



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

February 4, 2024

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:32-34

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

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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

Mrs. Tiffany Miller: School Business Manager
tmiller@ssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ ssbv.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

Keeping Life and it's suffering in perspective!

Keeping a good perspective on things in life can be a most rewarding gift. We make little things into such big issues that it literally overshadows everything, we feel

overwhelmed and at times even lost. Today we are given a gentle reminder of what we can do to avoid such feelings.

We start our Liturgy of the Word off with a reading from the book of Job, which is a book that captures the dilemma of what it means in life to suffer. It is through Job's misery that we can see the amazing healing work of Christ in the gospel. Job reminds us all that evil does not have to be disease or possession or even systemic evil, but can include the drudgery and burdens of daily life. It is the far reaching power of Jesus to save, that can help us to cope and keep us from allowing our suffering to grow out of perspective until that is all we are able to see.

St. Paul in the second reading reminds us that he is free to choose to live the gospel or not, and once he freely chooses to preach the gospel then all of life takes on a new meaning. St. Paul informs us that what he does is for the glory of Christ; everything that he speaks and all the works that he does is for the wonder of God. The question that Paul gives us is one that needs to be repeated every day. How do we in our personal lives accommodate ourselves to the needs of others and far more importantly, what is our motivation for even caring for others? If what we are and what we do is not rooted in the love that God has for us, then we need to re-think our motivations. This brings us right smack into the ministry that Jesus invites us all to be a part of.

Like those in the gospel who come to Jesus for healing, we all come to Jesus with expectations. The challenge is to move beyond our expectations to what Jesus really wants to give us – the Good News of salvation. Jesus' presence to us today and his healing hand do not assure us that we will never suffer. Human life is full of suffering and it is the Good News of Jesus that assures us of having the strength to keep our suffering in perspective. Jesus assures us that suffering belongs to this life but this is not all there is to life.

We can seek out Jesus because he is a wonder-worker, and we can try to have him stay with us because we so enjoy his presence. We can call him Lord, Savior, and Brother. **But we must also live the full implications of those terms.** In this case it means the necessity of sharing the good news with others. Otherwise, we are fashioning a new messiah to our own tastes and liking, and failing to achieve that prayerful appreciation of who Jesus really is and what he challenges us to be. It is when we are able to recognize and embrace the healing gift of Jesus that is with us always that we are able to keep a perspective on all of life.



Stewardship of Treasure January 28, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	8,667.60
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	289.00
Votives:	\$	271.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	221.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	140.00
Church Central Europe:	\$	50.00
Lenten Offering:	\$	50.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	20.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	<u>70.00</u>

Total Jan. 27/28 \$ 9,778.60

Mardi Gras

At Epiphany we celebrate a Mardi Gras, and a part of the celebration is the burning of the palm branches from last year. If you have any "old" palms at your house, bring them in and I will see that they get burned. I then use the burnt palms for ashes the next day.

Please know that you are certainly invited to the celebration. We begin at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, **February 13th** and we conclude the celebration with the burning of the palms. It is a nice way to begin the season of lent. If you are free, please know that you are most welcome!



Purse Bash



The purse bash will be held on Sunday, **April 28** from 2 p.m.—5 p.m. in the Epiphany Church Hall. Join us for a fun afternoon, but tickets are limited. Tickets are \$35 and will be sold in the back of the church after Masses next weekend, **February 10 & 11**. For more information contact Kathy Imbrescia at 412-996-0775.

Readings for the week of February 4, 2024

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

Monday: 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13/Ps 132:6-7, 8-10/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30/Ps 84:3, 4, 5 and 10, 11/Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 10:1-10/Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: 1 Kgs 11:4-13/Ps 106:3-4, 35-36, 37 and 40/Mk 7:24-30

Friday: 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19/Ps 81:10-11ab, 12-13, 14-15/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-20, 21-22/Mk 8:1-10

Next Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

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



The season of Lent will be starting in a week and a half on **February 14th**. It seems like we just finished putting away all of our Christmas decorations and here we are getting ready for Lent. The

season of Lent offers all of us an opportunity to draw deeper into the mystery of Christ's love for us. It is not always the fasting or sacrificing that we do, it is becoming more aware of the simple fact that we are loved by God. That is the real gift of the season.

We always seem to look for more things to do for Lent, but the Church avails to us the opportunity to grow closer the mystery of Christ's love through our participation of the Mass as well as the Stations of the Cross. Both of these gifts of the season afford us the opportunity to grow closer to the love of Christ and help us better celebrate the gift of Easter.

We celebrate the Mass daily and the Stations of the Cross are prayed on Fridays during Lent. It is a blessing to be able to participate in these. Offering up something during these 40 days also helps us to be aware of Christ's great love, we all certainly can do something like this for Lent.

Below is listed the times for services for Ash Wednesday:

8:00: Mass at Epiphany

10:00: Mass at St. Sebastian (with the school)

12:00: Service at Epiphany

4:00: Service at St. Sebastian

6:00: Mass at St. Sebastian

A Journey of What We Believe and Why We Believe It...

We live in a world where faith and church have taken on different dimensions. Fifty years ago, we would believe a truth simply on matters of faith, today however, we need to be a little clearer on what we believe and why we believe. It is a lot more involved than simply sitting down and learning from a Catechism. There are many people who are truly searching for ways to help them meet their spiritual needs, and to identify with a church or community of faith. When we look at how we all learned our faith, we can readily agree that we probably all went about it differently. Whether we went to a Catholic school or learned during religious formation classes, the most memorable faith sharing moments came from our family. It was by watching, experiencing and living our faith that we truly learned about the ways of God and how God operates through the Church. People become the most effective means of communicating the love of God. We simply cannot learn that from a book of any kind. For FOUR Monday evenings during Lent we will look at the teachings of our Church: where they came from and why we believe. Each week I will publish what we will be going over so if it interests you, you are most welcome to come. We will meet on **Monday evenings on the 19th and 26th of February** and the **4th and 11th of March** in the Hall of Epiphany. Please know all are welcome to come.



Liturgies of the Week

February 3—Vigil

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

February 4—5th 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

Monday, February 5

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany Of Our Lord

Tuesday, February 6

8:00 am Elaine Andras—Slovak Catholic Sokol, Group 6

Wednesday, February 7

No Mass Today

Thursday, February 8

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, February 9

8:00 am (Date of Birth) B. Anthony Bury—Grandma

Saturday, February 10—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

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

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

FIRST EUCHARIST

Parents/Guardians of children who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Eucharist are to attend a meeting on Monday, **February 12**, at 6:30 p.m. in St. Sebastian Parish Hall.



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation candidates are to return their "Diocesan Information Sheet" when they attend the Confirmation **Retreat** on Sunday, **February 18**. The Retreat begins with the 9:30 a.m. Mass at St. John the Baptist Church, Perryopolis. If you do not have a copy please call the Parish Office 724-929-9300. (Please make sure you have included the Confirmation name chosen on this form.)





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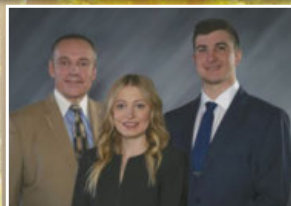
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