



# Saint Sebastian Catholic Church

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Office—724-929-9300

[saintsebastianchurch.org](http://saintsebastianchurch.org)

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## Mass Schedule

**Weekend: Saturday 4:30 PM, Sunday 9:00 AM & 11:00 AM**

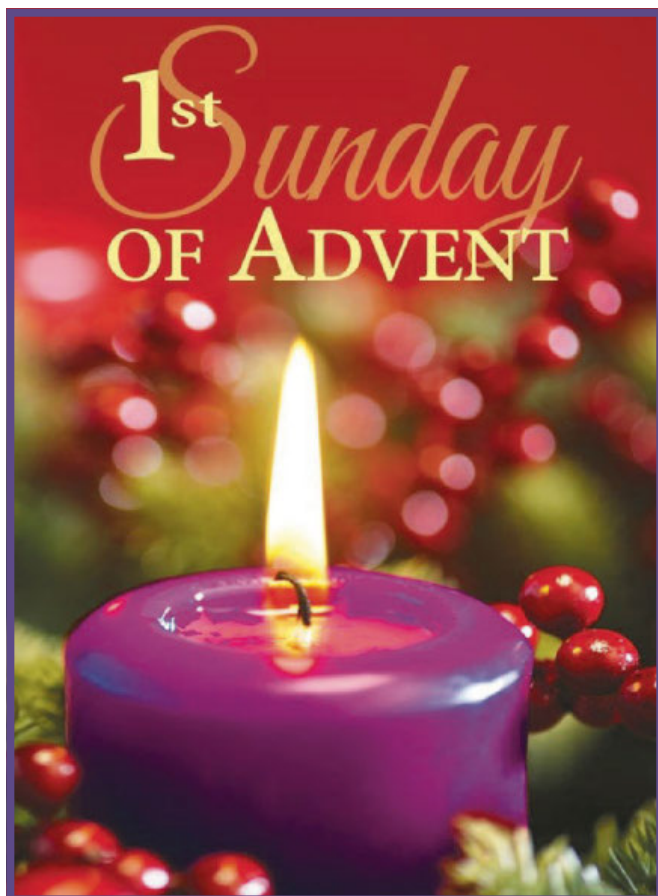
**Weekday: Monday, & Thursday—8:00 AM at Epiphany of Our Lord**

**Tuesday, 8:00 AM & Friday, 10:15 AM at Saint Sebastian**



**A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg**

## December 1, 2024—First Sunday of Advent



**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday  
OF ADVENT**

### Parish Staff

**Msgr. James T. Gaston, Administrator**  
[jgaston@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:jgaston@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Rev. Michael Thomas, Parochial Vicar**  
[mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

**Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich, Business Manager**  
[dliovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dliovich@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

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

### Faith Formation

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

### (OCIA) Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

For Further information in becoming a Catholic, please call the Faith Formation Office.

### Reconciliation

*Throughout December the Saturday confessions will be cancelled in lieu of the Penance Services. Please see the Advent Schedule inside this bulletin.*

### Saint Sebastian Regional Catholic School

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

**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



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## Liturgies this Week

### November 30—Vigil

4:30 PM (Date of Birth) Raymond Molusky—Sister, Barb & Dick Webb

### December 1—First Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM Andrew Yencsik & Michael Hepple—Family

11:00 AM For the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

### Monday, December 2

8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

11:00 AM Epiphany—Mass & Anointing of the Sick

### Tuesday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier

8:00 AM Frances Sobek—Ron & Sherry Messick

### Wednesday, December 4

No Mass Today

### Thursday, December 5—St. John Damascene

8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

6:30 PM Mass for the Sick and Homebound of the Parish

### Friday, December 6—St. Nicholas

10:15 AM Myrle & Ruth Keller—Son, Lou & Family

### Saturday, December 7—Vigil

*Take & Eat Faith Formation begins with 4:30 Mass*

4:30 PM Joseph, Sr., Erma & Joseph Jr. Rygiel—Stan and Kathleen & Family

### December 8—Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM (Date of Birth) Vincenzo, Donna & Jeffrey Ambrose—Family

11:00 AM (Date of Birth) Betty Eversburg—Tim Matesich

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

**Mass for the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception will be held on Monday, December 9 at Epiphany of Our Lord at 9:00 AM and at St. Sebastian at 6:30 PM.**

**Matters of Sexual Misconduct Information**—If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone — please contact PA ChildLine immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the ChildLine number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, ext. 1221.

#### Offertory for November 17

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Regular Offertory:      | \$ 6,730.88        |
| Utilities/Maintenance:  | \$ 944.00          |
| Votives:                | \$ 193.00          |
| Thanksgiving:           | \$ 85.00           |
| All Saints:             | \$ 55.00           |
| Cap. Project/Roof:      | \$ 120.00          |
| All Souls:              | \$ 65.00           |
| Retired Priests:        | \$ 10.00           |
| Poverty Relief:         | \$ 15.00           |
| <b>Total Nov. 16/17</b> | <b>\$ 8,217.88</b> |

Thank you for supporting St. Sebastian Parish.

*Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report*



*for November 24, will be in a future bulletin.*

## Scripture Reflection This Week

Many people begin the New Year with a New Year's resolution. The first Sunday of Advent marks the beginning of the Church's year, and the Church begins the year by reminding us of the coming of Christ. Not simply as a humble and meek child in Bethlehem but, more importantly, as the triumphant King of Kings at the end of time. Indeed, this final Advent is something we pray for at every Mass. When in the Our Father we utter the words "they kingdom come," "adveniat regnum tuum" in Latin, this second coming is what we are actively asking God to grant us in some way.

Considering this, perhaps this year, we should make an Advent resolution to help us prepare for the day when God finally answers our prayers. These can be simple and still have an impact on our spiritual lives. Some examples are: Daily Prayer Intentions--Set aside time for focused prayers for various intentions; an Advent Reflection Journal--Write daily thoughts on readings or experiences of God's presence, fostering mindfulness and gratitude; Acts of Kindness--Engage in weekly acts of kindness, such as volunteering or donating; Gratitude Practice--Regularly express gratitude for blessings in your life; the Sacrament of Reconciliation--Participate in confession for healing and renewal; Fasting or Abstaining--Practice fasting for spiritual discipline and growth. Incorporating any of these resolutions can lead to a more meaningful and intentional Advent experience, aligning one's heart and mind with the spiritual essence of the season.

**Employment Opportunity**—Part-time Maintenance Worker needed Monday-Friday at **St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School** in Belle Vernon, preferably from Noon-5pm (days/hours are flexible). Interested candidates should contact [tzetty@sssbv.org](mailto:tzetty@sssbv.org) or call 724-929-5143.

## 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.

## Christmas Fruit Baskets

The cost is \$25 per box. The **deadline** to order is **December 11. Pick up Sunday, December 22 after the 9 & 11 AM Masses (10:15 AM—12:30 PM) in the Church Hall.** Place order form in the collection or return to the Parish Office.

### CHRISTMAS FRUIT BASKET ORDER

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

# FRUIT BOXES \_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

PICK-UP: **DECEMBER 22 BETWEEN 10:15 AM—12:30 PM.**



### Mass with the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick Thursday, December 5, 6:30 PM

The Anointing of the Sick is a Sacrament for all Catholics who are seriously weakened by sickness or age. We invite those who are sick to come the special 6:30 PM Mass and receive the Sacrament of Anointing, **Thursday, December 5**.

There will also be a Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen, tomorrow, **Monday, December 2** at 11:00 AM with Anointing of the Sick followed by a luncheon in their parish hall.

Please call the Epiphany Parish office to make your reservation for the luncheon (724-684-7661).

### Faith Formation Saturday “Unpacking the Christmas Story”



Family Faith Formation continues Saturday, **December 7**, beginning with the 4:30 PM Mass. If you did not sign up for the December dinner last month, please call the parish office and let us know you will be coming for dinner. *All students who are preparing for their sacraments should be attending this new Family Faith Formation Program.* To sign up, go on our Web page or call the Parish Office.

### Advent Penance Services

Advent is the time to prepare for the greatest gift God has given us, the forgiving love we find through His Son.

Our Region Penance Services, are:

|             |                                   |
|-------------|-----------------------------------|
| December 11 | Seven Dolors, Yukon, 6 PM         |
| December 12 | St. Edward, Herminie, 6 PM        |
| December 16 | St. Anne, Rostraver, 6 PM         |
| December 17 | St. John, Perryopolis, 6 PM       |
| December 18 | St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon, 6 PM |
| December 19 | Holy Family, West Newton, 6 PM    |
| December 21 | Epiphany, Monessen at 11:30 AM    |

*Throughout December the Saturday confessions will be cancelled in lieu of the Penance Services*

### Sacrament of Confirmation

Parents and children of the 2025 Confirmation class will have a meeting on **December 10** at St. John the Baptist Church, Perryopolis from 6:30—7:30 PM. This meeting will be repeated at the Church of St. Anne, Rostraver, on **December 12** from 6:30 - 7:30 PM. The Sacrament of Confirmation is scheduled for June 2 at 6:00 PM at St. John the Baptist in Perryopolis.



### A Big Thank You

Saint Sebastian Ladies of Faith would like to thank parishioners and friends for making our recent Bunco Party a huge success. All had a great time.

### From Monsignor Gaston



During the Fall each year St. Sebastian's, along with the other parishes of the diocese, invites our members to review your level of giving and, as you are able, increase your financial support for 2025. As a parish of good stewards of God's gifts, we are all obliged to do our best in supporting and maintaining the parish's programs, facilities and grounds in the midst of the increasing cost of living that we all must face.

Please review the materials that you received recently which outline St. Sebastian's many reasons for “Giving Thanks” this year. Let your faith in Christ Jesus and your love of this parish dictate how you will respond.

Thanks and blessings,  
Msgr. Gaston



### From Father Michael

On behalf of Msgr. Gaston and myself, I would like to extend a word of immense gratitude to Carole Aiello and Lance Russell from St. Sebastian School for their generous gift of 200 new chairs and all the work they put into getting the grant that funded them. These new chairs will replace our metal folding chairs in the hall. We look forward to utilizing these for many upcoming events, especially on the first Saturday of each month at our community suppers, as part of our Intergenerational Faith Formation Program.

If you see Carole or Lance please take a minute to thank them for all the work they did in securing the grant that provided not only the chairs but many other useful additions to the school.



### CHRISTMAS ANGEL TREE

If you know of anyone who might benefit from this project, **please take a form from the pamphlet racks** and return it to the Parish Office. The deadline Friday, **December 6th**.

**“Breakfast with Santa** on Sunday, **December 8**, 9:30AM-12 Noon at Epiphany Church Hall. Breakfast of French Toast & Sausage, \$5 for adults, children are free. Sponsored by the Epiphany Ladies and the Holy Name Society. A wonderful way for the whole family to start the Christmas Season.

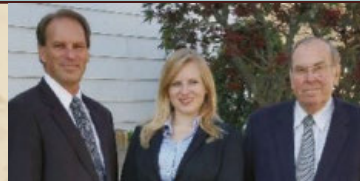
**Prayer Shawl Ministry** will meet this Wednesday, **December 4**, in the Parish Center at 11:00 AM. There will be no evening gathering this month. For information call Joannie Brown at 412-657-7880.

**Ladies of Faith** next meeting will be Thursday, **January 2, 2025** in the Parish Hall at 6:30 PM. All women of the Parish are invited to attend. There is no meeting in December.





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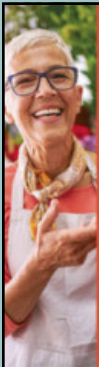
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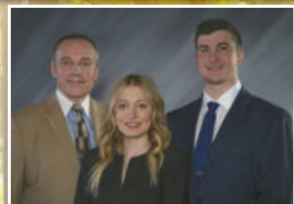
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