

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

March 3, 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 Monday of every month. Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

Religious Education/Formation

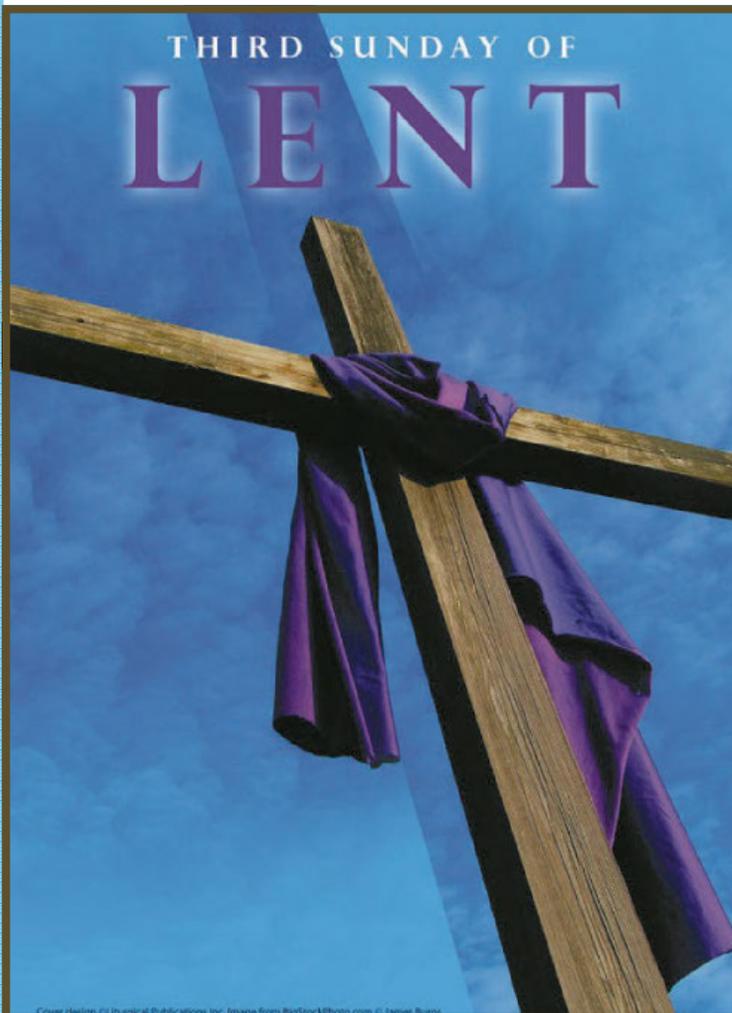
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(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 any-time 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

A Cleansing of our Hearts



Today our liturgy is packed with violence as well as the very laws that were given to protect people from violence. It seems that we are presented with yet another contradiction in the message of Jesus. Here is a man who most often shows us the extreme example of what it means to live a peaceful life losing his temper and exhibiting a great deal of violence directed at a number of people. Jesus is cleansing the temple alright, but why is he doing it in such a violent manner? Try to imagine yourself inside that temple, going about your own business when all of a sudden Jesus freaks. I am sure that it was unsettling to say the least.

Why was Jesus so angry? Was it because there were people in the temple taking advantage of others? Were people taking advantage of a sacred space for their own gain? Was it because Jesus was far more concerned with justice rather than sacrifice? It is probably a little of all these reasons. Were the people really doing something wrong? Was not the temple the “safe” place to offer sacrifice and do commerce? So, why did Jesus all of a sudden object to what had been happening in the temple for hundreds of years. It is obvious that he wanted the people to understand he was claiming absolute authority over the Temple, that his risen body would become the central shrine that would replace the Temple.

We as Christians do not like violent images of Jesus. When we think of Jesus we like to do so as that gentle man who sat peacefully on the mountain giving his life changing sermon, or the individual who beckoned the children to come to him. We don't mind seeing Jesus feeding the 5,000 or raising someone from the dead. These are all peaceful images of how we like to imagine Jesus. However, the man brandishing the whips and cords doesn't necessarily sit well with us.

Life as we live it has an awful lot of violence to it. As we see Jesus reacting so violently we are confronted to the violence within ourselves, or at least the potential of violence. We are confronted in the same way that the love of Jesus may be lacking in us. We react to violence in a number of ways. Often we tend to take out our rage and anger on someone or something else exhibiting passive aggressive behavior. Or, we can embrace a mass amount of guilt and take on the responsibility for the evil in life making ourselves to blame. However, the real meaning of violence lies somewhere between these two extremes. It is good for all of us to probe the meaning of violence in our own lives as well as in our nation.

Not all anger need explode into violent behavior. There is a certain violence in the way we speak of other people who are different from us, the ways we use power to exploit the weak, the ways we are silent in the face of massive injustice, the ways in which people in leadership lie to us and their lies lead to violence. There is violence in any behavior that de-humanizes people. Jesus did purify the temple, maybe to show us how during lent we all need to purify the temples of our hearts.

Receive and Share with 2024 Diocesan Lenten Appeal

The 2024 Diocesan Lenten Appeal is offering parishioners throughout the Diocese of Greensburg a chance to “Receive and Share” for their faith community. The Lenten season is a reminder that Christ is the light in our lives and this is an opportunity to “Be the Light” for those in need. There is a way to help by supporting the 2024 Diocesan Lenten Appeal. Even a small gift can make a big difference in our parish. Donate to the “Receive and Share” campaign to support God’s work that is being done in our Diocese.

Thus far we have only heard from 5 of our parishioners and they have pledged \$4,600, we have miles to go!

I am asking that you please consider being a part of the DLA this year, any gift no matter how large or small will make a difference. If you have any questions about this years’ DLA, please know that I am available to answer them.

Stewardship of Treasure—February 25, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,076.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	941.00
Votives:	\$	355.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	150.00
The Ark:	\$	380.00
Home Missions:	\$	77.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	195.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	30.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	6.00
Eastern Europe:	\$	5.00
Lenten Season:	\$	965.00

Total Feb. 24/25

\$ 10,180.00

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

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.



C.W.C.C. Scholarship

The 2024 Scholarship (\$500.00) of the Catholic Women’s College Club is for a deserving Catholic senior girl with a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Applications are available at the parish office or at the guidance offices at their High Schools. Deadline for the application is March 13.

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.

For more information please call 724-684-5512.

Matters of Sexual Misconduct Information

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — please contact PA ChildLine immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop’s Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop’s Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, ext. 1221.

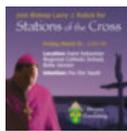
Reconciliation

Our region offers the following opportunities for Reconciliation:

St. Sebastian & Epiphany at St. Sebastian, **March 9, 12:00 pm**
 Church of St. Anne, Rostraver, **March 18—6:30 pm**
 Holy Family, West Newton, **March 20—6:30 pm**
 St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis, **March 21—6:30 pm**



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.

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.

Filling the ARK!

Many people have asked what animals go into filling up an ARK and how much are they. Here is a breakdown of those animals and the cost:



1 Sheep, \$120; Trio of Rabbits, \$60; Pig, \$120; Ox, \$250;
 Goat, \$120; Beehive, \$30; Flock of Geese, \$40;
 Flock of Chicks, \$25; Trio Guinea Pigs, \$60;
 Water Buffalo, \$250; Cow, \$800;

Trio of Ducks, \$25; Donkey, \$400; Camel, \$450; Llama, \$150

There are two of each of these animals that go on each ARK bringing the total cost of an ARK to \$5,000.00.

We are off to a good start at getting our ARK filled! I am reporting the animals that were put on the ARK this week. Because of your generosity we were able to board:

1 Water Buffalo and 1 Pig

Remember if you wish to make a donation, simply put it in an envelope and drop it into the collection.

Gift of a Lama: Domesticated by the Incas 6,000 years ago and selectively bred for their gentle nature and fine fiber, llamas appear intelligent and serene. They play a pivotal role in the cultural life of indigenous communities on the high plains of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru. Women weave fleece into warm clothing to wear or sell. They load them up with goods for market and trek with them across rugged slopes at high altitudes. As they travel, llamas' padded feet do not damage the fragile terrain and their selective browsing doesn't destroy sparse vegetation.



Gift of Bees: The way bees work together is a lesson for us all. They produce food, care for the young, recycle waste and create an effective, efficient community. They pollinate fruits, flowers and vegetables in the process – a benefit for us all. Bees can as much as double some fruit and vegetable yields. A package of Heifer International bees and a hive give a family better crops, candle wax, pollen for medicine and honey to eat and sell.



Liturgies of the Week

March 2—Vigil

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

Monday, March 4

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, March 5

8:00 am Niccolai & Thot Families—Bob & Sharon Niccolai & Family

Wednesday, March 6

No Mass Today

Thursday, March 7

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, March 8

8:00 am Minnie Hauth—Family

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 9

12:00 pm **Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Saturday, March 9—Vigil

4:30 pm Edna Patricia Garnic—Garnic Family

March 10—Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Josephine Bacha—Family

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish



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

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this 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.

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

The Holy Family relief on the back wall of the church was donated in loving memory of Mike & Vi Mendicino.

Christian Families

The Christian Families from Jerusalem will be here at our parish over the weekend of **March 17 – 18**. With all that is going on in their country, they can really use our support!

Readings for the week of March 3, 2024

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

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3,4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14



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