



St Sebastian Catholic Church



A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust
A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

May 12, 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 Monday of every month. Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

Religious Education/Formation

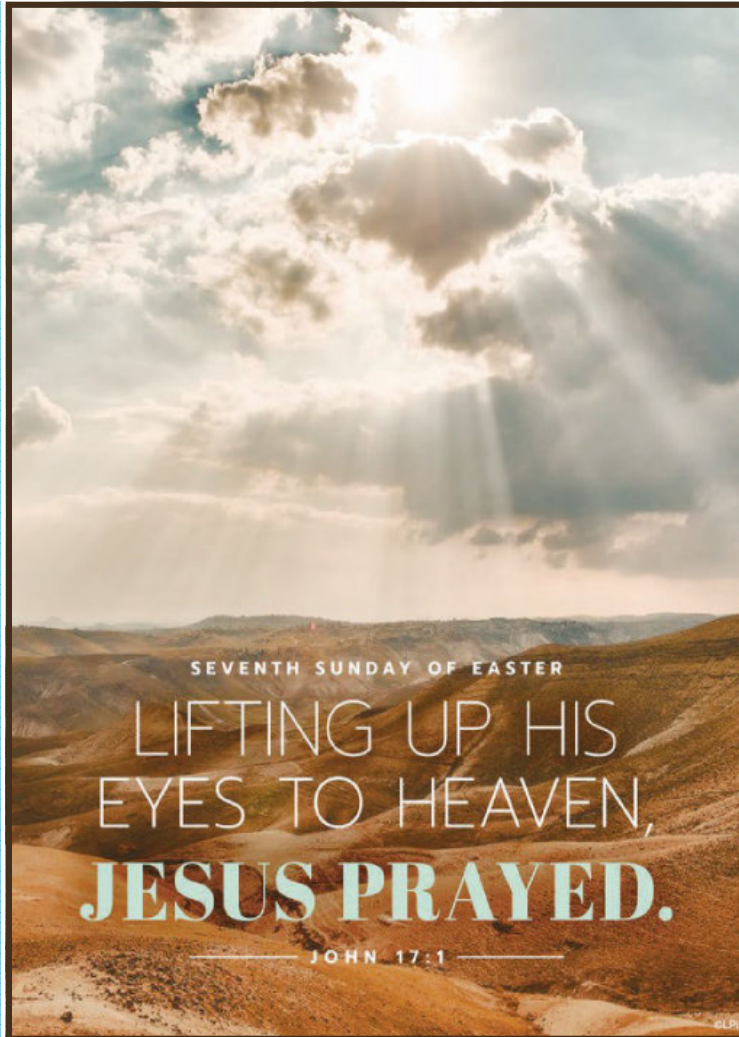
Please call the Faith Formation Office, 724-929-9300.

(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

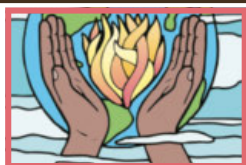
TZetty@sssbv.org

School Telephone ~ 724-929-5143

School Website ~ sssbv.org



From the Pastor
Power of Prayer and Love



The Church is winding down with the Season of Easter and we hear the stories about how the early Christians worked to continue the message of Jesus. Over the past few weeks we have heard from John about the importance of love. That has to be the key ingredient to whatever the church is supposed to grow into. There are so many ways that we need to look at what this “love” is calling us to live. We are reminded in the first reading that every institution, whether political or religious needs to have structures that guarantee continuity and security. Families, schools, churches, and clubs all have them. We see how important it was to the apostles to have twelve members. This was an important issue because Jesus had promised that the 12 tribes of Israel would be restored and that they would rule in God’s kingdom. Continuity between the old and the new is guaranteed.

In choosing the successor for Judas, the apostles relied on the power of prayer before they made such an important decision. Throughout the New Testament we find that the importance of prayer was always recognized when any important decision was to be made. As they cast lots they trusted on the power of God’s love to guide them in their decisions and choice. The only thing we know about their requirements for this successor was that he had to be “one of those who was in our company all the while we had the Lord Jesus with us.” It is interesting to note that very little was known about any of the apostles. The New Testament rarely mentions them. When we think of them we tend to think of them as a group rather than individuals. After their choice the idea was that life would go on, and the work of the church could continue.

In the Gospel we find Jesus praying for the success and well being of the future church. He makes reference to fears, joy, unity, happiness and holiness. This is a heartfelt reminder to us all that we do not set off to continue the ministry of Jesus on our own and without assistance; we receive the Holy Spirit and thus are assured of receiving the blessings for which Jesus prays. We take up Jesus’ ministry and are his risen presence in the world. The world for Jesus made reference to anything that was hostile to God. It was surely promised that the disciples would meet hostility in the world therefore Jesus prayed that they be “kept from the evil one” and share in his joy. In scripture, joy is that special grace that assures that, no matter what happens, a sense of God’s presence will never go away. These were the final words from a man who showed the disciples how to love and how to believe that faith in him will conquer all their troubles and fears.

With all of this comfort and support, why then do we still find it so difficult to love as we are called to? Why is love so hard to show or even talk about? First of all love must go out from each of us, it must come from within and this takes energy. When we love, we risk things like rejection and pain. Past experiences with love often keep us from loving as we should. In spite of these apprehensions, this is what we are all called upon to do: love one another! We simply cannot love alone. Love is always relationship. When the handsome Greek youth Narcissus stared at, and fell in love with his own image in a reflecting pool of water, he died! Jesus showed us that love is a conviction, a voice, and an action. Know that as Jesus prayed for the disciples, he prays also for us. This prayer feeds us to go out and love as we have been called to love, to live as our Baptism strengthens us to live.

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.

April Expenses	Amount
Maintenance	\$ 288.20
Electric	\$ 709.36
Gas	\$ 816.29
Other Utilities	\$ 242.34
Misc. Office	\$ 892.29
Property Taxes	\$ 3,710.31
Liturgy Expenses	\$ 2,997.81
Payroll	\$ 23,030.94
Diocesan Expenses	\$ 14,443.49
(Breakdown)	
Accent	\$ 545.70
Ed. Assessment	\$ 6,384.47
Dio. Assessment	\$ 3,729.27
Insurance	\$ 3,477.24
Data Processing	\$ 306.81
Total	\$ 47,131.03

Week	Collection
Mar. 31	\$ 19,528.50
Apr. 7	\$ 11,055.00
Apr. 14	\$ 7,138.81
Apr. 21	\$ 6,897.00
April Elec. Offerings	
	\$ 6,700.22
Total	\$ 51,319.53



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

Stewardship of Treasure
May 5, 2024

Regular Offertory:	\$ 6,431.00
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 208.00
Votives:	\$ 181.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 25.00
Ascension:	\$ 131.00
Catholic Communications:	\$ 15.00
Lenten Offerings:	\$ 280.00
Cap. Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 729.00
Total May 4/5	\$ 8,000.00

Annual St. Sebastian Junque Sale



This year’s Junque Sale will be held **July 26 & 27**. We are collecting donations 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.



MOTHER'S DAY

This week we celebrate a day dedicated to our Mom's. Although we appreciate all that our mothers do for us throughout the year, today we let her know how much she is loved and appreciated. Although it is one day found nestled within the course of the year, today we pause to honor and remember our Mothers. It is always with a sense of joy and love that we remember the life that we have because of them. Just as Mary said yes to God and became a part of God's plan for salvation, so too are our mothers: co-workers with God in bringing life and love to our world. I would like to extend to all of our Mothers a very Blessed and joy filled day, and for all of our mothers who are no longer with us we offer our prayers of gratitude and love. A Joyful and Blessed day to all Mothers.



GRADUATION MASS



Graduation from High School is a milestone. This year we would like to celebrate our 2024 graduates on **May 26** during the 11:00 a.m. Mass, followed by brunch in our Parish Hall. A letter was sent to all registered 12th grade students with an RSVP for the Mass & Brunch (by May 17). If you did not receive a letter, please call Darleen at the Parish Office at 724-929-9300.

PENTECOST CELEBRATION!



Next week we celebrate Pentecost Sunday, the gift of the Holy Spirit among us. As we look at what a treasure this is to our church we all open our hearts to share in the fullness of what that Spirit is about. Since the color for the Holy Spirit is red, we are asking all of you to wear something red next week!

CONGRATULATIONS

Our young parishioner, JOSIE **BARNABAS** NIKOLIC, received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral on April 29th. Please keep Josie in your prayers, that the Spirit of God will guide her in her faith journey.

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

May 11—Vigil

4:30 pm Intention of the Celebrant

May 12—Seventh Sunday of Easter

9:00 am Intention of the Celebrant

11:00 am Intention of the Celebrant

Monday, May 13—Our Lady of Fatima

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Tuesday, May 14—St. Matthias

8:00 am (Death Anniv) John Dunlop—Don & Bonnie Halinka

Wednesday, May 15—St. Isidore

No Mass Today

Thursday, May 16

8:00 am Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, May 17

8:00 am Christine Johnson & Mildred Sethman—Family

Saturday, May 18—Vigil

3:30 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

4:30 pm Angela & Oscar Picardi—Family

Sacrament of Baptism

May 19—Pentecost Sunday

9:00 am Mary Kovalsky—Bill & Dawn Trilli

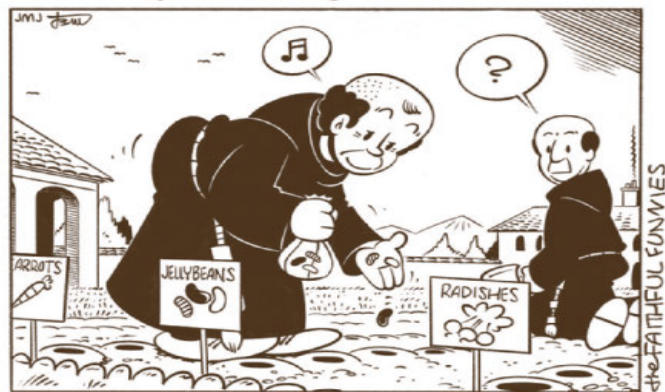
11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

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 Merry K. Hewitt by Dayna & Sissy.

The Paschal Candle Flowers—This week are in Memory of the Deceased of the Mazzei & Biondo Families by the Nick Francia Family.

"What kind of beans did the Benedictine plant during Easter?"



"Jellybeans!"



Benedictines are monks who use the instructions or "Rule" of St. Benedict to guide their lifestyle, which highlights prayer, work, and community (and... maybe some gardening).



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MARK E. RAMSIER
 Attorney at Law
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 North Belle Vernon, PA 15012
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