



Saint Sebastian Catholic Church

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A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg



1st SUNDAY OF LENT

Then the devil took Jesus up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.” Mt. 4:8-9

February 22, 2026

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.

St. John the Baptist: Sat. 4:00 PM Sun. 9:30 AM

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

**Friday: 8:00 AM at St. Sebastian
10:15 AM at St. Sebastian**

Reconciliation—Saturday

Epiphany—3:00—3:45 PM

St. Sebastian—3:30—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

HOMOLY GIVEN ON ASH WEDNESDAY, 18TH, FEBRUARY 2026. by FR. ANTHONY ONOKO
MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-18.

This week we begin the holy season of Lent with the Ash Wednesday liturgy. Lent is a special season of fasting/penance, prayer and almsgiving.

All the readings of today focus on these Lenten practices and what God expects of us. I shall not explore this today because we shall have time over the next few weeks to examine each of the Lenten practices more closely.

Today, I would like to focus on the words of the priest or minister as they impose ashes on us. As the priest or minister imposes ashes on us, they say one of the following two statements:

“Remember that you are dust and unto dust, you shall return” (Genesis 3:19).

Or

"Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mark 1:15).

Today, I want to reflect on the words "Repent and believe in the Gospel." Lent is a season to reflect, repent and reconnect with God.

Our first question is: "Lord, what are you calling me to repent from? What are you calling me to change in my life?" We can only get answers to these questions through sincere self-examination and openness to the Holy Spirit.

Perhaps this Lent God is calling us to repent from putting Him by the side and making other things the center of our lives. Perhaps He is calling us to repent from loving other things and persons more than Him. Let's think about the sin of spiritual laziness or waste of time, prioritizing other things above our relationship/ communion with Him. We could think about how we treat other people, our self-control in words, temper, desire for pleasure etc.

God's call to repentance is not to be seen as a threat. It is a call of love. God is saying, "My son, my daughter, don't waste your life in what fails to satisfy; don't feed on the wrong things. Don't live as a slave to sin and your passions. You don't have to go down the path of sorrow and regret. Turn to me and experience greater joy, satisfaction, freedom and delight."

And then we say "Believe the Gospel." What is the Gospel that I am called to believe? The summary is this:

God loves you so much, that He gave His only Begotten Son to die for our sins. Through faith in Him, we receive forgiveness of our sins; we are reconciled with God; we receive adoption, which gives us access to God and makes us coheirs with Jesus; we receive justification instead of condemnation and the hope of an eternal life of peace and joy.

Fr. Anthony's Office Hours

If anyone wants to meet with Fr. Anthony please call to set up an appointment. He could be available at St. Sebastian on Wednesdays from 10:30 AM until 3:00 PM. He is available at Epiphany of Our Lord, (724-684-7661) Tuesdays and is at St. John the Baptist, (724-736-4442) Mondays. Please call first.

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.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

The priests of our Region and will be available for individual Confession and Absolution. All services are at **6:00 p.m.**

March 12—Seven Dolors, Yukon
March 13—St. Anne, Rostraver
March 16—St. Sebastian, Belle Vernon
March 17—St. Cecilia, Grindstone
March 18—Holy Family—West Newton
March 19—St. Edward—Herminie
March 23—Epiphany—Monessen
March 30—St. John Baptist—Perryopolis



LENTEN RETREAT SCHEDULED

A three day retreat will be held in our parishes **March 9, 10, 11.**

Fr. Barnabas O'Reilly O.S.B. will present the Lenten Retreat beginning at St. Sebastian.

March 9—"Why didn't God just bring us back to Eden?"

Continuing at Epiphany of Our Lord

March 10—"What am I supposed to be doing with my life right now?"

And concluding at St. John the Baptist

March 11—"What's actually happening at Mass"

Each session begins at 6:00 PM.



Fr. Barnabas, a Johnstown native, earned his undergraduate degree from Saint Vincent College. He entered Saint Vincent monastery in 2015 and subsequently enrolled at Saint Vincent Seminary, receiving a Master of Arts (*cum laude*) in Catholic philosophical studies. He most recently taught at the Benedictine Military School in Savannah, Ga. Now he is working in campus ministry at Penn State University.

When attending devotions at St. Sebastian, please refrain from parking in the Auto or P.T. Clinic lots. Be considerate of our neighbors and their patrons.

"Come to Me All of You," that's what Jesus said.

Experience a powerful Lenten Reflection, and listen to the words of Jesus as He recounts His journey to our salvation. Come to St. Sebastian Catholic church in Belle Vernon, on **March 21** at 11:00AM, for our Ladies of Faith annual Lenten Reflection. **All are welcome** to participate in the *Stations of the Cross in the Voice of Christ*, followed by a light soup luncheon in the parish hall.

Friday Stations of the Cross

Remember we pray the stations at 6:00 pm every Friday during Lent.



Lent 2026 Little Black Book

This **Little Black Book** has prayers and reflections on the Passion of Jesus According the Gospel of Mark and is available to all.

Please take a copy to use for your personal meditation this Lent.

For **Children** we offer the **Little Purple Book**.

Please take one and encourage your children to follow along for Lent.

Paint & Sip



The Ladies of Faith will host a Paint & Sip in the Parish Hall on **March 14**, from 12 Noon until 3:00 PM (doors open at 11:30 am). The cost is \$35. Space is limited. Call/text Patty at 724-288-8644 for tickets.

LENTEN FISH FRY Epiphany of Our Lord Parish, Monessen,



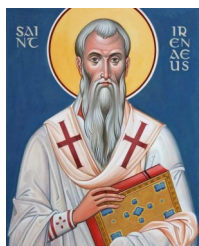
Friday's of Lent. (*Good Friday has limited menu and take out only*) 11:00 AM to 7:00 PM—Dine in or Take out: 724-684-5512.

St. John the Baptist Parish, Perryopolis
Fridays – 12:00 Noon-5:30 PM; Dine in/Take out.
Order ahead: 878-228-3716.

LADIES OF FAITH OFFERS SCHOLARSHIP

Saint Sebastian 12th Grade parishioners are offered an opportunity to apply for a \$500 scholarship. The award is for any student who pursues a full time course of study in a post-secondary institution or technical school, and fulfill the necessary requirements for consideration. Applications have been sent to those students listed in our Parish Census. Please return the completed packets by **March 13**.

SAINT FOR THIS WEEK—St. Polycarp



St. Polycarp of Smyrna stands as one of the most illustrious figures of the early Church—an essential link through whom the Apostolic Faith was transmitted to the generations that followed.

Born around the year 69, St. Polycarp became a disciple of St. John the Apostle, from whom he received not only the teachings of Christ but also a living witness to the Gospel. This direct connection to the Apostles made him a revered authority in the Christian community.

Consecrated Bishop of Smyrna by the Apostle John in modern-day Turkey, St. Polycarp was known for his zealous defense of authentic Christian teaching. He worked persistently to correct false doctrines that threatened the authenticity of the Faith and to preserve unity in the Church.

St. Polycarp's martyrdom is one of the earliest fully documented accounts outside Scripture. When persecution broke out, he refused to flee, entrusting himself entirely to God's will. Arrested and brought before the Roman authorities, he was commanded to curse Christ to save his life. His response has echoed through the centuries: "Four score and six years I have served Him, and He has done me no wrong. How then can I curse my King and Savior?"

St. Polycarp was sentenced to be burned alive, yet the flames, according to tradition, did not consume him. He was then pierced by a sword around the year 155.

St. Polycarp is one of three principal Apostolic Fathers of the early Church, along with Clement of Rome and Ignatius of Antioch, and remains a highly regarded teacher of the Faith.



Children's Faith Formation (K-5th Grade)

Hybrid sessions for in-person classroom at St. Sebastian is this Tuesday, **February 24** at 6:30 PM. For more information, contact Adelle Slebodnik at aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Paschal Candle

The Paschal Candle is a symbol of the risen Christ. On Easter Sunday it is placed next to the pulpit for the 50 days of Easter; after Easter it is placed near the Baptismal font and is lighted for Baptisms and Funerals. If you would like to sponsor either a portion or the whole cost of the paschal Candle, please call the Parish Office. This Candle may be in memory of a love one, or for a special intention.



Paschal Candle Flowers & Altar Candle Ring Flowers



If you would like to have flowers in memory of a deceased loved one or for a special intention, please contact the Parish Office. Flowers for the Paschal Candle are \$100, and flowers for the Altar Candle Rings are \$100 for the pair.

LOVE IN OUR WORKS

Our Lord does not care so much for the importance of our works as for the love with which they are done.—Teresa of Ávila

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

Bernadette Dayner
George L. Cowan

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

JUNQUE SALE is a GO!



This event will be held on **July 23—July 25**. We are asking YOU to help make this a success again by donating some of your time.

We will begin collecting in the upper garage on

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, every week starting on **APRIL 28**.

Remember when donating, we do not take TV's, clothing, large exercise equipment, electronics, magazines/encyclopedias, or furniture.

Please let us know if you can donate time by helping out at the garage or in the social hall the month of July.

The office will help you get your "clearances" if needed. To volunteer please the parish office, 724-929-9300, or Maggie Kelly at 954-850-0849.



PURSE BASH FUNDRAISER

St. Sebastian in conjunction with Epiphany of Our Lord Parish will be holding a Purse Bash on **April 26** at Epiphany Parish Hall in Monessen. Cost of tickets are \$35 which includes admission and change of purses, light lunch, beverage and door prizes. Tickets can be purchased at our parish office. This fundraiser benefits St. Sebastian Parish. We need your help for the purse bash fundraiser! We are looking for donations of baskets (\$35 minimum value) to raffle off, donations for our "Wine & Spirits" Raffle and/or monetary donations. All donations can be dropped off at the parish office. We are also in need of volunteers to help on the day of the event with the various jobs both men and women welcomed and needed. It takes many people to make this a success, please considering volunteering. If you can help, please contact Terri Gardner at 724-263-7289.

HOMEMADE SAUSAGE SALE

The Knights of Columbus will hold a sausage sale on March 31—April 1. All orders must be in by **Sunday, March 15**. 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.**

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___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Sweet Sausage
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Hot Sausage
___ lbs.	___ lbs.	Hot Hot Sausage

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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**.

Monessen Knights of Columbus Hoagie Sale

The hoagies will be \$10 each. **Orders must be received by Friday, March 13, 6 PM**. We will have a limited number of hoagies that can be purchased on the day of pick up.

March 28, 2026, from 10AM-2PM the hoagies available for pick up at the Monessen KoC Hall located at 1925 Grand Blvd, Monessen. Orders can be placed in the collection baskets at Masses or emailed to monessenkoc954@gmail.com

Any questions please contact Jason at 724-454-8688 if I don't answer please leave your name and number. Reminder **ORDERS due March 13, 2026**.

Name: _____

No. of Hoagies: _____

Phone: _____

The Parish Staff

Pastor—Rev. Anthony Onoko

aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parochial Vicar—Rev. Michael Thomas

mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org

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Regional Director of Faith Formation and Discipleship

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Regional Coordinator of Children's Faith Formation

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Maintenance/Housekeeping—Ms. Lynn Rusnak

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Maintenance—Mr. Patrick Frederick

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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



Second Collection

This weekend the second collection is the Catholic Home Missions Appeal to help support the struggling churches of Dioceses in the United States.

Offertory for February 15, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$8,566.00	Capital Projects:	\$150.00
Loose Collection:	\$1,017.00	Solemnity of Mary	\$30.00
Utilities/Maintenance:	\$139.00	Catholic Accent:	\$53.25
Votives:	\$113.00	Ash Wednesday:	\$189.00
Home Missions:	\$28.00	Lenten Offering:	\$995.00
Star Nails:	\$50.00	Eastern European:	\$80.00

Total Feb. 14/15 **\$11,450.25**

Thank you for supporting St. Sebastian Parish.

Consider online giving.

Scan the QR code for to set up your account.



Liturgies this Week

February 21—Vigil

4:30 PM † (Date of Birth) Jack Pesi, Jr.—Melanie & Bob Patterson

February 22—First Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM † Robert A. Mallonee—Mary Jane Sobek

Monday, February 23—St. Polycarp

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

Tuesday, February 24

8:00 AM † (MM) Joseph Vesely—Lou Turcheck

Wednesday, February 25

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

Thursday, February 26

8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, February 27—St. Gregory of Narek

8:00 AM For the Intention of the Holy Father
Eucharistic Adoration

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

6:00 PM Stations of the Cross

February 28—Vigil

4:30 PM † B. Anthony Bury—Grandma

March 1—Second Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 AM † (MM) Joanne Mathianas—Ruschak Family

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

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: . **Rosemarie Knox** and **Evelyn Raymond**. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.

Sacrament of Baptism—Please call the Faith Formation Office (724-929-9300) to register for the baptism of your child.

Please scan the QR code for:

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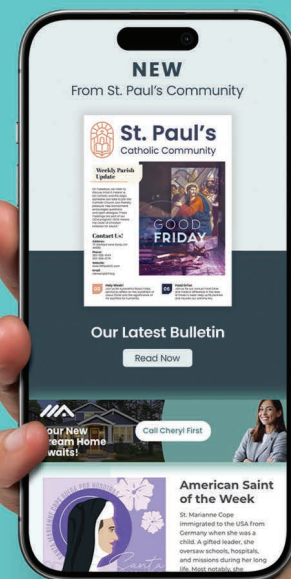


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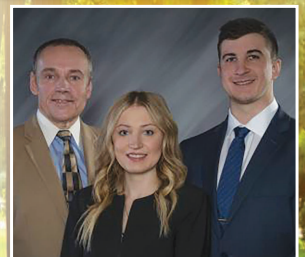


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