

# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

**February 18, 2024**

## Mass Schedule

<b>Saturday</b> 4:30 PM	<b>Tuesday, 8:00 AM</b>
<b>Sunday</b> 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>Friday, 8:00 AM</b>

## Parish Staff

**Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor**  
[mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager**  
[dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dllisovich@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

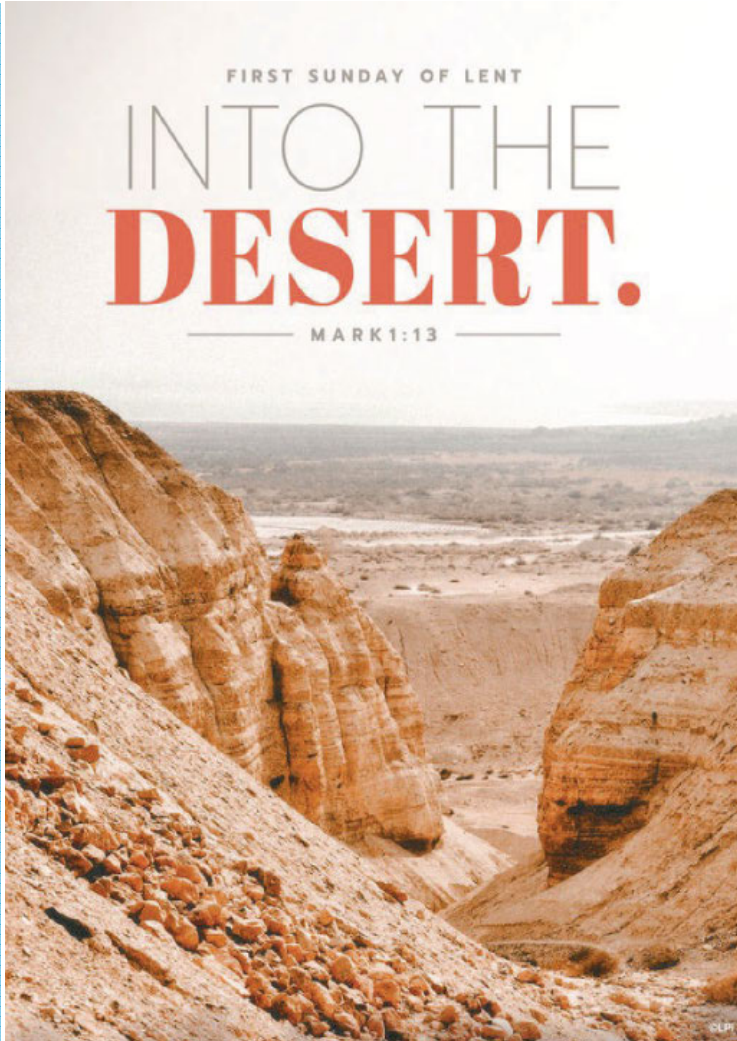
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

## (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.



## 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 Our Journey through Lent



As we embark on another Lenten Journey our thoughts are turned inward to see just how we can become more aware of God’s loving presence. Today our liturgy gives us much food for thought. If we were to take a poll and ask people what their favorite liturgical season is, I would venture to guess that Lent would not be at the top of many lists. However, even those who are somewhat lukewarm in their faith are compelled to do something during Lent.

Through the story of Noah and the flood we can see how humanity was brought low it’s forgetting about God’s covenant and turning to sin. The story of the flood is certainly meant to show us God’s hatred of sin and the corruption which humans have brought upon the goodness of creation. This story is one of hope because the Ark represents the preservation and re-birth of human life after the chaos of sin. The church has used the waters of the flood as symbols of baptism, re-birth, new beginnings. So now at the start of Lent we pause to consider how we have not lived up to our own baptismal vocation as the people of God. At Baptism we were brought into God’s people, and in that rite we were cleansed of sin by God’s grace. Lent gives the opportunity for renewal and for the restoration of our baptismal promises and purity in preparation for Easter.

St. Peter speaks to us about the eminent danger of falling from grace through other influences in life. In his day there was a belief that spirits could influence humans to do evil and sin. He reminds us that as Noah was saved through the water, so Christians are saved through baptism. Jesus in the gospel starts this season with the proclamation that: “The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe.” This sets the tone for our Lent. Lent is about conversion, repenting and turning away from evil. Repentance, which is a total turning of oneself away from evil and toward God, leads to believing, which is a way of embracing God and living in God’s kingdom. Repenting and believing are partners for anyone seriously living the gospel. The challenge, of course is to make repenting and believing more than words on a page, they must become a way of life for us.

Liturgically, the Lenten season is oriented to the celebration of baptism and the sacraments of initiation at the Easter Vigil. It is tempting for us to make Lenten practices the whole task of Lent. I can remember from my childhood that Lent was the time when we had to give up candy, and that was a sacrifice. However, I am not sure that I understood why we did it. Many people still give things up during lent without thinking at all about what it is for.

The bottom line is that we need to focus on the temptations that we face in life. While we become more aware of all those temptations we need to understand that temptation is not a sin. No matter how fiery the passion gets, temptation and testing are not sins. Temptation is an impulse toward getting or gaining something that will give us pleasure. Do temptations come from God? From the devil? From inside of us? Outside of us? There are no clear answers. We know only that we must make choices. Lent is about choices: to give up in order to gain all. We will never escape temptations in life but if we learn to trust in the power that Baptism has brought to our lives, maybe we can make better decisions when confronted with temptation.

## Diocesan Lenten Appeal: “Receive & Share”

If you have not yet received your information on this year’s DLA, you should be getting in in the next few days. Once again as we enter more fully into the season of Lent we are reminded not only of the need for repentance, but also of our Baptismal Commitments to be faithful stewards. Stewardship or sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure is what being a faithful disciple is about. As with many other important parts of life, we often take our faith and our church for granted. We just kind of expect the church to be there when we need it. This cannot happen without your continued support and dedication. First of all, attendance is the absolute number one priority for all of us. It is important not only for ourselves but for the good of one another that we come and be a part of the community. Secondly, we need to assure the vitality and longevity of the Church through our support financially. The DLA affords the opportunity to do this every year. We have a responsibility not only to our own needs, but to help support the Diocese as well.

Our Diocesan goal for this year’s program is set at \$65,057. Our parish goal is set at \$25,000 above that. We will use our portion of the monies to clean the marble wainscoting in the Church.

However, what matters most in this campaign is our participation, for this speaks volumes of us as a parish. We will be sharing more information in the coming weeks about this year’s DLA, but please know how grateful I am to all of you for what you are able to do for our church.

### Stewardship of Treasure—February 11, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	9,635.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	119.83
Votives:	\$	204.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	139.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	124.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	245.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	10.00
Christmas:	\$	20.00
Immaculate Conception:	\$	10.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	5.00
Timeless Love/Faith:	\$	420.00
Lenten Season:	\$	987.00

**Total Feb. 10/11                      \$ 11,918.83**

### C.W.C.C. Scholarship

The 2024 annual Scholarship (\$500.00) of the Catholic Women’s College Club will be awarded to a deserving Catholic senior girl who is a current resident of: Belle Vernon, Bentleyville, California, Charleroi, Donora, Finleyville, Fredericktown, Monessen, Monongahela or Rostraver Twp. and has a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Applications for the award are available at the parish office or guidance offices at Belle Vernon, Bentworth, Beth Center, California, Charleroi, Monessen, Ringgold, Geibel, Serra, Seton LaSalle or Greensburg Central Catholic High Schools. Deadline for the application is March 13, 2024.

**Consider online giving, click the “my Eoffering”  
button on our parish website**

## Heifer Project

Just as a reminder, if you wish to make a contribution to purchasing an "ARK" through Heifer International, you can put it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket. The ARK consists of a collection of animals that will provide an opportunity for people around the world to support not only their families but also help build their communities. To understand what your donations can do, each week I will talk about the animals and how they are used.



**The gift of a Heifer:** Your gift of a heifer means better nutrition and provides milk which is good for you and delicious! But some children never get milk to drink. They don't grow as they should, and they are often sick. A heifer can give as much as four or more gallons of milk a day – enough for a family to drink, make into yogurt or cheese and sell. As an added bonus, each family passes on offspring of their gift animal to another family, and the whole community benefits.



**The gift of a goat:** Did you know that more people rely on goats for milk than cows? They're a great alternative for families who live in rocky mountainous areas, or own little land. Goats often give about four quarts of milk a day – just the right amount if you don't own a refrigerator.

Goat manure makes a fantastic fertilizer for increasing vegetable crop yields, and goats give birth to two kids a year, providing a steady source of income.

## LENTEN FISH FRY

Epiphany of Our Lord Fish Fry is held every Friday during Lent (take out or eat in) from 11 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. with free local delivery between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The Menu includes: Fish, baked or fried, Shrimp, Haluski, Mac & Cheese, Pierogis, Pizza, French Fries, Coleslaw, homemade baked goods and more. Gluten-free items are also available. Good Friday Fish Fry will offer drive thru only. For more information please call 724-684-5512.

*The New Sanctuary Lamp was donated in loving memory of Catherine M. Diederich from her children: Joseph & Roxy, Janemarie & Dave, Linda & Ted, David & Denise.*

## HOMEMADE SAUSAGE SALE

The Holy Name Society will hold a sausage sale on March 26 & 27. All orders must be in by **Saturday, March 9**. Put in your order now to make sure you get it! The sausage will be sold at \$5.50 /lb. Minimum order is 2 lb. per item. All orders MUST be made on the order form.

<u>    </u> LINK	<u>    </u> LOOSE	
<u>    </u> lbs.	<u>    </u> lbs.	Sweet Sausage
<u>    </u> lbs.	<u>    </u> lbs.	Hot Sausage
<u>    </u> lbs.	<u>    </u> lbs.	Hot Hot Sausage

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Orders may be placed by filling out the order form above, placing it in an envelope marked "Sausage Order" and depositing it in the collection basket. To call in your order, or for info, contact Kenny at 724-929-3464. Please make checks payable to the Holy Name Society

## Liturgies of the Week

### February 17—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Michael Hepple—Mom & Dad

### February 18—First Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Andrew A. Krolik—Josie Ondulick

11:00 am Edward Strycholski—Charlie & Renee Couser

### Monday, February 19

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Tuesday, February 20

8:00 am (Date of Birth) David Conn—Family Friends

### Wednesday, February 21

No Mass Today

### Thursday, February 22

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Friday, February 23

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Catherine M. Diederich—Children

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, February 24—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm James "Mac" McKeivitt—John Imbrogno Family

### February 25—Second Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 am (Date of Birth) Nancy Trilli—Daughter, Karen Trilli

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

**BIBLE STUDY**—Looking for something "extra" do for Lent? Consider joining us as we explore the biblical roots of the Mass. The words, the gestures, and rituals of the Mass are rich in meaning. This fascinating tour of the Mass will renew your faith and deepen your love for and devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

### A Biblical Walk Through The Mass

**Tuesdays beginning February 20, 2024 from 6:00-7:30pm**

The Study Set cost is \$25 which includes 5 sessions, book, and workbook. For more information or to register please contact the parish office at 724-929-9300 or Email Sherry at: [sam626@zoominternet.net](mailto:sam626@zoominternet.net). We hope you can join us!

**Baptism Congratulations**—To **Everett Henry Hatala**, son of Nicholas and Chelsea (Greer) Hatala, who was baptized in Christ on February 3. We welcome Everett into the Church and into our parish family. God bless him and his family.

### Readings for the week of February 18, 2024

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19 (116:9)/Rom 8:31b-34/Mk 9:2-10



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**MARK E. RAMSIER**

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