



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 14, 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. 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

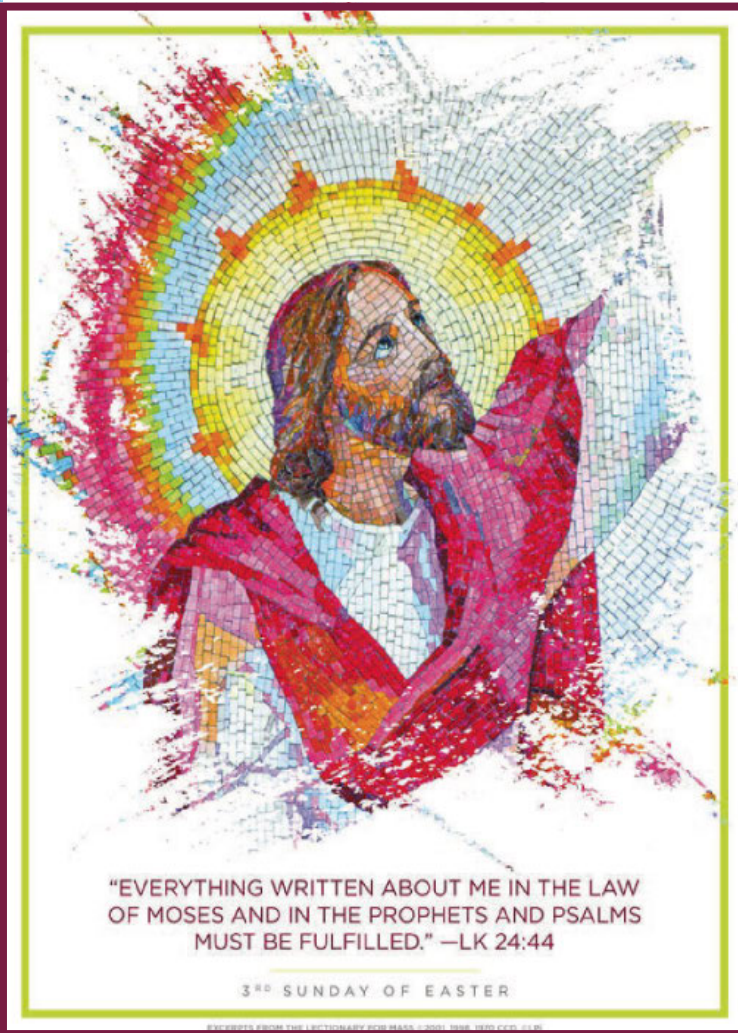
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(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.



"EVERYTHING WRITTEN ABOUT ME IN THE LAW OF MOSES AND IN THE PROPHETS AND PSALMS MUST BE FULFILLED." —LK 24:44

3RD SUNDAY OF EASTER

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

Peace Be With You!



As the Church journeys through this season of Easter we are reminded over and over again what the message of the Risen Lord is all about. The first words that Jesus speaks to his disciples are always: “Peace be with you.” Throughout the years that Jesus taught, the very heart of his message was this greeting. When he sent his disciples out he instructed them: “whatever house you enter greet them with Peace be with you.” As followers of the Lord we are to live by these very words. Simple as they may be, they carry with them a huge commitment.

Sometimes we do not recognize or appreciate nearly enough the little things in life that make the biggest differences. When we talk about being at peace, it is not necessarily the absence of conflict, rather it is a feeling that we get in our hearts. It is this feeling of peace that can make all of the difference in how we live our lives with one another. When we are not at peace with ourselves we certainly are not at peace with the people around us. Jesus brings to us the opportunity to be a part of his peace and when we accept that peace, life takes on a completely different path.

The Gospel for this week gives us the encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus. There are basically three things that Jesus leaves with us from this experience. First of all he greets his disciples with peace, he shares a meal with them and then he teaches them. This becomes the very essence of what we as followers are asked to do.

Some of the early disciples found it difficult to believe in the true meaning of the resurrection and thought that when Jesus appeared, he was only a ghost. St. Luke wants them to understand that Jesus is not a ghost but truly risen from the dead. His risen body bears within it the marks of the five wounds. His eating with them shows that he has a bodily reality and is not just a spirit. After the resurrection, there is continuity with his earthly life.

This week we all could look into our lives and determine just how we bring the Peace of the risen Christ to the people in our world. Peace in our hearts is the best gift God can share with us. Even when we are dealing with stress and the problems of life, if we have peace in our hearts we know we will be ok. Each of us has the power to help bring peace to others’ hearts. Sharing a meal shows us the importance of helping the poor and providing for others with the joy of hospitality. To be a member of the Body of Christ calls us to become that “Christ” on the road to Emmaus. Through our hospitality and the peace we bring, we are helping others to understand what the message of Jesus is all about.

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.

Mar. Expenses	Amount
Maintenance	\$ 200.00
Electric	\$ 725.89
Gas	\$ 978.51
Other Utilities	\$ 57.36
Misc. Office	\$ 1,258.97
Liturgy Expenses	\$ 4,732.61
Payroll	\$ 22,598.86
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 14,685.67
(Breakdown)	
Accent	\$ 545.70
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,384.47
Dio. Assessment	\$ 3,729.27
Insurance	\$ 3,477.24
Data Processing	\$ 548.99
Total	\$ 45,237.87

Week	Collection
Mar. 3	\$ 10,257.60
Mar.. 10	\$ 10,670.00
Mar. 17	\$ 11,664.00
Mar. 24	\$ 11,731.56
January Elec. Offerings	
	\$ 4,764.65
Total	\$ 49,087.81



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

Stewardship of Treasure—April 7, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	9,324.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	114.00
Votives:	\$	71.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	15.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	160.00
Good Friday:	\$	165.00
Easter:	\$	505.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	661.00
Lenten Season:	\$	40.00
Total Apr. 6/7	\$	<u>11,055.00</u>

DLA—As of our last report, we have only heard from 33% of our parishioners for this year’s campaign. From the 654 families that make up our parish only 222 have responded. Sometimes I get tired of repeating myself, but this does not speak well of us as a parish family. Thus far we have collected \$78,799 which is over our Diocesan goal. If you have not yet responded to the DLA for this year, won’t you consider doing so? At this point every donation that we collect will stay 100% in our parish. Again, if you have any questions about this year’s campaign, please feel free to ask me.

Mother’s Day Gift Certificates

Star Nail & Spa are offering \$50 gift certificates for their services: nails, pedicure, and waxing. The owners, parishioners of St. Sebastian, are donating 100% of all proceeds to the Church. Star Nail is located at 825 Broad Ave and can be reached at 724-810-3333. We thank them for their kind generosity. The certificates are available at the Parish Office.

Mother’s Day Fundraiser—The Ladies of Faith is offering vouchers for Hanging Baskets from McShane Florist before & after the weekend Masses **thru April 21**. The cost is \$20 per flower basket/\$25 per fern basket. Take your voucher to McShane’s (date to be announced) to choose a basket from their selections.





Faith Formation

Formation and our Faith

Towards the end of the Lenten Season I announced to you all that we were canceling our Formation for children because of the lack of attendance, and I mentioned to you that after Easter we would begin to discuss and plan just what we will be doing for Formation in the future. Well, now we need to put our efforts together and come up with a plan for just what we are going to do for our children.

First of all, we all need to be aware of the fact that Formation is not just something for our children, it is for all of us. As we look at our church every week we can certainly see the numbers keep falling. This has a domino effect on everything we are about as "Church." If any of you have had a baby baptized, you know how difficult it is to find a "catholic" that can stand as a sponsor, and the same holds for Confirmation. We have more grandparents standing in as sponsors because people are just not going to church. This is what Formation is all about. It is not just getting our children ready for First Holy Communion or Confirmation, it is meant to help form them as members of the Church.

This is not something that can happen in any classroom, we can provide information and practices but it must be reinforced from the family if it is to be successful. Therefore, we can see that Formation is meant for all of us. We all have a responsibility in some way to help pass along our faith to our children.

The Diocese has begun to develop a program to help parishes fulfill their obligations with Formation, so we will have their help. What we will need to do is come up with a program for our children, get adequate staff to run the program and supplemental people to help with the various aspects. This will require the help of many people, so I am asking that you think about what you might be able to do that will help. Along with the class section of Formation, we will also be developing some type of program for our older children as well as our young adults.

There are many ways that you can be involved, all I am asking is that you give it some thought. Between Epiphany and St. Sebastian's we should be more than able to come up with a program that will satisfy all of our needs.

I will have more information about meetings for this program in the coming weeks.

Purse Bash Cookies Needed

Cookie Donations are needed for the "Unique Bake Sale" at the Purse Bash. Please bring your donations to our Parish Office on **Friday, April 26**, 9:30 am- 5:30 pm. The Purse Bash is a joint effort of Epiphany of Our Lord and St. Sebastian Parishes. Tickets are \$35 available at our Parish Office. Doors open at 1:30 pm, Sunday, **April 28th!**

Spaghetti Dinner

The Knights of Columbus/Epiphany Ladies Spaghetti Dinner is on Sunday, **April 21**, 11:30 am - 5:00 pm at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Monessen. Tickets: \$13 for adults, \$9 children under twelve. Take-outs available. Call Dan Harkins at 412-885-0022.

Liturgies of the Week

April 13—Vigil

4:30 pm Joan Picchiarini—Josie Ondulick

April 14—Third Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Helen Zelinski—Sandy Biggins

11:00 am Bill Bergstedt—Aurelia Valdiserri

Sacrament of First Eucharist

Monday, April 15

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, April 16

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Nathan A. Campus—Daughter, Lynn & Family

Wednesday, April 17

No Mass Today

Thursday, April 18

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, April 19

8:00 am Stella Filipowski—Family

Saturday, April 20

10:00 am *Sacrament of Confirmation*

Saturday, April 20—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm Betty Fundy—Ken & Darleen Koury

April 21—Fourth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Sam Suppa, JR.—Wife, Annette & Family

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

Sacrament of Baptism

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

Altar Candle Ring Flowers—This week's Altar Candle Flowers are given in Memory of Joyce Gazdick by Joe & Cathy Gazdick.

First Eucharist

This week we will celebrate the Gift of the Eucharist for the first time with 3 of our children. This is a special time in their lives as they continue their journey of faith. This weekend we share in this joy with:



Bradley Connelly, James Freshwater, Owen Helsick

If you see them, congratulate them as we all share in their Joy!

Celebration of Confirmation

On Saturday, **April 20**, at 10:00 am, St. Sebastian will host our neighboring parishes for the celebration of Confirmation. Following Confirmation, there will be a reception in the Parish Hall.

We will need cookies, veggie and cheese trays for this. Won't you consider baking some cookies or making some other donation for this event? Items may be brought to the Parish Hall on Friday, **April 19** at 6:30 p.m.



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