



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

December 17, 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

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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE LORD, YOUR GOD, IS IN YOUR MIDST,
A MIGHTY SAVIOR;
HE WILL REJOICE OVER YOU WITH GLADNESS,
AND RENEW YOU IN HIS LOVE.

—ZEPHANIAH 3:17

Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal
caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Ms. Tiffany Zetty: School Business Manager
TZetty@sssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



From the Pastor Gaudete...Rejoice!

This week we celebrate the Third Sunday of the Advent Season which is traditionally referred to as *Gaudete* or "let us rejoice" Sunday. Our readings speak to us of life as it was meant to be lived, rejoicing! In the first reading the prophet Zephaniah is speaking to a liberated people who were living with many freedoms. After years of being persecuted and enslaved, the people had many things to rejoice about. He told the people that God has forgiven them and their future is one of bright promise and peace. Zephaniah indicated that the "Divine presence" is in their midst, reminding that people that there was no room for pride and arrogance.

St. Paul also speaks of such joy that can be found in the peace of Christ. The kind of joy that he speaks of can lead us to be unselfish, to overcome anxiety and to live with a peace that only God can give. He speaks of a peace that can bring "well-being" and be "life giving." It is no wonder that in the midst of this season of preparation that we stop and rejoice in the Lord's peace.

This week we are all called to live lives of peace and justice. The crowds of people asked John "what should we do?" We need to ask ourselves that same question. What should we do to bring about that peace and sense of rejoicing that our liturgy speaks of today? If we listen to what we are being reminded of today, we are told that God changes not only our minds but also our hearts. If we find the love of God, no matter what is going on around us, we can rejoice. If we have that deep faith and trust in God we can rejoice and we are not afraid in life.

Our faith calls us to be in relationship with one another. It calls us to break out of ourselves and live for others. During these weeks before Christmas it is easy for us to see the needs of others. During this season, people do tend to be very generous. But, once Christmas is over, we fall back into our routines of living and become blind to the wants and needs of others. If we are to take seriously the justice that Jesus calls us to live, we need to make an effort to become more aware of others.

John the Baptist is telling us basically to live our lives being honest with who we are and what we have. Listen to the needs of others and help whenever we are able. There are so many ways that we can live out of Jesus' justice. If we rejoice in what we have and who we are in the way that we are asked to, we can't help but be people of peace; it is easy.

This week look at what you have in life and be open to sharing whatever you have with the less fortunate. Do not exploit people. Do not threaten people you are supposed to protect. Work to overcome the multiple injustices of our society. Do not abuse the position of authority which you might have. Advent is a time of conversion, as good a time as any to reflect on our lives and the ways in which we translate our faith into action. People need to know us by our actions and not by our pious assertions. When we know God, we will rejoice!



Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for December 10, 2023, will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

Stewardship of Treasure December 3, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	8,281.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	199.00
Votives:	\$	349.00
All Saints:	\$	10.00
Assumption:	\$	10.00
All Souls:	\$	5.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	6.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	355.00
Retired Priests/Religious:	\$	5.00
Oplatki:	\$	191.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	369.00
End of the Year Donation:	\$	3,170.00
Thanksgiving:	\$	121.00
Christmas:	\$	25.00
Children & Family:	\$	25.00
Sanctuary flowers:	\$	810.00

Total Dec. 2/3

\$ 13,931.00

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.

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.



I want to once again thank all of our parishioners for their generosity with the Angel tree project this year. Trust me when I say that you have made Christmas for many people a lot brighter, and for that we all need to be grateful. . . *Fr. Mike*

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



Country Christmas on Broad...

Remember this afternoon
from 2:30 – 5:00

we will have a
**Country Christmas
celebration at St. Sebastian's...**



Christmas Penance Services

Below I have the listing of the Penance services that will be conducted throughout our region this week. All of these services will begin at 6:00 pm.

December 18: St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis
December 19: Seven Dolors, Yukon
December 21: St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon

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.

Blessing of the Infant Jesus'



It has been suggested that we do a blessing of the Baby Jesus statues that will be used in the Nativity Sets at your homes. So, next week during the 11:00 am liturgy we will bless the statues of Baby Jesus for your Christmas Crèche. So, bring your Baby Jesus to church at we will bless them!

Part Time Position at SSRCS

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School in Belle Vernon is looking to fill an immediate position for part-time Maintenance/Janitorial Personnel. The qualified applicant should have general knowledge/skills in the following areas: electrical, plumbing, painting, lifting, carpentry, cleaning, etc. Competitive pay and flexible hours (5 hours/day) with the potential for full-time employment if desired. Clearances necessary. If interested, please email caielo@sssrbv.org.



Christmas Mass Schedule

The schedule of Masses for Christmas will be **4:00 pm** on **Christmas Eve**, then a **Christmas Mass** at **10:00 pm**; then on **Christmas Day** morning at **10:00 am**.



Carols & Anthems—Prior to the 10:00 pm Mass on **December 24**, our Parish Choir will share the music of Christmas from 9:30—10:00 pm. All are welcome to come and be blessed by their beautiful presentation.

Liturgies of the Week

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

Monday, December 18

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord
6:00 pm [Penance Service](#) at St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis

Tuesday, December 19

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Marion Pawlak—Pawlak HVAC Employees

6:00 pm [Penance Service](#) at Seven Dolors, Yukon

Wednesday, December 20—St. Lucy

No Mass Today

Thursday, December 21

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord
6:00 pm 6:00 pm [Penance Service](#) here at St. Sebastian

Friday, December 22

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Scott Hoffman—Parents, Jim & Joanne Hoffman

Saturday, December 23—Vigil

4:30 pm M/M Pete & Sarah Bednarczyk—Daughter, Kathleen

December 24—Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am In Honor of Lou Turcheck's 97th Birthday—Linda & Darleen
11:00 am Mary J. Miller—Daughter, Frances, Jack & Family

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—23/24

	Lectors	Lit. Coord/EM	Servers
4:30 pm	J. Wasicek	C. Farrier	M. Wasicek
9:00 am	E. Bagay	B. Mallonee	N. Jodon
11:00 am	T. Sebetich	S. Kroskie	B. Henderson
Christmas Vigil—December 24			
4:00 pm	S. Wawro	B. Moskovitz	Volunteer Needed
10:00 pm	M. Patterson	K. Molesky	A. Peden

Readings for the week of December 17, 2023

Sunday: Is 61:1-2a, 10-11/Lk 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54 (Is 61:10b)/1 Thes 5:16-24/Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Monday: Jer 23:5-8/Ps 72:1-2, 12-13, 18-19/Mt 1:18-25

Tuesday: Jgs 13:2-7, 24-25a/Ps 71:3-4a, 5-6ab, 16-17/Lk 1:5-25

Wednesday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 1:26-38

Thursday: Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21/Lk 1:39-45

Friday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 1:46-56

Saturday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Lk 1:57-66



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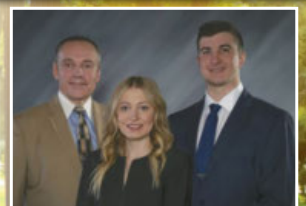
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