

# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

January 28, 2024

## Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:30 PM

Sunday

9:00 AM

11:00 AM

Tuesday, 8:00 AM

Friday, 8:00 AM

## Parish Staff

**Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor**

[mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager**

[dlisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dlisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation**

[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music**

[ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary**

[ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary**

[dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

### Baptism Preparation

Third Wednesday of every month. Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

### Religious Education/Formation

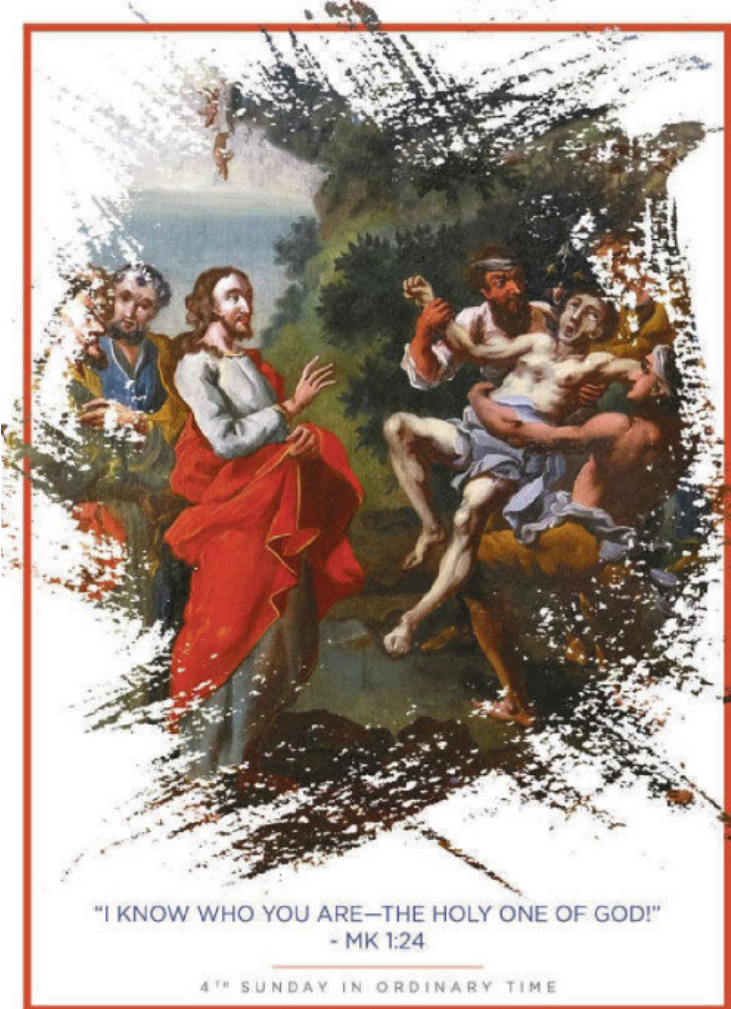
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

### (RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults

Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please call the Faith Formation Office.

### Reconciliation

**Confessions are on Saturday:** Epiphany—11:30 a.m. and St. Sebastian—3:30 p.m. You may also call at anytime for an appointment for confession.



"I KNOW WHO YOU ARE—THE HOLY ONE OF GOD!"  
- MK 1:24

4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS 1:2001, 1998, 1970 CCD, ©LW

## Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

**Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal**

[caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Ms. Tiffany Zetty: School Business Manager**

[TZetty@sssbv.org](mailto:TZetty@sssbv.org)

**School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143**

**School Website ~ [sssbv.org](http://sssbv.org)**



## ***From the Pastor—We are called to be People of Action!***

What does it mean to have authority, and how do we determine when one speaks with authority? Isn't it true that when we are told something from someone with authority we are more apt to listen? What is it that gives one such authority, it has to be more than just a job or a uniform, and it has to be something much deeper. Our gospel today informs us that Jesus "taught as one having authority and not as the scribes." What was it about his words that gave people such an impression? Today our readings relay to us how Moses spoke with the authority of God and the promise of the prophets would do the same. In the Gospel Mark is trying to establish the authority of Jesus.



The people of Israel in the first reading are getting ready to enter the Promised Land and they are aware that Moses will not be with them. They are assured that God will send Prophets among them who will speak with the "authority" of God and lead them through their journey of life. The identity of Jesus' authority rests in his identity as the "Holy One of God" – indeed his identity as the divine Son. The "new teaching with authority" about which the people are amazed is not the healing miracle in itself, but rather the display of God's face-to-face presence mediated in Jesus. The Old Testament prophets were looked to by the people to mediate God's presence and will; they were terrified to encounter God fact-to-face. In Jesus, however, God is present and encounter with this God is not terrifying but astonishing and amazing.

One of the reasons that Jesus acquired such notoriety is that he was a man of action. He was recognized as one having authority because he acted according to his word. The other church authorities knew the Law and how to fulfill its letter. In other words, they knew God's word because they were scribes with that role within the community, but they had not received it into their hearts; it had no effect on their actions. Their words and deeds did not measure up, so their words were empty and their lives did not witness to God's goodness and presence. The authority that the demon speaks of in the gospel is not a power over people as much as an invitation to a new life. His is an authority that derives from modeling how a true servant of God lives. This is what made him so different from other leaders of his time. He did not follow the adage "do as I say and not as I do," rather he lived every word that he spoke.

As we listen To St. Paul speak to the Corinthians he once again enforces his notion that chastity and virginity are superior ways to live. However if we just listen to the words, we might miss the point of what the message is about. Not only is Paul asking what our priorities in life are, but we are also reminded that no matter where we are in life our obligations to be Christ's presence in life is the same. What matters most is that married or celibate, we serve God and each other with our chosen vocations.

Bottom line is that we all need to be more attentive to live the words that we speak and by our actions people should be able to tell we are God's own. To be a true disciple is not to be caught up in mighty deeds but be a part of the integrity where our words and deeds manifest the same integrity as Jesus' life. We probably will always be drawn to the mighty deeds in life, but we also need to be able break the barriers in life that separate people. It is love that matters, and it is the love of Christ in our hearts that will enable us to be that divine goodness to all we meet.

### **Stewardship of Treasure—January 21, 2024**

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,111.25
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	120.00
Votives:	\$	155.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	430.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	10.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	90.00
Lenten Season:	\$	95.00

**Total Jan. 13/14**      **\$ 7,011.25**

### **Catholic Daughters of the Americas**

The 2024 CDA National Education Contest is now underway. Categories are Essay, Poetry, Art and Computer Art. Entry forms are available at the Epiphany Church Office. Completed entries can be returned to the Church Office by **February 1**. For more information, contact Pat Godla, Chairperson, at 724-684-7235.

**Eastern Europe Collection**—Annually, our Diocese participates in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe on the first Sunday of February. This year, the Collection is the weekend of **February 3/4**. Our participation in the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe express our care and support for the people in Central and Eastern Europe, especially in times of crisis and disruption. For more information about the collection and whom it supports, visit [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc).

**Mission Office**—Last week we got a report from the Mission Office in the Diocese that our parish contributed 6,132.00 last year to help support the missionary efforts of the Church. This is just one more way that we can touch people around the world with our generosity. I am grateful to all of you for what you do for your church!

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

## The Season of Lent

Every year we are given the opportunity to experience a renewal of our faith through the weeks of Lent, and discover our faith on a deeper level. Although the tenor of the season has changed and we do not do all of the “hard” sacrificing that we once did, there are still many ways that we can enrich our own spirituality. It is a blessing to be able to share in the Eucharist more often during this period of penance. Try going to daily mass, it is a wonderful way to start your day.

During Lent we celebrate the Stations of the Cross on Friday. If anyone would like to help in leading the stations, please give us a call at the office.



## Catholic Schools Week

This week across our nation we recognize and celebrate the opportunity we offer to our children for a Catholic Education. We are fortunate that we have a regional school as part of our parish, and we need to keep the efforts of the school in our thoughts and prayers!

### St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School News

**Open House** is this Sunday, **January 28** from 12-Noon until 2:00 p.m. Stop in to visit and/or call for a tour of SSRCS (724-929-9300). Registrations are being accepted for the 2024-2025 School Year for grades Pre-K through 8.



### Substitute Teachers

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School is in great need of substitute teachers. Please contact the school principal at [caiello@sssbv.org](mailto:caiello@sssbv.org).

### Maintenance Personnel

SSRCS 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](mailto:caiello@sssbv.org).

## Boy Scout Sunday



We will celebrate Scout Sunday at Saint Sebastian Church on Sunday, **February 11** during the 11:00 a.m. Mass. The Scouts will have reserved seats on the Tabernacle side of the church.

Special Congratulations to the following members of BSA Troop 1543 for earning their Eagle Scout rank this past year: Joe Kudla, Anthony Petaccia and Tim Reda. Congratulations and God bless you.

## Liturgies of the Week

### January 27—Vigil

4:30 pm Joann Bradica—Sons, Jason & Joel

### January 28—Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 am Elizabeth Rose Cannizzaro—Arlene Schmitt

### Monday, January 29

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Tuesday, January 30

8:00 am Deanne Nogy—Lou Ann & Valarie

### Wednesday, January 31

No Mass Today

### Thursday, February 1

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Friday, February 2

8:00 am Ronald Grandstaff—Mary Jane & Frances Sobek

### Saturday, February 3—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Dorothy Brecht—Husband, David  
*Sacrament of Baptism*

### February 4—Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Janet Baron—Janet Day & Family

11:00 am (Death Anniv) Betty Eversburg—Friends at St. Vincent de Paul

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

**Blessing of Throats**—St. Blaise Feast Day is Saturday, February 3. There will be a Blessing of Throats following the 4:30 p.m. Mass next week.

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

## Altar Candle Flowers

The flowers this weekend are in memory of Bill Mattozzi by his wife, Linda.

### Readings for the week of January 28, 2024

**Sunday:** Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

**Monday:** 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday:** 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

**Wednesday:** 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

**Friday:** Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**Saturday:** 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34

**Next Sunday:** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39



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Daily: 8:30a-9p  
 Sunday: 8:30a-5p

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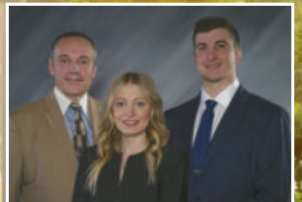
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