



Saint Sebastian Catholic Church

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A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

November 30, 2025



1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

“Be sure of this: if the master of the house had known the hour of night when the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake.” - Mt 24:43

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 at St. Sebastian

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.

Fr. Anthony's Reflection:

STAY AWAKE: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, YEAR A, 30TH NOVEMBER 2025

ISAIAH 2:1-5; PSALM 121; ROMANS 13:11-14; MATTHEW 24:37-44

Grace and peace to you dear brothers and sisters in the Lord. Today is the first Sunday of Advent, year "A". It is the beginning of a new liturgical year in the Church.

The Advent season, being the season preceding the Christmas season, is a season of prayer, repentance, preparation, hope and anticipation. It is a time to prepare to celebrate the coming of Jesus in history (Christmas), to welcome Him as He comes to us daily in mystery and to prepare for His second coming in glory.

We are reminded that just as Jesus came in history and He comes daily in mystery, He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and His coming will have no end. This is what we profess every Sunday, when we recite the Nicene Creed:

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end. The question is: "How do we respond to the message of the second coming of Jesus?"

Some people do not believe in this. St Peter tells us in 2 Peter 3:1-18 that many do not believe in the second coming of Jesus. Some think it is ridiculous because they have been hearing this all this time and yet Jesus has not come and therefore He won't come.

Some, on the other hand, are frightened that Jesus is coming again and are scared that this world that they cherish so much, in which they have invested so much, will come to an end.

The readings of today provide answers and insights for us on what our response to this message should be.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul warns us to give up the deeds of darkness. Deeds of darkness are things that we should not be doing as children of God, things that could potentially cause scandal when revealed about us, things that would make us ashamed when we stand before the Lord.

In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah says that we should walk in the light of the Lord, i.e, we should live as children of light, giving no room for hidden sins.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells us two things about His second coming.

A. It is certain

B. It will be sudden.

Because it is certain and it will be sudden, one of the counsels that Jesus gave us is to be awake. Sleeping is good; it relaxes the body but we all know that if one oversleeps, one can be in trouble. One can sleep and miss an appointment or miss where he/she is supposed to alight from a bus/train. To be spiritually asleep is also dangerous. Let us therefore be awake spiritually as we await the second coming of Jesus.

What does it mean to be awake spiritually?

1. We should never be lax in prayers and our Christian duties. A Christian who is lax in prayers or who has grown lukewarm is dangerously asleep.
2. To be awake means to be careful of and alert to small, hidden and habitual sins that may want to creep into our lives and gradually destroy our spiritual edifice.
3. To be awake means to be discerning, to be able to differentiate temptation from blessing, to discern what is deceitful, false and evil, no matter how good or godly it appears.

Dear friends, the message today is to be spiritually awake and to be ready always, because Jesus is coming again - it is certain and it will be sudden.

Fr. Anthony Onoko



This Sunday, November 30, is the first Sunday of Advent. Advent is the time to prepare for the greatest gift God has given us, the forgiving love we find through His Son. In celebrating this forgiveness we will offer the sacrament of Reconciliation throughout our region. All Penance services begin at 6:00 PM, the dates are listed below.

December 9	St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon
December 10	Epiphany of Our Lord, Monessen
December 11	St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis
December 16	St. Edward, Herminie
December 17	Seven Dolors, Yukon
December 18	Hoy Family, West Newton
December 19	Church of St. Anne, Rostraver

Mark these dates down and make an effort to come and bring your family to this life-giving sacrament.

Prayer for Advent

Arise—Bless God's Holy Name!
Prepare our hearts for Your coming, Lord. Awaken them from any places that have become sleepy or despondent. Inspire us with new visions. Be with us as we climb closer to You.
Amen.

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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 one month. 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.

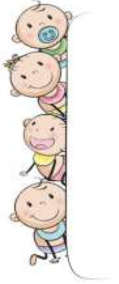


Lord, please remember the sick of our parish and community:

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

Little Things for Little People

This ministry will be having a winter donation drive in November and this is the final day. We are collecting baby blankets new or handmade to give out as Christmas gifts when Santa visits our program. Items may be brought to the Parish Office.



December 6th

Happy  ST. NICHOLAS ©LPI Day



Congratulations to the Keebler family. Mia was baptized into our Faith and Parish Family.

AN INVITATION TO SING!

Dear Parents and Families,

As we prepare our hearts for the joyful season of Advent, we are excited to invite children involved in music ministry (grades 1-8) to be part of a truly special celebration with the Diocesan Youth Choir.

The Diocesan Youth Choir will have the opportunity to celebrate the Advent season with Bishop Larry J. Kulick with Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent on Saturday, December 13, at 4:00 p.m., held during our 3rd annual Christmas Night Market at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg.

This wonderful event brings together families from across the Diocese for an evening filled with joy, faith, and festive fun. An exciting way to begin the Christmas season.

All music will be provided by email in advance so that the children who participate can practice before the day of the Mass. There will also be a rehearsal at 2:30 p.m. in St Joseph Chapel at Christ Our Shepherd Center, on the day of the Mass.

To register children for this special experience, please visit the link below:

www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/christmas-night-market-2025-childrens-choir-registration/

Each participant will receive a special T-shirt to wear during the Mass, please be sure to include the child's T-shirt size when registering.

We can't wait to share this joyful celebration of music and faith with you and your family and make this Advent season one to remember!

Blessings,

Tom Octave, Director of Sacred Music
Diocese of Greensburg

Youth Events



Youth Ministry Fundraiser

Our youth ministry team is currently selling tickets to help raise money to offset costs for amazing experiences in the coming year for our Young Church in Grades 6-12. Opportunities like conference retreats, fun trips to Kennywood and Cedar Point and catechetical field trips to St. Anthony's in Pittsburgh and other shrines/locations.

Tickets are \$10 with 3 numbers with a prize of two complete packs of PA scratch off tickets, \$500 cash and \$500 in assorted gift cards. Tickets play on PA Lottery on December 21. Contact your parish office or Adelle (724-244-9434) to get yours.

CALLED

Regional Youth Ministry – GRADES 6 - 8

"For I know well the plans I have in mind for you, plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. When you call me, and come and pray to me, I will listen to you. When you look for me, you will find me. Yes, when you seek me with all your heart". Jeremiah 29:11-13

The Young Church gathers on Sundays at St. John the Baptist in Perryopolis. We focus our formation on Scripture, Prayer Experiences, Community and Relationship with God. Questions, contact Adelle at aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org or 724-244-9434.

CONFIRMATION PREPARATION

In addition to our **CALLED** Sessions, those preparing to receive the **Sacrament of Confirmation** MUST attend Sacramental Preparation Sessions, including a Diocesan Retreat. Schedules are available by email and distributed at **CALLED**.

For more information, call Adelle at 724-244-9434 or aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

WEEK 1 Advent ©LPI

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.

2026 Calendars

Thank you to the Parzynski Funeral Home & Cremations LLC for providing the 2026 calendars for our parish. Their family members will be distributing the calendars next weekend, **November 29/30** after all Masses.

Christmas Fruit Baskets

The cost is \$25 per box. The **deadline** to order is **December 15**. **Pick up date is Sunday, December 23 in the Church Hall between 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM.** Please complete the order form and drop in the collection or return to the Parish Office with your payment.

CHRISTMAS FRUIT BASKET ORDER

NAME _____

PHONE _____

FRUIT BOXES _____

PAYMENT IS ENCLOSED _____

PICK-UP: **DECEMBER 23 BETWEEN 11:00 AM–1:00 PM.**

Saint Andrew | November 30

Saint Andrew was a fisherman in Galilee, along with his brother, Peter, when they were called by Jesus to leave their boat and become fishers of men. John's Gospel also places him as a follower of John the Baptist before he came to be one of Jesus' twelve Disciples. Beyond the scant references in the Gospels, not much is known of Saint Andrew's life.



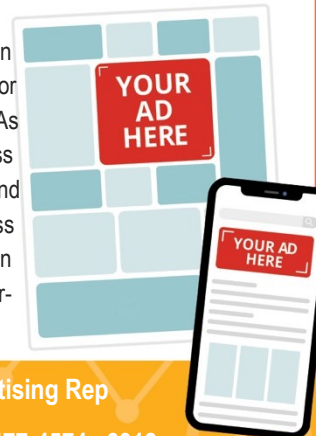
According to Christian tradition Saint Andrew, like many of his fellow Disciples, went out into Greece and Turkey to preach the Good News. A 4th century account of the saint's life tells of his martyrdom by crucifixion in Patras. Medieval accounts describe the cross used as X-shaped because Andrew said he was not worthy to die on the same style of cross as Jesus.

Famously, Saint Andrew is the patron Saint of Scotland, the country's flag bearing the X-shaped cross associated with him. Legends claim that the saint either traveled to Scotland to spread the Gospel or that his relics were brought there by St. Regulus who had a vision telling him to take the bones to the end of the earth. Regulus set out and was shipwrecked on the coast of Scotland. Today relics of St. Andrew which had been held by the Vatican are now at a shrine in Patras.

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Principal—Mrs. Carole Aiello

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School Business Manager—

Ms. Tiffany Zetty—TZetty@sssbv.org

School Telephone | 724-929-5143

Website | sssbv.org



Due to the early transmission of this bulletin, the financial report for November 23 will be in the next bulletin.

Offertory for November 16

Regular Offertory:	5,847.00
Loose collection:	920.00
Utilities/Maintenance:	1,024.00
Capital Projects:	115.00
Star Nails:	300.00
Votives:	276.50
Poverty Relief:	20.00
Retired Religious:	30.00
All Saints:	46.00
All Souls:	108.00
Thanksgiving:	98.00
World Mission:	5.00

Total Nov. 15/16 **\$8,783.50**

Thank you for supporting St. Sebastian Parish.

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Liturgies this Week

November 29—Vigil

4:30 PM † (Death Anniv) Christa Marie Paholsky—Aunt Peggie & Uncle David Holman

November 30—First Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM † Robert Nelson, JR.—Connie Garafalo
11:00 AM For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, December 1

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

Tuesday, December 2

8:00 AM † Ruth & Myrle Keller—Son, Lou & Family

Wednesday, December 3—St. Francis Xavier

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

Thursday, December 4—St. John Damascene

8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, December 5

8:00 AM † Bertha Whitten, Helen Triplett & Rudy Delopitro—Sister, Alexia
Eucharistic Adoration

10:15 AM For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

December 6—Vigil

4:30 PM † Raymond Moluski—John & Lucretia McCrory

December 7—Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 AM † Andrew Yencsik—Family
11:00 AM For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

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

Sympathy and Prayers—Please remember in your prayers those who have died: . WILLIAM NEIL BELAN. We extend our sympathy to his family. May he rest in peace.

Please scan the QR code for:

BAPTISM PREPARATION



FAITH FORMATION



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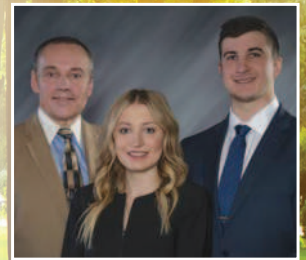
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