The way that we live our lives does make a difference. By the goodness of our lives we announce that Christ has come and brought us salvation.

Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for December 3, 2023, will be in next Sunday’s bulletin.

MONTHLY OVERVIEW—Listed below is a breakdown of what our monthly expenses were as opposed to the amount of money taken in. We will be providing this to you on a monthly basis.

Nov. Expenses	Amount	Week	Collection
Maintenance	\$ 159.94	Nov. 5	\$ 10,860.00
Electric	\$ 814.07	Nov. 12	\$ 10,246.11
Other Utilities	\$ 510.12	Nov. 19	\$ 8,927.00
Gas	\$ 192.59	Nov. 26	\$ 10,225.00
Misc. Office	\$ 591.50	. Elec. Offerings	
Church/Liturgy	\$ 954.00	\$ 4,367.24	
Payroll	\$ 23,147.93	Total \$ 44,625.35	
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 14,446.87		
(Breakdown)			
Accent	\$ 659.60	 <p>Consider online giving, click the “my Offering” button on our parish website.</p>	
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,495.76		
Dio. Assessment	\$ 3,729.27		
Insurance	\$ 3,477.24		
Data Processing	\$ 85.00		
Total	\$ 40,817.02		

Stewardship of Treasure—November 26, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$ 5,940.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 869.00
Votives:	\$ 170.00
All Saints:	\$ 45.00
All Souls:	\$ 40.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 300.00
Poverty Relief:	\$ 375.00
Retired Priests/Religious:	\$ 25.00
Oplatki:	\$ 46.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 45.00
End of the Year Donation:	\$ 1,100.00
Thanksgiving:	\$ 920.00
Christmas:	\$ 220.00
Sanctuary flowers:	\$ 130.00
Total Nov. 25/26	\$ 10,225.00

Children and Family Services Appeal Collection

As you are aware, every year the second collection at all Christmas Masses has been for those people living within our own diocese who are less fortunate than we. This collection is titled the “Children and Family Services Appeal.” On the coming Christmas Feast, which reminds us of the gift of God’s own Son, Jesus Christ given to each of us without question of our merit or eligibility, we ask you to support the “Children and Family Services Appeal” and make your contribution toward changing the future of an individual, a family or a child through the good work of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg.

Gift Certificates—Star Nail & Spa are offering \$50 gift certificates for their services: nails, pedicure, and waxing. The owners, parishioners of St. Sebastian, are donating 100% of all proceeds to the Church. Star Nail is located at 825 Broad Ave and can be reached at 724-810-3333.

We thank them for their kind generosity. The certificates are available at the Parish Office.

Lessons and Carols

Today, Sunday, December 10, 6:30 pm



This ecumenical event features the voices of the Belle Vernon Area Churches sponsored by the Belle Vernon Area Ministerium and presented at Saint Sebastian Church on Sunday, This Sunday at 6:30 pm. The Service is composed of nine Lessons (readings) from Scripture, followed by the singing of Advent Hymns or Christmas Carols after each Lesson. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend this festive service.

A free will offering will be taken at the close of the program to benefit the local food banks. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

Christmas Penance Services

This year during Advent, we will again have Penance Services at our neighboring churches. Below are listed the times and places for this week's services:

December 12: St. Edwards, Herminie (6:00)

December 14: Epiphany, Monessen (6:00)

December 16: St. Anne's Rostraver (Noon)

I hope that you mark these dates down and make an effort to come and bring your family to this life-giving sacrament.

Country Christmas on Broad...

Next Sunday, December 17, beginning at 2:00 pm we will begin our Country Christmas on Broad in Belle Vernon. We will start off with a parade then move to the back of the Church for many Holiday Festivities and crafts. The event will run until 5:00 pm. There will be food, fun and many activities! I do hope you will be able to stop by to help you get in the Christmas Spirit!



Baked goods are needed for the Country Christmas Event. Please drop off your baked goods on Saturday, December 16 at Noon in Parish Hall. Any questions please call Anita 724.880.2788.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS

The Oplatki or Christmas Wafers are available in the back of the church. The wafers are packaged with 4 individual wafers. The cost for a packet is \$3.00. You may also pick them up at the office during the week.

Angel Tree

Remember, for those who took ornaments from the Angel Tree, to return your gifts **NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 22..** When you bring them back, be sure to attach the tag with the number on it so we can get them delivered to the right person.



2024 Calendars—Thank you to the Parzynski Funeral Home for providing the 2024 calendars for our parish. Their family members will be distributing the calendars this weekend, **December 9 & 10** after all Masses.

Liturgies of the Week

December 9—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Timmy Trasatti—Sister, Tammy

December 10—Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Jennie Ciferno—Ray & Jeff & Family

11:00 am Vincenzo, Donna & (Date of Birth) Jeffrey Ambrose—Family

Monday, December 11—Pope St. Damasus I

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, December 12—Our Lady of

Guadalupe

8:00 am Elizabeth "Betty" Eversburg—Bob & Sharon Niccolai & Family

6:00 pm Penance Service at St. Edward, Herminie



Wednesday, December 13—St. Lucy

No Mass Today

Thursday, December 14—St. John of the Cross

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

6:00 pm Penance Service at Epiphany, Monessen

Friday, December 15

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Blanche Sabo—Bernadette Zunic & Annette Snyder

Saturday, December 16

12:00 pm Penance Service at Church of St. Anne, Rostraver

Saturday, December 16—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Sam Suppa, Jr.—Wife, Annette & Children & Grandchildren

December 17—Third Sunday of Advent

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

11:00 am Gene Lancas—Wife, Paula

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—December 16/17

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	C. Gorski	S. Wawro	R. Buretz
9:00 am	B. Moskovitz	M. Shaughnessy	N. Jodon
11:00 am	A. Hoffman	R. Hoffman	H. Miller

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

BAKE SALE—There will be a bake sale in the parish hall following each Mass next weekend, December 16/17. Baked goods are needed to help make this a success. Please call 724.880.2788 for more information.



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