



# St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust  
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

April 7, 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](mailto:mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

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

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

**Mr. Scott J. Martin Director of Faith Formation**

[smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:smartin@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 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](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—Resurrection Today**

Today we celebrate the octave of Easter which reminds us that for eight days now we have celebrated the great occasion of Jesus' resurrection. The readings throughout the Easter Season tend to have a familiar theme, so much so that it almost appears repetitious, and they focus on a single moment that happened over 2000 years ago. One of the reasons for that is to help us shift our understanding to see that Easter is not simply a onetime event. Easter is an ongoing revelation that happens within the church every day.



The full meaning of the resurrection does not stop with the empty tomb; rather the resurrection leads us to an entirely new way of living. One that shows us that peace, forgiveness, believing and love can and should be expressed within the community and fidelity to our Baptismal promises. We are shown a new way of life within the community which is predominately relational in nature. We hear from Acts today as to how we should live out our commitment to Christ through service and love to one another, in other words living a life of justice for all.

This new order of life through resurrection gives us an opportunity to overcome our own fears and doubts in life through the "peace" Jesus brings to our world. This peace leads us directly to God's love. In our second reading John is telling us that God is love and wherever love is lived and shared we find God. For John this love is found in our belief in Jesus. When we find this kind of love it becomes the very essence of all of our choices in life. No matter what we do or think, no matter how we relate to one another, if we live in this love we become the presence of the risen Lord to the people in our world. By living lives through basic human compassion we are living the love that Jesus made real for us. It is in the caring and tending to the basic needs of the individuals in our community that we live the resurrection of Jesus.

Along with the examples we find of the early Christian community by living in love with compassion and mercy, we also can see the reality of human doubt and failure. In the Gospel for this week we find that Thomas is the one who doubts. In spite of all the things that he saw and experienced, he still had doubt. Jesus tells us that we are blessed because we believe and have never seen. We live our lives out of the love of Jesus trusting in that divine goodness. By sharing the gifts we have received we show our belief in spite of our own doubts. There will always be times in life where we will want to know facts before we believe, but the reality that lies beneath our doubts is still rooted in the love that the resurrected Jesus brings to us.

This great season of resurrection challenges each one of us to live as Jesus did. Through the example of Jesus we too are to surrender ourselves to God's will, and in so doing we will be surprised by the new life to which God will raise us. The resurrection took place 2000 years ago in a dark tomb, but the resurrection is still very much alive and active in every baptized man and woman who live the command of love and follows the law of Christ's peace.

**Stewardship of Treasure—March 24, 2024**

Regular Offertory:	\$	8,389.56
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	875.00
Votives:	\$	180.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	168.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	100.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	60.00
Good Friday:	\$	70.00
Easter:	\$	295.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	130.00
Ark:	\$	310.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	130.00
Lenten Season:	\$	1,024.00

**Total Mar. 23/24                    \$ 11,731.56**

**Stewardship of Treasure—March 31, 2024**

Regular Offertory:	\$	7,437.50
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	52.00
Votives:	\$	483.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	3.00
Holy Thursday:	\$	1,239.00
Good Friday:	\$	1,667.00
Easter:	\$	7,787.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	10.00
Ark:	\$	60.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$	75.00
Lenten Season:	\$	715.00

**Total Mar. 30/31                    \$ 19,528.50**

**Diocesan Lenten Appeal**

As of last week, our parish has accumulated \$76,929 which surpasses our Diocesan goal of \$65,057. We still have a ways to go to achieve our parish goal of \$90,057. Please know how grateful I am to all of you who have participated. Please remember that everything we get in from this point on stays 100% in our parish.

If you have not yet responded, I am asking that you prayerfully consider doing so.

**Purse Bash**

On **April 28<sup>th</sup>** we will have our second Designer Purse Bash. Last year we had a wonderful time and it was a tremendous success. I do believe that all who came had a wonderful time. Once again the Purse Bash will be held at Epiphany, the doors will open at 1:00 p.m. and the event will begin at 2 p.m. The cost for the afternoon is \$35 which will include lunch, dessert and door prizes. You may also BYOB to make the afternoon even more festive! Throughout the afternoon there will be many specials sold for many different handbags. Some of the purses may include Very Bradley, Michael Kors, Kate Spade and more. This Purse Bash will benefit both Epiphany of Our Lord as well as St. Sebastian parishes. Tickets are available at the church office in both parishes or you may call Kathy Imbrescia at 412-996-0775. Everyone must have a ticket to enter. We will also have a "Unique" Bake Sale at the event. If anyone would like to donate any baked goods, they will be most welcome. You may bring any donations to Epiphany Church Hall on Friday **April 27** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Last but certainly not least...if anyone wants to donate a Louis Vuitton, it will be most welcome!!!



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



## Congratulations and God's Blessing on Our Newest Members

At the Easter Vigil, **Clinton and Alyssa Payton Jr.** received the Sacraments of Confirmation and Holy Eucharist and Clinton made his Profession of Faith. We welcome them into the Catholic Church and our Parish family. Clinton and Alyssa, may the Risen Lord Jesus continue to be your life and joy!

## We Journey through the Season of Easter

We finish the Octave of Easter this weekend and I just want to thank all of you for the Beautiful Easter Celebrations we had last week. Your attendance and participation were wonderful. I truly believe we celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus with Style and Grace!



## Faith Formation

### Formation the Faith for the Future of the Church...

What better time of the year to be talking about "Formation" than during the great season of Easter. It is at Easter that we all receive the gift of eternal life, and it is "Formation" in our church that enlightens us about just what a gift "eternal life" really is. As we all look back at how we learned about our faith and religion, I would venture to guess we got most of it from our families. Sure, we went to catechism classes and had religion in school, but it was from our families that we got the bulk of what we know about our faith.

We are living through a period of history where religion and religious values are not quite so present in a lot of our families today. So, where does the responsibility to teach about our faith lay, and just how are we supposed to help form our children in the understanding of our faith? I only wish I had the answer to that question! However, just because we might not have the answer, we still have a responsibility to do what we can to assure the future of our faith.

During this season on Easter, there will be sessions on just what we can do with formation in our parish. We will have speakers from the Diocese to help us in this discernment process. For now, I am just asking all of you to keep the formation of our children in your prayers during this Season of Easter. We may not find the answers we are looking for, but we will certainly find the answer to what it is God is asking us to do.

## Mother's Day Fundraiser

The Ladies of Faith will be 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.

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

## Liturgies of the Week

### April 6—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Joseph Uhlman—Wife, Terri

### April 7—Second Sunday of Easter

9:00 am (Death Anniv) Robert Yencsik—Donna & Ron Santori  
11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish  
*Sacrament of First Eucharist*

### Monday, April 8—The Annunciation of the Lord

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Tuesday, April 9

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Bernard Gorski—Cliff & Kim Gorski & Family

### Wednesday, April 10

No Mass Today

### Thursday, April 11

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

### Friday, April 12

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

### Saturday, April 13—Vigil

3:30 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

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*

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

**The Paschal Candle Flowers**—This week are in honor of George L. Cowan by his Parents.

**Altar Candle Ring Flowers**—This week's Altar Candle Flowers are given with Grateful Thanks, by the Koury Family.

## First Eucharist

Over the next two weekends we will celebrate the Gift of the Eucharist for the first time with 7 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:

Parker Johnson  
Leo Teets

Taylor Pritchard  
Clair Newman

If you see them, take a moment to congratulate them, as we all share in their Joy!

## Celebration of Confirmation

On **April 20**, 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?





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