



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 21, 2024—Fourth Sunday of Easter

## 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](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager**

[dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dllisovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Dean Dellamalva Coordinator of Liturgical Music**

[ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary**

[ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary**

[dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Ms. Lynn Rusnak Maintenance**

[lrusnak@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:lrusnak@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 anytime for an appointment for confession.



## Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

**Mrs. Carole Aiello: Principal**

[caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Ms. Tiffany Zetty: School Business Manager**

[TZetty@sssbv.org](mailto:TZetty@sssbv.org)

**School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143**

**School Website ~ [sssbv.org](http://sssbv.org)**



### *From the Pastor*—We are all the Good Shepherd

Traditionally this Sunday has come to be known as “Good Shepherd” Sunday. The gospel for today portrays Jesus as the Good Shepherd who was willing to lay down his life for his sheep. The notion of sheep and shepherd has profound meaning for the people of Israel and throughout the Hebrew and Christian scriptures they have taken on a very spiritual and profound meaning. The leaders of the church were often referred to as shepherds of the people. This concept was readily understood by the nomadic and agricultural tribes of the Hebrews. For those of us who are not associated with the raising and the importance of sheep, we lose some of the deep personal connections to such images.

If we look at all of the readings for today’s liturgy, we are immediately struck with the conviction that the people had in their beliefs. There was no doubting the love that God has for all people. Sometimes this can be a difficult concept to grasp because we often lose what it means to really be loved. The entire Easter mystery is directed toward bringing home to us how much we are loved, how faithful God is in that love, and how far God goes to show us that love – even to the Son’s laying down his life. This Sunday’s gospel of the good Shepherd is an incredibly reassuring one in which we hear in the metaphor of the good shepherd Jesus’ pledge to continue to care for us and love us just as he loves God and God loves him.

For many people love is a hard emotion to deal with. There are so many people living among us who feel that they just do not deserve to be loved. It is hard to imagine living one’s life without ever knowing what love can mean. Love can transform our lives to a new level, one in which we feel confident and secure. It is that confidence that we hear coming from the disciples as they defend their beliefs.

If we absolutely believed how much we are loved in spite of who we are and what we might be doing in life, it could make all the difference with the choices we make. The twist of the gospel is that Jesus’ being our Good Shepherd doesn’t save us from the hard work of the gospel call – to lay down our lives for the good of others. Today’s gospel is a reassuring one but it also challenges each of us to be good shepherds for each other. When we like Jesus lay down our life, then we, like Jesus, come to new life. The way of the shepherd is the way of the sheep.

The gospel also spells out for us how, as disciples of the risen Christ, we are to lay down our life; by leading, protecting, guiding, knowing, loving. Our Christian living, then, is about relating to others as the Father and Good Shepherd have related to us. This is how we are all “one flock.” This is how we share in bringing salvation to others: by knowing others with the same intimacy and self-giving as God and Jesus know us.

#### Vocation Prayer



Lord Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father and Mary Immaculate, grant to our young people the generosity necessary to follow Your call and the courage required to overcome all obstacles to their vocation. Give the parents faith, love and spirit of sacrifice which will inspire them to offer their children to God’s service and to rejoice whenever one of their children is called to the priesthood and religious life. Let your example and that of Your Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph encourage both young people and parents and let Your grace sustain them. Amen.

-From the dioceses of Sioux Falls and Rapid City

### Stewardship of Treasure—April 14, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,335.26
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	100.00
Votives:	\$	268.55
Catholic Accent:	\$	100.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	305.00
Lenten Season:	\$	30.00

Total Apr. 13/14

\$ 7,138.81

### 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 **this weekend Masses**. The cost is \$20 per flower basket/\$25 per fern basket. Take your voucher to McShane’s (date to be announced the week prior to Mother’s Day) to choose a basket from their selections.



### Geibel Catholic

#### Junior-Senior High School Musical

Geibel Catholic Junior-Senior High School students will present “The Little Mermaid” Saturday, **April 27**, at 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, **April 28**, at 2:00 p.m., at Connellsville Area High School. For tickets, call 724-682-5600 or visit [littlemermaidgeibel.ludus.com](http://littlemermaidgeibel.ludus.com).

### Annual St. Sebastian Junque Sale

This year’s Junque Sale will be held **July 26 & 27**. We will start collecting donations on **April 30** at the Parish Garages on Tuesdays & Thursdays starting from 10 am—12 pm and 6 pm—8 pm. **We are in need of volunteers and anyone needing community service hours.**

We are not accepting clothing, televisions, computers, stereo systems or large furniture. If anyone needs an appointment to donate items, please call Bonnie Halinka at 724-322-0355.

### Purse Bash Cookies Needed

Cookie Donations are needed for the “Unique Bake Sale” at the Purse Bash. Please bring your donations to St. Sebastian 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. The Purse Bash doors open at 1:30 pm, on Sunday, **April 28th** at Epiphany of Our Lord Parish Hall.



### Spaghetti Dinner

The Knights of Columbus/Epiphany Ladies Spaghetti Dinner is this 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 412-885-0022.

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



## Faith Formation

### Formation and Shepherding

What better time than on Good Shepherd Sunday to talk about the Formation of our Children! As I mentioned last week, this is a responsibility that we all have a part to play in. This week I am asking you to consider being a part of our Vacation Bible School for this summer. This is a unique opportunity for our children to come together and have “fun” while learning about the message of God’s love and peace for them. There are many ways that we can all be involved. Our former director, Scott Martin, is now working with the Diocese, but he will still be available to help us with resources and ideas.

I would like to have a meeting for anyone who might be interested in VBS for this summer to come to a meeting on Monday, **April 29** at 6:30 in the hall of **Epiphany Church**. This can be a good start for our new Formation Programing, come and bring your ideas!

### Diocesan Lenten Appeal

There really hasn’t been much of an increase since I reported last week, people responding to the DLA for this year represents only 34% of our parishioners. We have already reached our Diocesan goal of \$65,057 with pledges and gifts amounting to \$72,222! If we could only hear from the remaining 66% of our parish imagine how well we could do! Remember that everything we get from this point on stays 100% in our parish. If you have any questions about the campaign or anything else in the parish, please feel free to contact me.

### Pennsylvania Primary Election

This Tuesday, **April 23**, Pennsylvania will hold the primary elections. As good stewards, it’s our responsibility to uphold civic responsibilities as well as those of the church.



### Prayer Before an Election

Lord God, as the election approaches, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our country, and how the Gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask for eyes that are free from blindness so that we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse and violence, deceit and poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children born and unborn, and those abandoned, Men and women oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your Kingdom. We pray for discernment so that we may choose leaders who hear your Word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and His Apostles and guide us to your Kingdom of justice and peace. We ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ and through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## Liturgies of the Week

### April 20—Vigil

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*

### Monday, April 22

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Tuesday, April 23

8:00 am Deanne Nogy—LouAnn & Valarie

### Wednesday, April 24

No Mass Today

### Thursday, April 25

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Friday, April 26

8:00 am Andy Bury—Wife, Jeannette

### Saturday, April 27—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm Andrew & Helen Yencsik—Family

### April 28—Fifth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Agnes Sopko—M/M Lou Toth

11:00 am (Death Anniv) Robert Trilli—Carolyn Trilli

**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 Ann Valusek by sister, Jane & Brian Gilchrist & Family

**The Paschal Candle Flowers**—This week are in Memory of Agnes & Herbert King by daughter, Jane & Brian Gilchrist & Family.

**Sympathy and Prayers**—Please remember in your prayers those who have died: . JOANNE PIDICH. We extend our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.

### 2nd Grade Students who made their First Holy Communion on April 7, 2024



Parker Johnson, Leo Teets, Claire Newman, Taylor Pritchard  
A picture for April 14 Communicants was not available.



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