



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

February 25, 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

Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager

dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation

smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music

ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary

ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary

dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Baptism Preparation

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

Religious Education/Formation

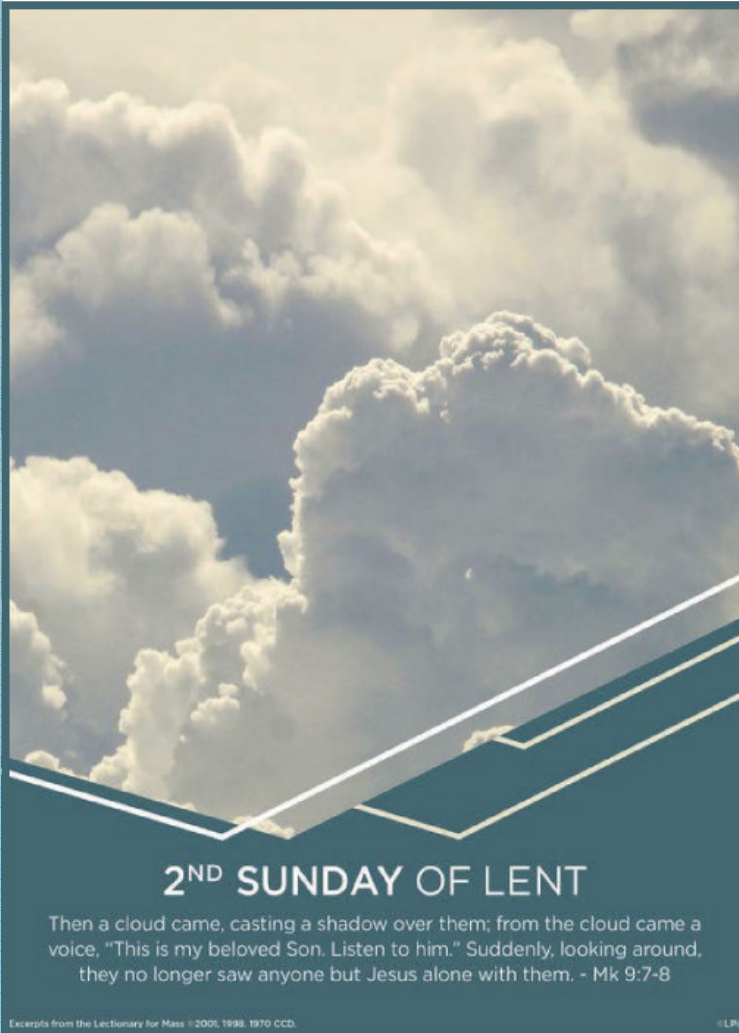
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(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.



2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

Then a cloud came, casting a shadow over them; from the cloud came a voice, "This is my beloved Son. Listen to him." Suddenly, looking around, they no longer saw anyone but Jesus alone with them. - Mk 9:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass © 2001, 1988, 1970 CCC. © L.P.

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



From the Pastor
Listening to God's Voice



This second Sunday of Lent presents us with the familiar story of Abraham prepared to sacrifice his only son. Although this story is hard to understand with Yahweh even asking Abraham to entertain such action, it is layered with deeper meanings that we need to carry with us in life. It is easy for us to see the parallel of Abraham sacrificing his son with Jesus being offered up by God. In the first scenario it is the love of God which eventually saves Isaac, Abraham's "beloved son." In the second, it is God's vast love that allows his "Beloved Son" to be sacrificed for all people. The common thread that can be clearly seen in both is the all-encompassing power of God's love.

Rather than lose our thought on why Yahweh would ever ask such a task from Abraham, we need to focus our attention on the faith that allowed Abraham to hear, let alone follow the voice of God. It was because of his great faith and belief in God's goodness that he was given a promise of a lasting heritage. Sometimes I wonder what would have happened if Abraham ignored God's voice and did not respond to God's request. It was his faith that allowed him to trust in God. It was his faith that gave him the courage to venture forward not knowing how things would turn out.

We can learn an awful lot from the example of faith that Abraham shows us. How well do we even listen to God let alone follow through with action? What a leap of faith it must have been for Abraham to be willing to sacrifice so much. As we look at our lives today we need to ask ourselves how far are we willing to go to respond to God's voice, what are we willing to sacrifice?

From our gospel reading this week we see how the disciples reacted when they heard the voice of God. They wanted to hold onto that moment and not move from the mountain. We all have mystical moments in life when we can feel God's presence, and we too would like to hold onto those moments. We learn from Abraham that we must have faith in God when God speaks to us but that we must also respond; we simply cannot just do nothing. We cannot stay on top of the mountain like the Disciples wanted to. We cannot hold onto God and try to keep God locked up in some remote place. God must be found in the everyday routine of our lives, at the foot of the mountain where we live. It is there that we must "listen to him."

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

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

By now, everyone should have received from the Diocese their information along with a pledge card for this year's DLA. I do believe that the letter explains this year's campaign very clearly along with our goal amounts. Lent is not only a time for penance and prayer, but it is also a time to look at our Alms Giving. If we look around the world and see all of the suffering and pain that people are going through, it makes our freedom even more of a blessing. We all need to embrace just how fortunate we have it in life. We can worship however and whenever we want; this is not so for many people around the world. All of us need to be grateful for the Church we have and the Diocese which provides so much support to all of us. I am asking that you prayerfully consider making a gift to this year's DLA. Not only do you provide an opportunity for people around our Diocese to continue being able to worship in their churches, but you also are helping our parish as well. If you have any questions or issues with this year's DLA, please feel free to let me know.

Stewardship of Treasure—February 18, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,763.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	121.00
Votives:	\$	381.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	10.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	1,512.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	137.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	10.00
Home Mission:	\$	666.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	35.00
Lenten Season:	\$	993.00

Total Feb. 17/18 \$ 10,628.00

Flowers for the Paschal Candle & Altar/Candle Ring

If you would like to have flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please contact the Parish Office. Flowers for the Paschal Candle are \$100, and flowers for the Altar Candle Rings are \$100 for the pair.



EPIPHANY OF OUR LORD—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.**

LINK	LOOSE	
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Sweet Sausage
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Hot Sausage
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Hot Hot Sausage

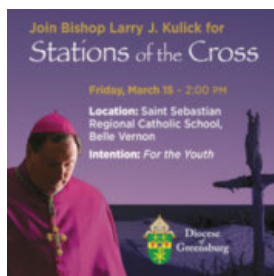
Name: _____

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**.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Bishop Larry J. Kulick will join students from Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School on Friday, **March 15**, at 2:00 p.m. for Stations of the Cross. During the stations, Bishop Kulick's intention will be for our youth.



Looking for a Powerful Lenten Devotion?



Come join St. Sebastian Ladies of Faith on Saturday, **March 16**, at 1:00 p.m. for a unique presentation of Mary's Way of the Cross. Everyone is welcome to this profound Lenten Reflection at St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon, followed by a reception in the Parish Hall.

Friday Stations of the Cross

Remember we pray the stations at 6:00 pm every Friday during Lent. You also have the opportunity to pray the stations at 12:00 Noon at Epiphany on Fridays.

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.

Gift of a Buffalo: *The Water Buffalo is certainly any farmer's friend! Thai farmers respectfully refer to the water buffalo as "the farmer's friend" because the animal provides the draft power that makes rice cultivation practical, particularly in remote areas. For farmers in Thailand and others throughout Asia, the huge animals provide high-protein milk for families and organic fertilizer for their farms. In the verdant, rugged mountains of the Philippines, farmer Bagwan and his wife Loge remember the days before Heifer International helped them obtain a water buffalo. "We had to do everything manually, even till our land," he and other barefoot villagers used sharpened sticks to prepare mountain rice paddies for planting. The arduous labor left the villager exhausted, often nursing bruised and bleeding feet. Hand planting produced barely enough rice to love on. "Today our water buffalo has improved the lives and health of our family," he said. Water buffalo allow subsistence-level farmers to harvest four times what they can produce by hand-planting.*



Liturgies of the Week

February 24—Vigil

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

Monday, February 26

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, February 27

8:00 am Donna Bitonti—Don & Judy Mitchell

Wednesday, February 28

No Mass Today

Thursday, February 29

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, March 1

8:00 am Eleanor Dastolfo—Mary Jane & Frances Sobek

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 2—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Sarah Bednarczyk—Children

March 3—Third Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Genevieve Ward—Gloria Raetano

11:00 am Celia C. Matesich—Joanne & Ed Wiggins

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: SANDRA DAVIS, FRANCES A. SOBEK, and MARY BETH SECLETER. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

Ladies of Faith will meet on Thursday, **March 7** in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet on Wednesday, **March 6**, at 11:00 am and again at 6:30 pm in the Parish Center. For information call Joannie Brown at 412-657-7880.

Readings for the week of February 25, 2024

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

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42



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