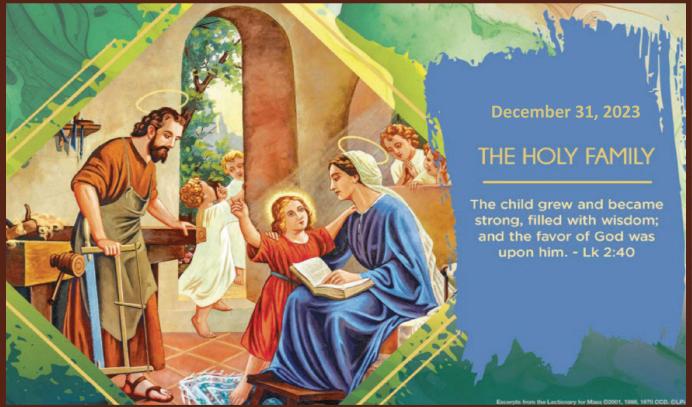


# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012



## **Mass Schedule**

Saturday Tuesd 4:30 PM

Sunday

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Tuesday, 8:00 AM

Friday, 8:00 AM

## Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Ms. Tiffany Zetty: School Business Manager

TZetty@sssbv.org

School Telephone  $\sim 724-929-5143$ 

School Website ~ sssbv.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.

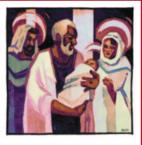
#### Reconciliation

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 We are all Holy Families!

Our celebration this week end concentrates on the "Holiness" of our families. Holiness is not a misty-eyed, otherworldly mode of living. Rather it is a realistic engagement in the difficulties, struggles, and tensions of



human life and relating. Our own modern families are like the Holy Family in that, as they did, we too all face challenges in responding to God faithfully and obediently. The holiness of a family is not dependent upon perfection or an easy road. As Mary and Joseph showed us, holiness is dependent on faithfulness and obedience to God's message. What makes Jesus, Mary, and Joseph a holy family is their faithful, obedient response to God's message. Our families (and the family of the church) are also holy in our responding faithfully to God's will for us.

Today it is difficult to define what a family should be; in fact I believe that family life today is beyond defining. None of us can be completely free from assumptions about families and a "well intended" list of family values that we should follow. Sometimes these values are sincere but sometime they are cynical. When we look at the holy family we do not look at them for the sociological model that they provide, rather they become a model of faith for us. So, the issue on this day is not that we should try to read into this feast a proposal for how to live as a family, but how each of us should remain open and obedient to the word of God.

We spend a lot of time in life looking around and seeing what we want in life. Every one of us is guilty of making so many "comparisons" to what others have or how they live. In the process we are completely missing out on what we have. Family life in our society today has gone through so many drastic changes that none of us fit very well into a defined role, and I don't think that is such a bad thing. If we are honest with each other, we all live with some sort of dysfunction in life, there is no such thing as a perfect family.

Today we are reminded that we ought to be grateful for the people we have in life and most especially our families. Whether we are a traditional family or a single parent family, whether we have biological or adopted or foster children or no children, whether we live in an expensive home or a subsidized rental unit makes no difference for living as a holy family. What does make a difference is hearing God's message and doing God's will. Hearing God's message and responding to God's will made the Holy Family holy, it makes our families holy, too!

This is what living Christ's message is all about: responding to both hardships and God's wonderful gifts of grace with fidelity and obedience. Sometimes it is the very hardships that help us put our priorities straight and realize how dependent on our loving God we really are.

Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for December 24, 2023, will be in next Sunday's bulletin.

Stewardship of Treasure—December 17, 2023		
Regular Offertory:	\$	8,500.01
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	347.00
Votives:	\$	205.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	78.00
Oplatki:	\$	9.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	102.00
End of the Year Donation:	\$	935.00

Thanksgiving: \$ 10.00
Christmas: \$ 730.00
Children & Family: \$ 58.00
Sanctuary flowers: \$ 194.00

Total Dec. 16/17 \$\_11,182.01

## 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 caiello@sssbv.org.

#### **Tax Statements**

It is that time of year when we need to start gathering our information to file taxes! If you would like a statement from the Church, please let us know and we will get one sent to you.

### **Tuition Assistance**

Millions in Catholic school tuition assistance available SPREAD THE NEWS! The 12 Diocese of Greensburg Catholic schools now have millions of dollars in tuition assistance available! Become a TOP Student today. Visit www.CatholicSchoolsGuide.org or call 724-552-2565.

### **RETROUVAILLE**

The Holidays can be stressful in many ways. If you feel that your marriage is being tested, there is help. If your marriage suffers from Disillusionment or Misery, please contact Retrouvaille (pronounced retro-vi with a long i). For confidential information about or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **February 16**, please contact Retrouvaille at 412-277-3434. More information is available at helpourmarriage.org.

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



## **Another Blessed Christmas!**

Once again this year as I look back over the season of Advent and Christmas it is wonderful to be able to recognize the many blessings of God's love that we have been given. In celebrating the feast of the Holy Family this week end, it is easy to recognize that as a parish we do live like the "Holy Family," in God's grace and love.

The generosity of all our parishioners is overwhelming. I cannot begin to thank you enough for the many gifts and cards that you gave to me; I am both humbled and blessed! The Holiday Season always brings with it more work and we certainly had no problems with all of our volunteers. The added Masses required more ministers which we are all grateful for. Our Choir under the direction of Dean Dellamalya did a magnificent job in providing an environment of music and prayer. Our entire parish would like to thank everyone who helped with the decorations in the Church. They added that special touch which makes Christmas so special!

I would also like to thank all of our staff for the extra work they put into these Holiday celebrations. Sometimes it is hectic in the office but through the dedication of our staff we manage to get things done. I am grateful to Danny, Linda, Scott and Darleen for the time and dedication they share.

# Reinstating the Reception of the Cup



Beginning the weekend of February 17-18 we are going to reinstitute reception from the cup during Communion. It has been over three years since we were able to receive from the cup.

If we are going to reinstate this at our parish we will need more Eucharistic Ministers of Holy Communion, otherwise we will not be able to do it. I am asking that you consider becoming a minister for Holy Communion. I will have more information on this in the coming weeks.

Prayer Shawl Ministry—The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Ministry will be on Wednesday, January 10 at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. in the Parish Center. Thanks to everyone who stopped by the Prayer Shawl Ministry table at Country Christmas on Broad and a special thanks to those who donated money to our Ministry. For more information please contact Joannie Brown at liberati 17@yahoo.com or 412-657-7880.

# Liturgies of the Week

### December 30—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) John J. Barnot—Son, John December 31—Feast of the Holy Family

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish 11:00 am (Death Anniv) William Monro, Jr.—St. Sebastian

**Money Counters** 

Monday, January I-Mary the Mother of God

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Robert Yencsik—Donna & Ron

Santoro

Tuesday, January 2—Ss. Basil the Great & Gregory **Nazianzen** 

Frederick & Jarvis Families—Family 8:00 am

Wednesday, January 3—Most Holy Name of Jesus

No Mass Today

Thursday, January 4—St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

6:00 pm Sacrament of First Penance here at St. Sebastian

Friday, January 5-St. John Neumann 8:00 am Gerald Stasicha—Ted Harhai

Saturday, January 6—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 4:30 pm George Stewart—Petricin Family

January 7—Solemnity of the Epiphany of Our Lord

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Josephine Bacha—Family 11:00 am John Dunlop—Sue Ann Edwards

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

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

# Sacrament of First Penance



On Thursday, January 4, at 6:00 p.m. our second grade parishioners will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance) for the first time. Please keep our young parishioners in your prayers as they prepare to receive this Sacrament.

#### Readings for the week of December 31, 2023

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 or Gn 15:1-6; 21:1-3/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 or Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 or Heb 11:8, 11-12, 17-19/ Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22, 39-40

Monday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (2a)/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21 Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28

Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:29—3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34

Thursday: 1 Jn 3:7-10/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Jn 1:35-42 Friday: 1 Jn 3:11-21/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Jn 1:43-51

Saturday: 1 Jn 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 1:7-11 or Lk 3:23

-38 or 3:23, 31-34, 36, 38

Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 (see 11)/Eph 3:2-

3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12



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