



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

March 24, 2024

HOSANNA!

MARK 11:9

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

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

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

From the Pastor Entering the Passion

All around the world, Christians are remembering the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem with the celebration of Palm Sunday. It is easy for us to allow ourselves to be caught up in the drama of what Holy Week is about. The truth of what we are and what we remember this week characterizes what we believe. It is in and through the death of Jesus that we define what our faith is all about. However, everything we find throughout the scriptures leads us to this week, so it cannot be separated from the rest of our Liturgical year.



We start off this week with a celebration or parade if you will. People are welcoming the man Jesus with triumph and honor. They are celebrating the man for what he was and for what they hoped he would become. In spite of their misunderstanding of what Jesus was all about, the people were drawn in by this event of his entry into Jerusalem; as they struggled with who Jesus really was. Apostles, friends and disciples who should know who Jesus was and what he was about, they were the ones who betrayed, denied and fled. One really has to look at this triumphant celebration and ask: what went wrong? As followers of Jesus the real irony is that only by our own entry into Jesus' dying and rising can we truly discover who he is. Until we do that, we may participate in a nice parade but we haven't a clue where it leads.

It is interesting to take a closer look at the role the women play in the Passion. It has been said that they are like the "bookends" to the drama: we meet them in the beginning and at the end. Regardless of what is going on, it is the women who are always the faithful ones. The men in the story were not very nice, pay attention to the women and learn from them. They have something to tell all of us.

If we pay attention to the passion narrative, we will see that it is basically a story of life. The feelings and behavior of the people involved give us a live perspective of living. There is joy and singing. There is faith, doubt, greed, treachery, false accusations, mockery and jeering. There is the despair of Judas, the lying of Peter, the pride and arrogance of religious and political leaders, betrayal by friends, and the tenderness of the women. Yes, it is all there – life at its best and at its worst. The Passion of Jesus is everybody's story.

Christ showed us by his own way of living and by his ministry that the only way to share in his glory is to die to self by becoming servants and disciples following him to the cross. The only way to enjoy the passionate glory of risen life is to suffer the risk of dying. All of this is something that takes place more than just this once a year. It is the everyday of our ordinary human living: when we choose to respond to another instead of ignoring him or her, having patience rather than snapping, talking things through rather than staying angry. Yes, the paschal mystery unfolds in the little things in life that we turn into big ways to say yes to the Christ in others. This is how we get to know Jesus – by living as he did, by embracing the dying so we rise with him to new life.

Stewardship of Treasure—March 17, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,179.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	163.00
Votives:	\$	269.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	413.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	115.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	458.00
Lenten Offering:	\$	1,019.00
Ark Project:	\$	1,765.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	18.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	30.00
Good Friday:	\$	30.00
Easter:	\$	195.00
Solemnity of Mary:	\$	10.00

Total Mar. 16/17 **\$ 11,664.00**

Paschal Candle & Altar/Candle Ring Flowers

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.



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 are available at the Parish Office.

Mother's Day Flower 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.

Filling the Ark

Heifer Project

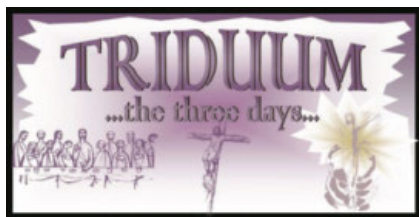
We certainly had a bang up week for filling the ARK! Your generosity certainly did help to board those animals. This week we were able to board:



**1 Beehive; 1 Cow; 1 Donkey;
2 Camels; 1 Goat; 1 Ox;
1 Sheep; 1 Flock of Geese;
1 Trio of Guinea Pigs; 1 Pig;
1 Trio of Rabbits; 1 Trio of Ducks**

We are almost there! There are only a few more animals to board on the ARK...I am confident that we will meet our goal.

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



Three Days

The Triduum celebrates the heart of Christian faith, to which all leads and from which all flows: Jesus' redemptive death and resurrection; related

to the Church year as Sunday is to each week. It begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper and continues through Good Friday and Holy Saturday culminating with the celebration of the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday. We invite you and your families to be as much a part of this year's celebrations as you are able.

Thursday: Chrism Mass 10:00 A.M.

At the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral, the Chrism Mass is when the Bishop along with all of the priests of the diocese blesses and consecrates the Holy Oils that will be used throughout the year. It is also the Mass where the priests of the diocese re-dedicate their ministry to the people of the church as well as to the Bishop.

Thursday: Mass of the Last Supper: 7:00 PM.

Friday: Celebration of the Lord's Passion: 1:00 P.M.

Saturday: Blessing of Baskets: 1:00 P.M.

Easter Vigil: 8:00 PM.

The Mass of the Last Supper

Holy Thursday liturgy marks the institution of the Eucharist. We remember that Jesus gathered with his Disciples for the last time and gave to them, as well as to the future church, this miraculous gift. It is through the presence of the Body and Blood of Christ that we are able to become "Church." An important gift that Jesus gave to the Church is the example of what it means to serve as well as to be served. Through the symbolism of the washing of the feet, Jesus calls each of us to be of service to one another, as well as to be open to being served. As we commemorate what Jesus did for the Disciples through the washing of the feet, **I am asking people to volunteer to have their feet washed. If you would be interested in being a part of this special liturgy, please give us a call at the office.**



Adoration after Liturgy

After the Liturgy on Holy Thursday there will be Eucharistic Adoration. The Blessed Sacrament will be in repose after Mass. As soon as Mass is over the altar will be stripped completely bare. While this is going on, I ask that the people remaining in church maintain decorum of silence and reverence. At 10:00 pm the Blessed Sacrament will be taken from the altar and the church will be empty.



Living Stations of the Cross

A presentation of the Stations of the Cross by the Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School Students will take place on Wednesday, **March 27**, at 11:00 am in the Church. All are invited to attend.



Liturgies of Holy Week

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

March 23—Vigil

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

March 24—Palm Sunday

9:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish
11:00 am Edwin "Iggy" & Mary Popelas—Joan Zoppetti & Family

Monday, March 25

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany Of Our Lord

Tuesday, March 26

8:00 am (Death Anniv) R.J. Sokol—Lynn & Bobby

Wednesday, March 27

No Mass Today

Holy Thursday, March 28

7:00 pm (Death Anniv) Linda Rodriguez—Jack Kerekes

Good Friday, March 29

1:00 pm Celebration of the Lord's Passion

Holy Saturday, March 30

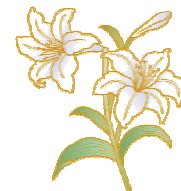
1:00 pm Blessing of Baskets

Saturday, March 30—Vigil

8:00 pm Intention of the Celebrant

March 31—Easter Sunday

9:00 am Intention of the Celebrant
11:00 am Intention of the Celebrant



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

Readings for the week of March 24, 2024

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

Monday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11

Tuesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5ab-6ab, 15 and 17/Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

Wednesday: Is 50:4-9a/Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31 and 33-34/Mt 26:14-25

Thursday: Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 (see 1 Cor 10:16)/1 Cor 11:23-26/Jn 13:1-15

Friday: Is 52:13—53:12/Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 (Lk 23:46)/Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/Jn 18:1—19:42

Saturday: Easter Vigil: Gn 1:1—2:2 or 1:1, 26-31a/Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 (30) or Ps 33:4-5, 6-7, 12-13, 20-22 (5b)/Gn 22:1-18 or 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18/Ps 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 (1)/Ex 14:15—15:1/ Ex 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 (1b)/Is 54:5-14/ Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 (2a)/Is 55:1-11/Is 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/ Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28/Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 (42:2)/Rom 6:3-11/Mk 16:1-7

Easter Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7



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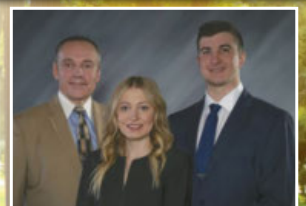
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