



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

December 3, 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

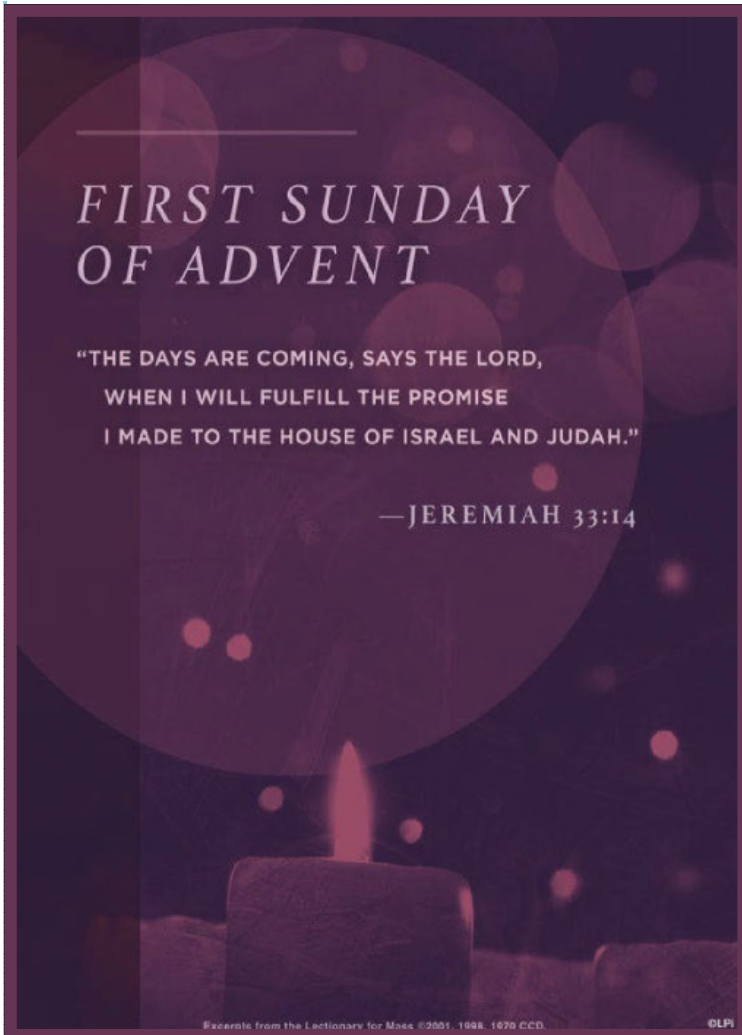
Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager
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Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation
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Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music
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Mrs. 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
caielo@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

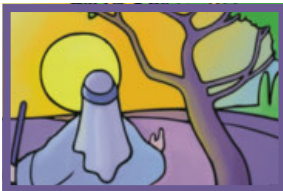
A Season of Waiting

More than anything, Advent is a celebration of a hope that God's promises will be fulfilled, that God can be born again, over and over in our hearts and in our world. Of all the seasons that make up our Church year, this is probably the busiest. With the celebration of Christmas so near, there are many things that we need to accomplish and there are many distractions that allow us to become sidetracked. We would be wise people to follow the old adage that tells us "a watched pot never boils." Everything about this time or year seems to turn Advent into a "watched pot." So much around us is propelling us toward Christmas with alarming speed, for example, a regular countdown of the number of shopping days until Christmas, snarled traffic and no parking places, Salvation Army bell ringers, Christmas music everywhere. In the midst of all this, what is the "watched pot"?

What exactly are we supposed to be watching for? How are our energies used up during this short period of time? When we allow life to swallow us up with all of the trappings of what is going on around us, we can certainly feel lost and out of control. Life seems to get tougher and tougher the more we try to do. In the midst of all this business we start to feel lost and out of control. We lose sight of our purpose and we start to look at things to blame. The people during the time Isaiah wrote this first reading were feeling absolutely out of control. They had lost sight of so many important things in life and were looking to blame God for their troubles. More than anything else, they felt no hope. The prophet reminds them that they need to get in touch with what is hopeful in their lives. In so doing they will realize what is important and what might not be so important and in the process regain control over their lives.

Our second reading reminds us that we cannot always live our lives only in the present, without an awareness or consideration that there is a future. As people, we often tend to get so caught up with what is going on around us that we do just that. Advent reminds us that there is a future and that future is full of God's promises. No matter how overwhelmed we might feel at the moment, it won't last if we keep a healthy perspective on what we are doing and why, in other words be aware of the "watched pot." We need to be aware of the fact that we live now and be responsible because there is a future worth waiting for.

How you spend this season of waiting is entirely up to you. However, it would behoove you to slow down and keep an eye on that "watched pot." If we can keep a healthy perspective on how we are living and what we make so important in life, we will find that we are at peace. It is never too late to wake up the reality what it means to be ready and watchful. We must be alert that our watching does not miss that for which we truly wait. We await the fullness of Christ's coming in a world still darkened by sinfulness.



Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for November 26, 2023, will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

Stewardship of Treasure—November 19, 2023

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,471.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	76.00
Votives:	\$	223.00
All Saints:	\$	23.00
All Souls:	\$	8.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	48.00
Poverty Relief:	\$	582.00
Retired Priests/Religious:	\$	65.00
Thanksgiving:	\$	351.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	53.00
End of the Year Donation:	\$	45.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	5.00
Christmas:	\$	25.00

Total Nov. 18/19

\$ 8,927.00



Lessons and Carols

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 **next Sunday, December 10, 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. All are invited. 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.

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.

CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this project, **please take a form from the pamphlet racks** and return it to the Parish Office. The name tags will be available on a Christmas tree in the vestibule. Please return your form ASAP but not later than Saturday, **December 9th.** This is just one more way that we can share our blessings with the needy and lonely members of our community.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Join us for Breakfast with Santa at the Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall next **Sunday, December 10** between 9:30 a.m. and Noon. Adults are \$5.00; children eat free. Bring your children, grandchildren, or neighborhood children. The event is sponsored by The Epiphany Ladies and the Holy Name Society. Santa treats are provided by FCSLA.

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

Christmas Penance Services

With this week being the first week of Advent, we will have Penance Services over the next weeks. Below are listed the time and places for this seasons services:

- December 11: Holy Family, West Newton, 6:30
- December 12: St. Edwards, Herminie, 6:00
- December 13: St. Anne’s, Rostraver, 6:30
- December 14: Epiphany, Monessen, 6:30
- December 18: St. John’s Perryopolis, 6:00
- December 19: Seven Dolors, Yukon, 6:00
- December 21: St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon, 6:30

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

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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Parents and children of the 2024 Confirmation class will have a meeting on **December 10** in the Church following the 11 a.m. Mass. Confirmation is scheduled for April 20, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.



Country Christmas on Broad...

We are only a couple of weeks away from our Country Christmas on **December 17**. There are many ways that you can help make this a successful event. I am very grateful to all of the people who came to the planning meeting, but we will

need all the help we can get to make it happen. First of all, there are some things that you can donate if you feel so moved:

-Ingredients to make SMORES:

(Chocolate Bars, Marshmallows & Graham Crackers)

-Assorted candies for treat bags; -Hot Chocolate Mix; -Packages of Hand Wipes;-Bales of Hay

As we get closer to the event, I will let you know if we are in need of anything else. Please know that anything you are able to do to help will be greatly appreciated!

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.

Can You Help—Little Things for

Little People is looking for some new toys for our Santa to give out. We have some left over from last year but need mostly 1 year and under toys, that will work for either girl or boy. We are also looking for some toys for little boys age 2-4. There are enough girl toys at this time for the older girls. If you have a donation please call Laura at 724-797-3959.



Sympathy and Prayers—Please remember in your prayers those who have died: STEPHEN V. RUSSELL, WALTER KLETT, SR. and DAN R. KRAFT. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

Liturgies of the Week

December 2—Vigil

4:30 pm Jacob & Merry Hewitt—Daughters, Dayna & Sissy

December 3—First Sunday of Advent

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am (Date of Birth) John Imbrogno—James & Theresa Novotny

Monday, December 4

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, December 5

8:00 am Elizabeth “Betty” Eversburg—Judy & Don Mitchell

Wednesday, December 6

No Mass Today

Thursday, December 7—Vigil

6:30 pm Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, December 8—Immaculate Conception

8:00 am Anthony & Ann Wojnar—Daughter, Jeannette

Saturday, December 9—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*
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

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

MINISTRY SCHEDULE—December 9/10 To Be Announced

Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, December 7 Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen. On Friday, December 8, Mass will be celebrated here at St. Sebastian at 8:00 a.m. The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 8.



Christmas Fruit Baskets

The cost is \$25 per box. The **deadline** to order is **December 10**. **Pick up dates are Friday, December 22, 3—5 pm or Saturday, December 23, Noon—2 pm in the Parish Hall.** Please complete the order form and drop in the collection or return to the Parish Office with your payment.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT BASKET ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

FRUIT BOXES _____

PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED _____

PICK-UP: DEC. 22—3:00-5:00 PM or DEC. 23—NOON-2:00 PM



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