



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012



December 31, 2023

THE HOLY FAMILY

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him. - Lk 2:40

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

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

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

School Telephone ~ 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, other-worldly 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 caielo@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 Offering” 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 Dellamalva 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 liberati17@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 Monroe, Jr.—St. Sebastian Money Counters

Monday, January 1—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

8:00 am Frederick & Jarvis Families—Family

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—Petrcin 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



Parzynski Funeral Home & Cremations LLC
Serving Our Parish Family with Integrity, Honesty and Dignity Since 1976
 626 Broad Avenue, Belle Vernon • 724-929-6183 • www.parzynskifuneralhome.com
 Michael J. Parzynski-FD, Leonard J. Parzynski-FD, Supervisor. Perryopolis
 Rachael L. Parzynski-FD



Vintage & Vines
Antique Gifts & Flower Shop
 623 Broad Avenue, Belle Vernon
724-929-3536



Donna Ferguson Yurko, Realtor*
 call / text 724-554-2149

CENTURY 21
 Frontier Realty

800-422-8680

Local Experts with 30+ Years' Experience

Catholic Parishioners



Bonnie Halinka, Realtor*
 call / text 724-322-0355



AUTO PARTS

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED



FAYETTE PARTS SERVICE | 25 AREA STORES TO SERVE YOU

FOR A FAYETTE PARTS SERVICE NAPA STORE NEAR YOU VISIT US AT
FAYETTEPARTS.COM OR NAPAONLINE.COM

Mon Valley Care Center
724-310-1111
 A Continuing Care Retirement Community (CCRC)
 Offering Skilled Nursing & Rehabilitation & Personal Care Services
www.monvalleycare.com
 200 Stoops Dr, Monongahela, PA 15063

cfsbank
 Making smiles happen in the Mon Valley since 1936!
cfsbank.bank



MARK E. RAMSIER
 Attorney at Law
 823 Broad Avenue
 North Belle Vernon, PA 15012
 Telephone (724) 929-0144

Duritzza's
 735 Henry Street
Your Hometown Supermarket

Quality Meats
Fresh Sliced Deli Meats
Gift Certificates
PA Lottery
Money Orders - Stamps
 Daily: 8:30a-9p
 Sunday: 8:30a-5p



MARIE SLAGUS Realtor
 724-797-3681 cell | 724-929-9699 office
Superior Service Since 2000
 Hard Working, Dedicated, Passionate to help you with the biggest sell or purchase you will make!



Real Estate Services

Top 1% of Realtors | Multi-Million Dollar Producer
 5-Star Real Estate Agent | Champions Club Member

RYGIEL EXCAVATING
 Stanley A. Rygiel
 Joseph R Rygiel
724-326-0129
 Fayette City, Pennsylvania

Jeff Sorick
 Heating & Cooling Inc.
 PA 014581
412-384-7585
www.jeffsorickhvac.com
 8914 ROBERTS HOLLOW ROAD, ELIZABETH, PA 15037



WHATEVER IT TAKES:

WE ARE A
 FACTORY AUTHORIZED
 BRYANT DEALER

We Service
 All Brands

FREE ESTIMATES

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS
 Place Your Ad Here
 and Support Our Parish!

CONTACT ME
Sue Novosel

snovosel@4LPi.com
 (800) 477-4574 x6318

CREATIVE ELEGANCE
 Parishioner Owned and Operated
 FLORAL DECOR GIFTS
 Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
 724-972-6346 Shop • 724-963-3685 After hours
www.creativeelegancefloraldecorandgifts.com

ADT-Monitored Home Security
 Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Fire Safety
- Flood Detection
- Carbon Monoxide

Authorized Provider **SafeStreets**
833-287-3502



WE'RE HIRING!
 AD SALES EXECUTIVES
 BE YOURSELF.
 BRING YOUR PASSION.
 WORK WITH PURPOSE.

- Paid training
- Some travel
- Work-life balance
- Full-Time with benefits
- Serve your community



Contact us at
careers@4lpi.com or
www.4lpi.com/careers

FREE AD DESIGN
 with purchase of this space
CALL
 800-477-4574

Russ' Tavern
 Est. 1964
 1019 Broad Ave.
 N. Belle Vernon

Jake's
 - Established 1975 -
 North Belle Vernon
 428 Broad Avenue
724-929-9897

We're Here to Guide You Through Life's Difficult Moments

Ferguson
 FUNERAL HOME & CREMATORY, INC.

724-929-5300

700 Broad Avenue
 Belle Vernon
www.FergusonFHC.com



Funeral Directors
 Shelby D. Ferguson II, Karlee R. Ferguson, & Adam S. Ferguson



For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

14-1696