

St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 28, 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

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

Religious Education/Formation

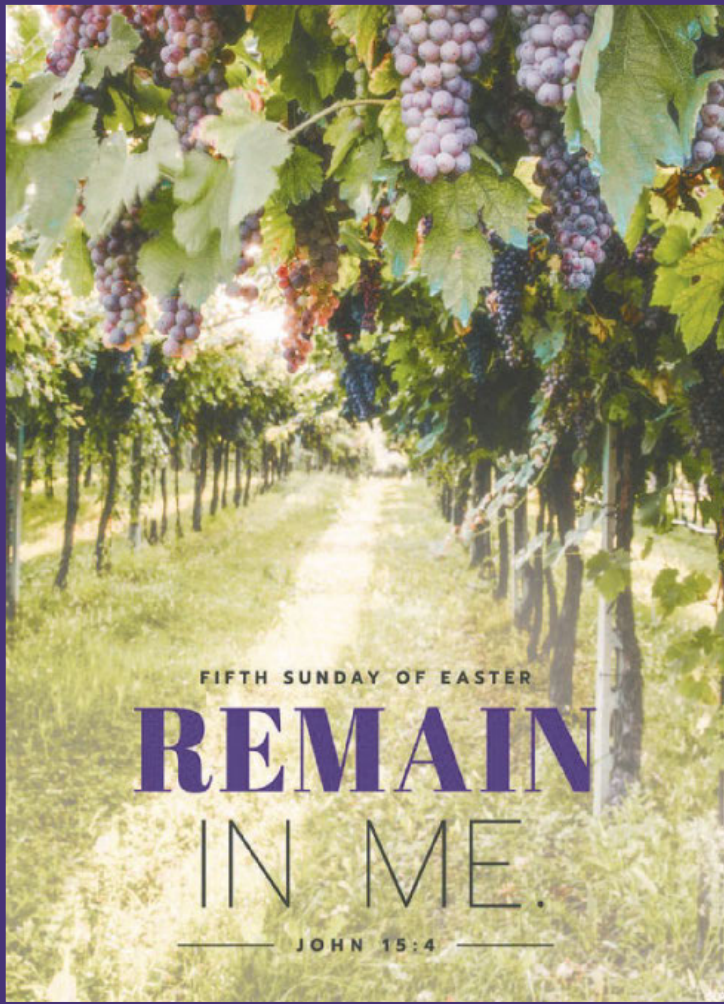
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(OCIA) Order 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

We are the branches...

Today's readings reveal to us that we are intimately connected to the essence of God, like a branch connected to the vine. We are reminded that our lives must imitate that which we profess to be; we cannot speak one way and act another. The only way in which we can bear fruit that is good and wholesome is to stay in constant contact with Jesus, to remain in him like a branch on a vine. Only when the life of Jesus dwells within us, are we able to bear fruit.



The vine is always there encouraging the branches to go out and produce fruit. The vine is the main source of life for all of the branches, if it were not there the branches would wither and die and there would be no fruit. It is the ever present "vine" that is always encouraging us to go into the world and produce much fruit by becoming the very best we possibly can. This is also what God our creator wants for each of us, and the reason we were created in the first place.

As disciples we are baptized into a life that calls us to live lives of self-sacrifice and service. Jesus reminds us that we are to go into the world and "**love not in word or speech but in deed and truth.**" The vitality of the branches depends on the life that flows to them from the vine. The branch can be vital only by remaining on the vine. Resurrection life in believers is like that: it is something which must be maintained.

Just as we are to maintain our connection with Jesus the true vine, so too are we to be in connection with one another. We must never forget our responsibilities to one another. As we ponder over our "connectedness" in life, we are reminded of the many people who have helped to nourish us along our journey. We must never forget their kindness and their love. By our speech as well as by our actions we must show all of those people how grateful we are for the gift of life and love that they have shared.

The Easter season provides us with an opportunity to look at ourselves and see how we can grow. We should all take advantage of this time and look at how we are with one another. Do we show our appreciation for the many good things people do for us? Do we in turn share those good things with others? The image of Jesus as a vine and us as the branches is a beautiful one indeed. In order to have a sense of life and love we have to feel connected to people. This week think of your many connections in your life, if some of them need pruning so that you can bring forth much fruit, then, make it happen.

Mass for Saint Joseph the Worker

On Wednesday, **May 1**, the Feast of Saint Joseph the Worker, Bishop Larry J. Kulick will celebrate Mass at 11:45 AM at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral as part of the dedication of the Diocese of Greensburg to the protection and guardianship of Saint Joseph. The Mass will be livestreamed on the Diocese You Tube Channel, Facebook page and on the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral Facebook page. In his Pastoral Letter, "Donum Veritatis: The Gift of Truth", Bishop Kulick dedicated the Diocese of Greensburg to the patronage of Saint Joseph for the Eucharistic Revival Year of Mission in 2024, the Jubilee Year of 2025, and the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese of Greensburg in 2026. The faithful from around the Diocese are invited to participate in the May 1st Mass.

Stewardship of Treasure—April 21, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$	6,486.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	43.00
Votives:	\$	155.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	100.00
Ascension:	\$	3.00
Easter:	\$	20.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	50.00
Lenten Season:	\$	40.00

Total Apr. 20/21 **\$ 6,897.00**

DLA

With only a few more weeks left in this year's DLA, we have only heard from 35% of our parish or 230 people. There are many of our parishioners who have not yet responded. We have reached our Diocesan goal with \$80,324 collected in pledges and gifts. We are not that far off from our parish goal of \$90,057. Remember that every penny we get from this point forward will stay 100% in our parish. If you have not responded to this year's DLA, won't you please consider doing so?

Mother's Day Gift Certificates

Star Nail & Spa is 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.

Kerygma Discipleship Retreat

The first diocesan Kerygma Discipleship Retreat will be held **Friday, May 17 thru Sunday, May 19** at Christ Our Shepherd Center in Greensburg. This weekend retreat will be an opportunity for the faithful to listen and hear God's call and experience a way to live our faith in the modern world through prayer and the Church community. For more information email: ffd@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Annual St. Sebastian Junque Sale

This year's Junque Sale will be held **July 26 & 27**. Bring your donations to the Parish Garages on Tuesdays & Thursdays 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. For pick up call 724-322-0355.



Faith Formation

Vacation Bible School

We are hoping to provide a wonderful opportunity for our children with Vacation Bible School this summer. In order to provide this adventure for your children, we will need lots of help. We are looking for people to provide the “educational” portion, and don’t worry we will provide all of the materials you will need. We also are looking for people to work with the music of the program. A big item is working with crafts, so if you’re so inclined, know that your help would be most welcome. For those who might not want to be a part of this portion, we will also need people to help with the “snacks” and “luncheon.” So, you can see that we need many people to be on board. We guarantee that everyone involved will have a wonderful time. Won’t you consider being a part of the program this year? We are going to have a meeting this **Monday evening, April 29, at 6:30 in the parish hall at Epiphany.** If you have any questions you can call the office. We are looking forward to another wonderful experience this year and I am confident that with your help, it will happen!

Confirmation

On Saturday, April 20, during Mass at 10:00 a.m. Bishop Larry Kulick celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation. Present were the young parishioners of Epiphany of Our Lord, St. Sebastian, and students from The Historic Church of St. Peter, Church of St. Anne; Church of St. John the Baptist and St. Edward. Receiving this Sacrament completes their sacramental initiation in the Church.



The following St. Sebastian students were Confirmed:

Vito Francis Francia	Zander Christopher McGavitt
Morgan Anne Hamed	Charlotte Kathleen Molesky
Brooke Cecilia Henderson	Logan Michael Solomon
Vincent Sebastian Horensky	Anthony Michael Watson, Jr.
	Jacob Judas Zelenski

Please pray for them that the Spirit of God will continue to guide them on their Faith Journey.

Thank you to the Ladies of Faith for providing the reception that followed the Confirmation Mass and to the volunteers who donated the many cookies, cheese, vegetable and fruit trays. May God bless you for your generosity.

Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this Wednesday, **May 1st**, in the Parish Center at 11:00 a.m. and again at 6:30 pm. For information call Joannie Brown at 412-657-7880.

Ladies of Faith will meet this Thursday, **May 2nd** in the Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m. All women of the Parish are invited to attend.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus Council #954 will be speaking at Masses on **May 18 and 19.** They will be seeking new members. Knights will be available after the Masses to answer any questions.

Liturgies of the Week

April 27—Vigil

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

Monday, April 29

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, April 30

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Jack Koschalk—Leslie & Ron Pierce

Wednesday, May 1

No Mass Today

Thursday, May 2

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, May 3

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Jim Pascoe—Pattie & Family

Saturday, May 4—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Nina Valent—Joe Valent

May 5—Sixth Sunday of Easter

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Donna Bitonti—The Echard 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!**

Fr. Mike will be away next week, leaving after Mass, May 3.

Baptism Congratulations:

To **Luca Evan Romero**, son of Carlos and Hannah (Settle) Romero was baptized in Christ last Sunday. We welcome Luca into the Church and into our parish family. God bless him and his family.



Inquiring Minds Get to Know Jesus in OCIA

Do you know an adult who has never been baptized? Or perhaps it’s someone who has attended Mass for years with a spouse, was baptized in another faith but is unable to receive the Eucharist? Or are you aware of a couple planning a wedding or a baptism and one of them isn’t sharing the joys of the sacraments? Then invite them to inquire about The Order of Christian Initiation (OCIA) process.

You can extend the invitation personally or we would be happy to reach out with a phone call, email or face-to-face meeting. Contact Scott Martin at 724-469-1095 or at smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org for more info or to pass along contact information.



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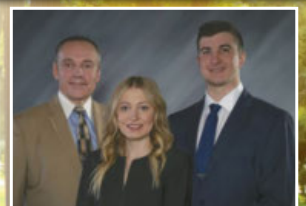
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