



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

February 11, 2024

Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:30 PM	Tuesday, 8:00 AM
Sunday 9:00 AM 11:00 AM	Friday, 8:00 AM

Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor
mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager
dlisovich@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.



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

We are called to touch the Lepers

I don't know about you, but when I hear from the scriptures how some people of society were treated, it seems that God's presence is nowhere near. This week we hear about how people suffering with leprosy were shunned by the people of society and they were absolutely cut off from all that was important to them. This included not only their family and friends but also the freedom to worship God. They were considered unclean and that was how they were to live their lives. Our readings reveal a lot about the fears of the society from which it sprang. Scripture is supposed to lead us to conversion of heart and mind, not used as an excuse to exclude people in life.

It is very easy for us to look back and find fault with how people were treated in the past, but if we are to be led to conversion ourselves, we need to look at life today and see just how we treat one another. The question we need to ask ourselves today is: who are the lepers of our society, and just how do we "mark" them? It is good for us to look at what Jesus did in the gospel today. Imagine the sense of alienation and isolation that drives this leper to kneel before Jesus and beg to be made clean. Jesus responds to this outpouring of emotion with deep feelings of his own and then does the unimaginable: he reaches out and touches the leper. This touch must have required great compassion on the part of Jesus, so much so that it took precedence over the law and Jesus' own risk of ritual impurity. The leper is healed and then admonished to show himself to the priest in fulfillment of the law, in order to regain ritual purity and be restored to the worship of the community. It is through the example of both Jesus and the leper that we learn about what it means to be a true disciple. Through the actions of Jesus we learn to reach out to the outcasts in life and like the leper, we proclaim the good news of what Jesus has done.

There are few laws of legal purity in our society but still many taboos and fears surround health and cleanliness. Even in our own church many people will not receive communion from the cup for fear of germs, even though health officials say the chances of catching a disease from a shared cup are far less than taking public transportation. The same can be seen with the greeting of peace. Many simply will not shake hands with their neighbor for fear of contamination, so we cannot be too harsh on the people of Israel.

As well as making the leper well again, Jesus confronts an attitude. He defies the prejudices of society. Our society is still full of narrowness and prejudice; there is still a lot of religious elitism about who can and cannot be saved, who does and does not belong in a particular church. We are disfigured in many ways as a society. We refuse to confront the evils of poverty and lack of medical care for millions of people, capital punishment, abortion on demand, international disputes and enormous gaps between the rich and poor. These are the "sores" that infect our society. Like Jesus we are to extend that gentle touch of healing and peace. The healing presence of Jesus can touch and mend the torn fabric of our society if only we take his example and not be afraid to touch in life.



MONTHLY OVERVIEW—Listed below is a breakdown of what our monthly expenses were as opposed to the amount of money taken in. We will be providing this to you on a monthly basis.

Jan. Expenses	Amount
Maintenance	\$ 150.00
Electric	\$ 726.67
Gas	\$ 1,036.15
Other Utilities	\$ 194.35
Misc. Office	\$ 3,789.72
Church/Liturgy	\$ 180.00
Payroll	\$ 24,404.99
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 16,903.08
(Breakdown)	
Accent	\$ 659.60
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,384.47
Dio. Assessment	\$ 3,729.27
Insurance	\$ 3,477.24
Data Processing	\$ 35.00
Increased Offertory Campaign	\$ 2,617.50
Total	\$ 47,384.96

Week	Collection
Dec. 31	\$ 10,322.25
Jan. 7	\$ 9,444.00
Jan. 14	\$ 9,096.00
Jan. 21	\$ 7,011.25
Jan. 28	\$ 9,778.60
Elec. Offerings	\$ 4,962.72
Total	\$ 50,614.82



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

Stewardship of Treasure—February 4, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$ 7,214.36
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 54.00
Votives:	\$ 127.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 38.00
Good Friday:	\$ 3.00
End of Year Donation:	\$ 100.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 30.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 359.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$ 11.00
Eastern Europe:	\$ 543.00
Lenten Season:	\$ 170.00

Total Feb. 3/4 **\$ 8,649.36**

Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

Next weekend we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. We are asked to provide material support and spiritual aid to Dioceses in the United States and its territories that are unable to provide pastoral services without assistance from sources other than their own. We may be surprised to learn or to be reminded that 40% of the Dioceses in the United States are considered to be "home mission dioceses," that is, almost half of our Dioceses cannot support themselves without outside assistance. These Dioceses share several characteristics – small Catholic populations dispersed over a large geographical territory, economic challenges due to unemployment and migration, and diminishing populations due to members of the population leaving for urban areas. It is true that at various times our parishioners and other residents of the Diocese have struggled economically and financially, but we are still able to provide many basic services to the population of the Diocese of Greensburg. We can show our solidarity with our fellow Catholics in the United States through a generous sharing of our resources and prayers.

Lent Begins this week

With Ash Wednesday this week we begin the Season of Lent. There are many ways that we can use these weeks to grow closer to God's goodness and become more aware of just how blessed we are. Going to Daily Mass is a wonderful way of making the Eucharist a center of your life.

We celebrate Ash Wednesday with Mass at 10 am & 6 pm and a service at 4:00 pm.

Mass is celebrated Mon. and Thurs. at Epiphany, and Tues. and Fri. here at St. Sebastian.

Our fish fry will start on Ash Wednesday, and continue throughout the Friday's of Lent, 11:00 until 6:00 at Epiphany.

On Friday's of Lent we will pray the stations together beginning at 6:00 pm.

I hope that you will be able to participate in some of our activities.

Remember that Ash Wednesday is a day of Fast and Abstinence and that all of the Friday's during Lent are days of fast.

When attending devotions at St Sebastian, please refrain from parking in the Auto Clinic's lots. Be considerate of our neighbors and their patrons."



Stewardship—During the Lenten season we focus on our Stewardship and how we share with people who are less fortunate than we are. We will once again this Lent participate with the Heifer International in providing families with ways to sustain themselves and build their communities. It is the goal of Heifer International to achieve a goal of helping 4 million families to secure a living income. Over the past years, we have helped in making this goal come to fruition.

Each week you will be able to purchase animals that will be given to families to use in building a secure life for themselves and the communities they live in. It will be our goal for Lent to purchase an entire ARK of animals. If you wish to make a contribution, simply put it in an envelope and mark it Heifer.

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

By now you should have all received your information about this year's DLA. As we begin this season of repentance, we are all called to make changes in our lives that will make us more faithful to our Baptismal Commitments. Stewardship or sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure is what being a faithful disciple is about. As a parish we have a responsibility not only to our own needs, but to help support the Diocese as well. This year our Diocesan goal is set at \$65,057, and our parish goal is \$25,000 over that. This year with the money we raise over and above the diocesan goal, we are going to clean and polish the wainscoting in the church. This will be a major undertaking so I ask that you please respond the campaign as generously as you can. However what matters most in this campaign is our participation, for this speaks volumes of us as a parish. I am hoping to get a much better participation this year. 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.

Liturgies of the Week

February 10—Vigil

4:30 pm Linda Rodriguez—Lunch Buddies

February 11—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

11:00 am Virginia & Thomas Abbott—Daughter, Carole Wassilchalk & Family

Monday, February 12

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, February 13

8:00 am In Honor of Lidia Salvino's 100th Birthday—Daughter, Nancy & Family

Ash Wednesday, February 14

10:00 am School Mass

4:00 pm Service with Distribution of Ashes

6:00 pm (Date of Birth) Bernard Gorski—Cliff & Kim Gorski & Family

Thursday, February 15

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, February 16

8:00 am Elizabeth "Betty" Fundy—Bob & Sharon Niccolai & Family

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, February 17—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

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

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: DOROTHY E. RODGERS and ROSA BORRIELLO. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.



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. We hope you can join us!

Boy Scout Sunday—Today we celebrate Boy Scout Sunday at Saint Sebastian Church during the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Fest—The Belle Vernon Rotary is holding their annual Pancake Fest this Tuesday, **February 13**, from 11:30 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. in our Parish Hall. The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. Tickets can be purchased at the door or from a Rotary member.



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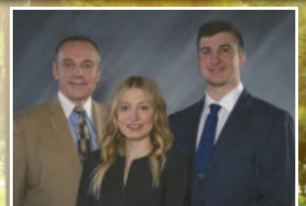
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