



Saint Sebastian Catholic Church

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

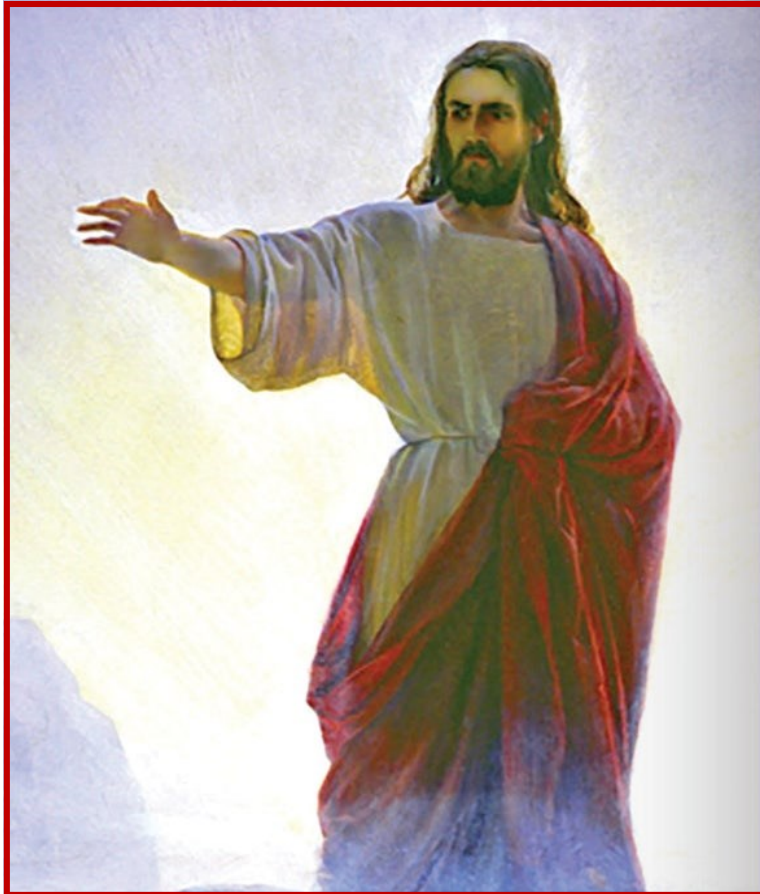
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A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg



October 19, 2025

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



“Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?” - Lk 18:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Mass Schedule

Weekend: St. Sebastian: Sat. 4:30 PM Sunday 9 & 11 AM

Epiphany: Sat. 4:00 PM Sun. 8:30 & 10:30 AM

Epiphany of Our Lord, 44 Pennsylvania Blvd. Monessen, PA.

Daily Mass: Mon. & Thur. 8:00 AM at Epiphany

Tuesday: 8:00 AM at St. Sebastian

Wednesday: 9:00 AM at St. John the Baptist

St. John the Baptist, 3332 Pittsburgh Rd, Perryopolis, PA

Friday: 8:00 AM at St. Sebastian

10:15 AM—School Mass

Reconciliation—Saturday

Epiphany—3:00—3:45 PM

St. Sebastian—3:15—4:15 PM—By appointment anytime.

Mission Statement

We the Parish Family of Saint Sebastian, Belle Vernon, serve people in Westmoreland and Fayette Counties. We are Roman Catholics of various ethnic backgrounds with strong family values demonstrating a variety of skills, trades and professions. The purpose of the parish is to glorify God by assisting the community on the “Journey of a Lifetime” through the Liturgy and Sacraments, teaching and preaching the Word of God, and witnessing to our faith. As a community of faith, we are committed to love of God and neighbor through worshipping together and serving others in caring for their spiritual, emotional and physical needs. Each of us is called to strengthen and reach beyond our parish through being responsible stewards of our time, talent and treasure in the spirit of our patron, St. Sebastian.

FAITH THAT TRANSFORMS THE HEART

Tuesday, 14th October, 2025, Week 28, Year I

Romans 1:16-25; Psalm 19; Luke 11:37-41

Every child of God has a specific mandate to witness to Jesus in the world. We are ambassadors of Christ, sent to bear His light wherever darkness tries to reign. The Christian life is not meant to be hidden or silenced, but to radiate the transforming power of the Gospel.

Today, St. Paul declares with courage and conviction, “I am not ashamed of the Gospel; it is the power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.” These words remind us that the Gospel is not a mere story or slogan; it is a living power that changes hearts, heals wounds, restores broken lives, and brings people to salvation.

St. Paul describes the state of some Romans of his time, and this is the state of many people today. He says they suppress the truth and exchange it for lies; they worship creatures instead of the Creator; they know God but do not honor or give Him thanks; they are futile in their thinking and their hearts are darkened.

We are warned today not to become like this, and secondly, to witness to people who are in this state, for they need the message of the Gospel to save them. Sadly, we often become ashamed of the Gospel because of shame and fear.

Shame: Some of us are ashamed to identify with Jesus in public. We keep quiet when the Holy Spirit prompts us to speak, pray, or defend the truth because we fear ridicule or rejection. But St. Paul reminds us that the Gospel is not a cause for shame, but the very power of God.

*Are we ashamed to make the sign of the cross in public? To pray with someone in need?
To speak about our faith among those who mock religion?*

Remember what Jesus says in Mark 8:38: “If anyone is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when He comes in His Father’s glory.”

Fear: At other times, we are afraid to witness to Jesus because of what we might lose - friends, reputation, comfort, or peace. Yet Jesus, in today’s Gospel, shows us that truth must never be compromised. Though He was a guest at a Pharisee’s table, He did not dilute the message. He spoke plainly, revealing that outward purity without inner conversion is hypocrisy. Jesus calls us to courage, not diplomacy, in matters of faith and truth.

So today, dear friends, let us take home these three messages:

1. Let the Gospel shape our lives. The Gospel is not a symbol to decorate our lives but the force that transforms them by influencing our choices, our speech, and our actions. Let us live our faith openly and joyfully and not allow shame or fear to silence our witness. The world needs courageous Christians who will stand for truth, justice, and love.
2. Clean the inside first. Conversion begins within. Jesus calls us to a purity of heart that comes from repentance and mercy. Holiness is not about appearance but about authenticity.
3. Avoid the modern idols. Pleasure and pride are today’s false gods. They promise satisfaction but leave the soul empty. Let us worship the Creator, not His creation, and let God remain first in our lives.

PRAYER—Lord Jesus, give us the courage to witness to You in truth and love. Purify our hearts from fear, shame, and hypocrisy. May Your Gospel take root within us and transform our thoughts, words, and actions. Help us to live with authenticity and joy, so that through us, the light of Your truth may shine in our world. Amen.

My dear parishioners, the month of October, the Church dedicates to our Blessed Mother Mary. Traditionally it is a time to renew our love for the recitation of the Holy rosary, and to seek our mother’s maternal intercession for our church, our families, ourselves, and our parish communities. Please I encourage you to make this time a time of deeper Marian devotion by:

1. Meditating on the mysteries of Christ life through Mary’s eyes
2. Praying the rosary every day
3. Uniting our intentions with our Blessed Mother, especially for peace in our world in our homes and in our hearts.
4. By meditating on the rosary, our Blessed Mother leads us closer to her Son, Jesus Christ. May this month be for us a season of Grace filled with renewed love for our Blessed Mother. Amen.

Fr. Anthony

Fr. Anthony Onoko—Your Prayer for the Week

Loving Father, we thank You for the gift of this new week.

Bless our parish families of St. John the Baptist, St. Sebastian, Epiphany of Our Lord.

Bless our homes, our work, our studies, and our daily journeys.

Keep us safe from harm, strong in faith, joyful in hope, and generous in love.

Grant that in all we do, we may seek Your will and glorify Your Name.

May the light of Christ shine through us this week, bringing comfort to the troubled, peace to the anxious, and encouragement to the weary.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

May our Blessed Mother, Mary, Help of Christians, intercede for us. Amen.

October Count—The month of October as been the time set aside by our diocese to count all of the people who come to church. So, if you see someone counting, you will know what they are doing. The count is important for the Diocese when planning for the future.



BUNCO PARTY

The Ladies of Faith will be holding a Bunco (a game of Dice) Fundraiser on **November 15** in the Parish Hall. Cost is \$25 per person and includes a Light Lunch and Prizes. Tickets can be purchased at the Church Office. Last day to purchase tickets is November 7.

HELP MAKE THE SOUP!

Helpers are needed to make the Italian Wedding Soup on November 8 at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall. For more information please call Terri at 724-929-8675.

**WEDDING SOUP SALE
NOVEMBER 9!**

St. Sebastian will be holding the annual Wedding Soup sale. The cost is \$10 a quart and pick up will be Sunday, November 9, 2025 from 10:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. Orders are due by November 3. You can submit the order form along with payment either in the collection basket or at the office.

WEDDING SOUP ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

QUARTS _____

PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED _____

PICK-UP ON NOVEMBER 9 BETWEEN 10:30AM–1 PM

**ST. CARLO ACUTIS
EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES**

An **Exhibit of the Eucharistic Miracles** and a **First Class Relic** will be on display in St. Sebastian Parish Hall the weekend of **October 24-26.**



All are invited to come and venerate the First Class Relic of this young man. Don't miss this opportunity! This exhibit is the result of three years of research, compilation and design by the newly canonized, Saint Carol Acutis. For more information call 724-288-7901.

October 24, 3 PM-7 PM; October 25, 1 PM-7 PM; October 26, 9 AM-4 PM.

“To always be close to Jesus, that is my life plan.”
St. Carlo Acutis

SSRCS Fundraiser

The 2026 Enjoy books are being sold for the benefit of our Regional School. You may pick up a copy at the School Office. For more information, call 724-929-5143.



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PLEASE NOTE: If you plan to invite any guest speaker to a church event, please first contact Adelle Slebodnik at 724-244-9434 or aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org. The Diocese requires all guest speakers to be vetted and have the required clearances. Thank you for your cooperation.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES OFFERS SERVICES FOR ADULTS

Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Greensburg provides volunteer services to older adults (age 60 and older), including supportive and regular visits, telephone calls, greeting cards and other mailings to prevent loneliness and isolation and brighten a person's day. Emergency food boxes can also be delivered to those who meet eligibility requirements. To become a client, contact Deborah Klinvex at 724-837-1840 or dklinvex@DioceseofGreensburg.org.

Lord, please remember the sick of our parish and community:

Stacie Bickerton

Lord, give them strength in body, courage in spirit, and patience in pain. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Ministry of Care

As part of this parish Ministry, the names of those in need of prayer will be printed in the Sunday bulletin. If you or a member of your family find you are in need of prayer, please call the parish office and the name will be listed in the bulletin for at least two weeks. If you wish the request to continue, please call the parish office again. All parishioners are invited to be a part of this Ministry by lifting to the Lord in prayer the needs and concerns of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC BENEATH THE SURFACE

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The Prayers We Don't Say

It has always confused me: why a judge?

Jesus could have compared prayer to the subject who requests a gift of his king. He could have compared it to the child who asks a favor of a parent. But in the parable of the widow and the judge, Jesus compares prayer — specifically constant, unwearied prayer — with the marginalized person who doggedly pursues her claim through an unfor-giving legal system.

It's not a rosy or reassuring picture. So what is he trying to tell us?

Unlike a king or a parent, a judge has strictly drawn lines which he cannot, under any circum-stances, cross. He can only help people who bring their case to court. Even good, earnest judges cannot render justice if charges are not brought.

God is all-powerful. But that doesn't make Him a meddler. He will not force his way into our prob-lems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willing-ly to God, in every instance — adoration, gratitude, need?

Today, I sat down and made a list of problems I don't pray about. When I was done, I looked at the list and asked myself: why not? Why don't I pray about these things? Some are huge issues over which I have absolutely no control, and prayer feels futile. Some are small grievances I never even considered mentioning to God.

If I prayed about them all, my life would be total-ly consumed by prayer. Constant, unwearied prayer. The kind of prayer Jesus calls me to in the parable of the widow and the judge: continual sur-render of myself to the mysterious, limitless power of God.

Praying that way could make me tired. The wid-ow was tired, too — but she kept bringing her charges. She got justice. And her judge wasn't even a nice guy.

So say the prayer. Bring the charges. Our judge is one who wants to help, but He won't overstep His bounds.

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NCYC BECAUSE HE IS THE GREAT I AM, I CAN BE EXODUS 3:14

WELCOMING STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8

GOD HAS ENTERED THE CHAT
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6:00-9:30PM
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*"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you ... to give you a future of hope."
Jeremiah 29:11*

The Most Reverend Joseph Espallat
Auxiliary Bishop
Archdiocese of New York

Leonard J. DeLorenzo, Ph.D.
Professor of Theology
University of Notre Dame

CHRIST OUR SHEPHERD CENTER • 8AM-2PM
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2025

HOMEMADE SAUSAGE SALE

The Knights of Columbus will hold a sausage sale on December 9 and 10. All orders must be in by **Sunday, November 23**. Put in your order now to make sure you get it! The sausage will be sold at \$6.00 /lb. Minimum order is 2 lb. per item. **All orders MUST be made on the order form.**

LINK	LOOSE	
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Sweet Sausage
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Hot Sausage
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Hot Hot Sausage

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Orders may be placed by filling out the order form above, placing it in an envelope marked "Sausage Order" and depositing it in the collection basket. To call in your order, or for more info, contact **Jason 724-454-8688**. Please make checks out to **Knights of Columbus 954**.

"Love is never defeated."
St. John Paul II

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The Parish Staff

Pastor—Rev. Anthony Onoko

aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Business Manager—Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich

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Mrs. Adelle Slebodnik

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Regional Director of Children's Formation & Discipleship

Mrs. Julianna Baluch

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Coordinator of Liturgical Music—Mr. Dean Dellamalva

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Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary—Mrs. Darleen Koury

dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance—Ms. Lynn Rusnak

lrusnak@dioceseofgreensburg.org

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Principal—Mrs. Carole Aiello

caiello@dioceseofgreensburg.org

School Business Manager—

Ms. Tiffany Zetty—TZetty@sssbv.org

School Telephone | 724-929-5143

Website | sssbv.org



Offertory for October 12, 2025

Regular Offertory	7,272.00
Utilities/Maintenance:	1,032.00
Votives:	230.00
All Saints:	95.00
All Souls:	75.00
Capital Projects:	250.00
Thanksgiving:	10.00
Catholic Relief:	10.00
World Mission:	55.00
Total Oct. 11/12	<u>\$9,029.00</u>

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Liturgies this Week

October 18—Vigil

4:30 PM † Christina & Carl Rihtarcik—Son, Steve

October 19—29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

11:00 AM † (Date of Birth) John Dunlop—Bob & Melanie Patterson

Monday, October 20

8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord
Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, October 21

8:00 AM † Andrew Krolik—JoAnn Paulic & Marc Zmijowski

Wednesday, October 22

9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist
Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, October 23

8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, October 24

8:00 AM For All the People of St. Sebastian Parish
Eucharistic Adoration

10:15 AM † Jennie & Bennie Ciferno—Family

October 25—Vigil

4:30 PM Fr. Vincent A. Yee Conception—Ladies of Faith

October 26—30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

11:00 AM † Elise Kravets Matava—Joseph & Therese Kravets Smith

The Rosary is Prayed Sundays at 830 AM. Please join us!

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: WARNER J. WISYANSKI.

We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Please scan the QR code for:

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FAITH FORMATION



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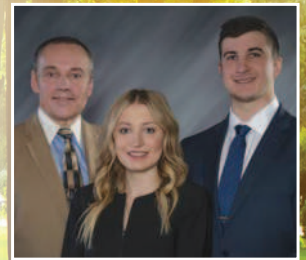
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