



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

March 17, 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

Ms. Lynn Rusnak Maintenance

lrusnak@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Baptism Preparation

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

Religious Education/Formation

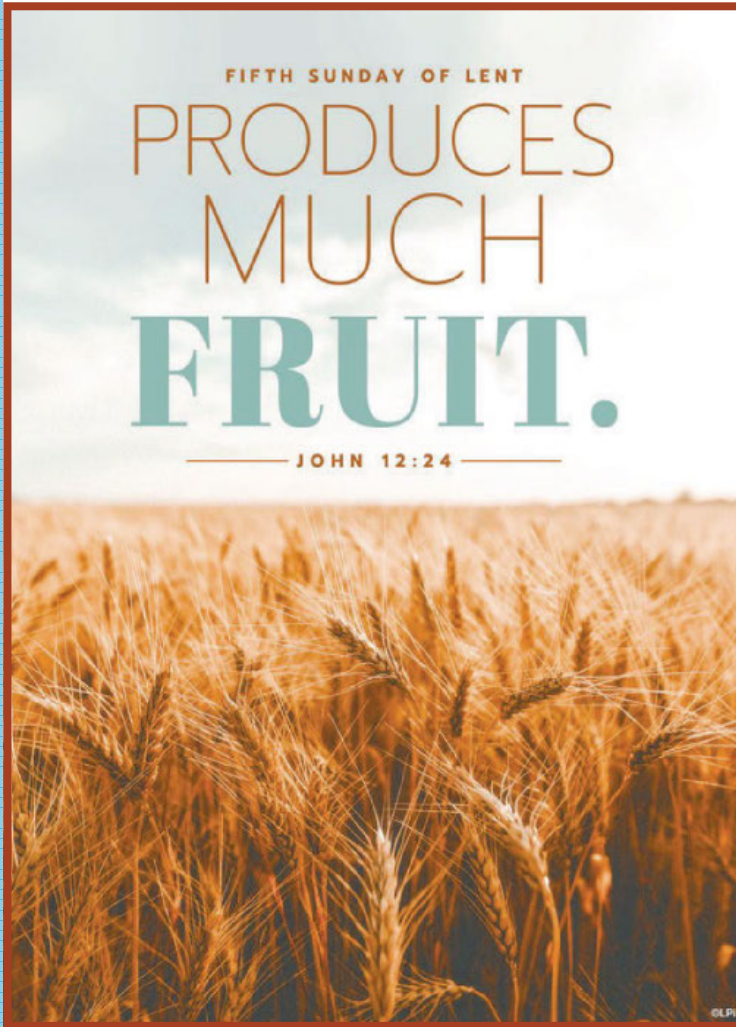
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(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 Like a Grain of Wheat...



With only two weeks left to this Lenten season, our focus is starting to turn to death and rebirth. Lent is not just a season for our own personal spiritual growth; it is a time of renewal for the whole church. All over the world, men and women are using these last weeks to prepare themselves to be reborn through Baptism and sustained through the Eucharistic table. It is a time of birth for the Church universal, we all rejoice in the newness that Easter brings.

If we were to look honestly at our lives, we would probably have to agree that an awful lot of our behavior, attitudes and opinions are based on past behavior or experiences. There are things in all of our lives that we would just as soon let go of, but too often we carry way too much of our past with us and it does affect our present, not always in a positive way. In the first reading today Jeremiah is reminding the people of Israel as well as all of us that God will make a new covenant. Not one that is written on stone tablets but instead, in our hearts. This new covenant is all about relationships in life; ours with God, as well as with one another. This new covenant which God offers to us is one of love, which puts us in a seat of responsibility, one to another.

This covenant is given birth within us at our Baptism. It is through those cleansing waters of our Baptism that we are brought into this new covenant. It is through our Baptism that we are forever bound to God. This covenant which is written within our hearts calls each of us to spend our lives in service of the God who made us through our service or relationship to one another. Jesus in the gospel tells us exactly how this is to be done.

Today we hear from the last gospel of John before the Passion and death of Jesus. In this selection we are given the analogy of being like a grain of wheat. Jesus is facing his own mortal end and is in anguish over what he was going to have to deal with. As much as he would have like to turn away and just get on with life, he knew that it was for this purpose that he came. He reminds all of us who are baptized into this new life that we are just like that grain of wheat. In order for it to bear fruit, it must fall to the earth and die. Our lives are just like seeds. Sometimes we have to bury our past to get new life. Sometimes we need to remember the covenant God has made with us not to remember our past transgressions. It is only when we are willing to die, that we can bring forth new life. Dying to self is what a disciple of Jesus is all about.

Just as we are in relationship with God, so too are we in relationship with one another. We must be willing to die, or give of ourselves if we are to be productive in life. A seed will not grow without falling to the earth and dying, and neither can we. It is through the covenant of God's grace that we are able to allow ourselves to die in order to bring forth new life. Like a seed or grain of wheat, we are filled with much potential. We must be willing to die to one way of life in order to bring forth new life. Over the remaining days of this Lenten season, think of the many ways that you have fallen to the earth and died, just to bring forth new life

Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Receive and Share is this year's theme for DLA. As we continue with our own Lenten Journey we are reminded that we are all called to share the many ways our lives have been enriched by God's goodness. As a parish we have been given more blessings than we could ever count. If we look over the years, the people and events that have made us what we are today are truly priceless! As we assume the responsibility to ensure future generations the faith we have received, we are all called to be responsible with the gifts we have. Thus far for this year's campaign we have received: \$30,483 which is 33% of our goal for the year. If you have not yet responded to DLA for this year, won't you please consider doing so? Your gift will make a difference in the program.

Holy Land Collection

The holiest days of our liturgical year are quickly approaching. The Sacred Triduum invites us to enter into the central mysteries of our faith, where we can draw closer to God and find his life and transforming power in our own daily living. Good Friday is the day when we commemorate Christ's death and recall that saving act by which we are purified by his loving mercy upon the Cross. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection is taken for the support of the services and facilities of the Church in the Holy Land. This is a special place where Jesus taught, healed, forgave, and finally suffered, died, and rose for our salvation. As good stewards of this place, we are responsible for the upkeep and preservation for future generations of the faithful. Monies from this collection are also used for the education and social service support of our Christian brothers and sisters in the Holy Land who are desperately in need of our help. The Good Friday Collection will go to help support the Holy Land.

Stewardship of Treasure—March 10, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	8,381.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	55.00
Votives:	\$	229.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	149.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	25.00
Good Friday:	\$	115.00
Easter:	\$	120.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	628.00
Ark:	\$	385.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	91.00
Lenten Season:	\$	492.00

Total Mar. 9/10

\$ 10,670.00



Mother's Day Fundraiser

The Ladies of Faith will be offering vouchers for Hanging Baskets from McShane Florist. You can purchase a Voucher before & after the weekend Masses of **April 6 thru April 21**. The cost is \$20 per flower basket and \$25 per fern basket. Take your voucher to McShane's (date to be announced) and pick up a basket from their selections offered.

Purse Bash—The purse bash will be held on Sunday, **April 28** from 2 p.m.—5 p.m. in Epiphany of Our Lord Church Hall, Monessen. Join us for a fun afternoon, but tickets are limited. Tickets are \$35, and are available in the parish office.



A Service for Holy Week

Believe it or not, next week is Palm Sunday! It is amazing how quickly this month is passing by. As we look at the services of Easter, there is a matter that needs our attention. On Holy Thursday, at the Mass of the Last Supper, I will need people interested in being a part of the Foot Washing. If you are interested please let us know by calling the office or signing up on the list in the back of the Church.



Reconciliation—Penance Services

The Penance services for our region continue. I hope that you will make the effort and take the time to come and share in this sacrament of God's forgiving love.

- March 18: St. Anne's, Rostraver—6:30 pm
- March 19: St. Edward's, Herminie—6:00 pm
- March 20: Holy Family, West Newton—6:30 pm
- March 21: St. John's, Perryopolis—6:00 pm

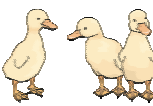
Filling the Ark

At this rate, it won't be long until our ARK is filled! The generosity of our parish is sometimes overwhelming. It is gratifying to see that we are so willing to share what we have with those who have so much less. This week we were able to board:



- I Bee Hive**
- I Llama**
- I Water Buffalo**

There are Still animals who have yet to be placed on the ARK, if you would like to make a donation please put it in the collection basket.



Gift of a Flock of Ducks: This gift of ducks provides families with a starter flock of ducklings. The gift of ducks benefits families by: *Their eggs and protein for nourishment and boost income through sales of ducks, their eggs, feathers and down.*

Ducks are good for the people and for the environment. They rid the area of insects and weeds, and the eggs they lay provide protein for hungry families. Families that begin with a starter flock eventually manage hundreds of ducks. The money earned from selling the ducks and their eggs can afford a family the opportunity to send their children to school.

Gift of a Sheep: The wool sheep provide is a valuable resource, providing warm clothing for families and children living in harsh environments. Entire communities depend on sheep for their livelihood. Donating sheep gifts to a community: *Boosts income through sales of extra wool; Enable families to Pass on the Gift to others quickly; Provides warm clothing for harsh environments.* Sheep can graze the hilliest, rockiest pastures unsuitable for other livestock. They can also provide milk for hungry families. Your sheep donation makes a perfect gift - sheep are adaptable and are able to survive nearly anywhere in the world.



Liturgies of the Week

March 16—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Bill Picchiarini—Wife, Joan & Family

March 17—Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Deceased of the Koury & Pietrowski Families—Family

11:00 am Romaine S. Kerestes—Daughter, Amy

Monday, March 18

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

6:30 pm Penance Service—Church of St. Anne, Rostraver

Tuesday, March 19—St. Joseph

8:00 am Dorothy Rodgers—Marlene Gush

6:00 pm Penance Service—St. Edward, Herminie

Wednesday, March 20

No Mass Today

6:30 pm Penance Service—Holy Family, West Newton

Thursday, March 21

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

6:00 pm Penance Service—St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis

Friday, March 22

8:00 am Catherine M. Diederich—Family

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 23—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Don Ondulick—Dayna Bethem & Merri Hewitt

March 24—Palm (Passion) Sunday

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

11:00 am Edwin "Iggly" & Mary Popelas—Joan Zoppetti & Family

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: AGNES MARY SOPKO. We extend our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.

Ladies of Faith—Grateful thanks to the Ladies of Faith group for their monetary donation to our Church. Thank you all and God bless you.

Readings for the week of March 17, 2024

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39



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