



Saint Sebastian Catholic Church

801 Broad Avenue · Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Office—724-929-9300 saintsebastianchurch.org

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A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg



September 6, 2026

23RD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

“For where two or three
are gathered together in
my name, there am I
in the midst of them.”
- Mt 18:19-20

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

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 & 10 AM at St. Sebastian

Reconciliation—Saturday

St. John the Baptist and 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 worshiping 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.

Father Anthony's Reflection and Prayer
LOVE ENOUGH TO CORRECT

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A 9/07/2026 Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 95; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20

The readings of this Sunday remind us that Christianity is not an individual journey. We are responsible, in some measure, for one another.

In the First Reading, God appoints Ezekiel as a watchman. A watchman does not create the danger; he sees it coming and sounds the warning. God tells Ezekiel that if he sees danger and refuses to warn the people, he will be held accountable. This teaches us that love sometimes requires the courage to speak. Silence is not always kindness. There are moments when refusing to correct someone may simply allow them to continue along a destructive path.

However, correction must always come from love. St Paul gives us the principle in the Second Reading: "Love is the one thing that cannot hurt your neighbor." Christian correction is never about humiliating people, proving ourselves right or broadcasting their failures.

Jesus shows us how this should be done. "If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone." Notice: go to him, not to everyone else. How often do we discuss someone's faults with others before speaking to the person concerned? Jesus proposes discretion, dialogue and respect. Only when private conversation fails should others gradually become involved.

This Gospel therefore challenges two extremes: correcting everyone harshly and refusing ever to correct anyone. Truth without love becomes cruelty; love without truth can become sentimentality. Christian love needs both.

Jesus concludes with the beautiful promise: "Where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them." Even difficult conversations become different when Christ is truly present.

So, some practical questions for this week: Do I gossip about faults I should address privately? Can people correct me without receiving hostility in return? When I correct someone, is my motive genuinely their good? Have I remained silent when love required me to speak? Is there someone with whom I need to seek reconciliation?

Lord Jesus, give us the courage to speak the truth, the humility to receive correction, the wisdom to know when to remain silent, and above all, the grace to do everything in love. Amen.

Fr. Anthony Onoko, Pastor

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Heavenly Father, as we enter the month of September, we come before you with faith and confidence, placing all our needs and the needs of our brothers and sisters into your loving hands. Your Word assures us, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; do not be alarmed, for I am your God" (Isaiah 41:10).

Lord, remember all who are sick and suffering. We pray especially for those battling cancer, diabetes, heart problems and other serious or long-term illnesses. As your Word says, "Heal me, Lord, and I shall be healed" (Jeremiah 17:14). Strengthen them in moments of weakness, comfort them in their pain, bless their treatments and guide the doctors, nurses and families who care for them.

We pray also for all who are looking for employment. Open doors of opportunity for them, especially those who have experienced repeated disappointment. Provide for families struggling financially and bless the work of their hands, for "my God will fulfil all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

May this month of September bring healing to the sick, employment to jobseekers, hope to the discouraged, peace to troubled hearts and abundant blessings upon our families. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Anthony, Pastor

WISDOM NUGGET

The beautiful thing about life is that you can always grow, change and get better. You aren't defined by your past. Some of the greatest rewards you will ever achieve comes from what no one else is doing. Keep doing the good work that sets you apart. Balance brings clarity as it helps you to see what matters.

All the hard good work you are putting in now will be worth it. The road maybe tough but the destination worth it. Have faith in God with your good works. The Lord lifts.

Fr. Anthony Onoko, Pastor

*St. Sebastians, Epiphany of Our Lord, and St. John's
invites you to...*



Three nights of Prayer, Praise, and Adoration

6:30PM, All on Fridays

*September 25th, St. Sebastian's, Belle Vernon
October 16th, Epiphany of our Lord, Monessen
October 30th, St. John The Baptist, Perryopolis*

*Come to all three or just one. All are welcome! Bring a friend!
These events will be directed by the Holy Spirit! Come Holy Spirit!*



Have you ever wondered if others are others getting more out of the Mass that you are? Maybe **you need a new perspective. Serving at the altar** is more than just a role, it's a way to actively participate in the liturgy and experience God's presence in a profound way. Whether you're helping to proclaim His Word as a **lector**, offering the Eucharist as an **Extraordinary Minister**, leading the congregation in song as a **Cantor**, assisting as an **Altar Server**, or as an **Usher/Greeter**, welcoming those who have come to Mass, each role is an opportunity to serve the Lord and grow spiritually. If concern about scheduling is holding you back, know that we can work to fit it in your schedule. **If you are interested serving in any of the ministries, please call Linda in the Parish Office at 724-929-9300.**

ALSO—We are in need of Money Counters on Sunday after Mass...call the office to sign-up.

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

Bernadette Dayner, Laurel Wachinski

George L. Cowan, Dolores Petrisin

Fr. Ronald Simboli, Margaret Flint

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

Rosary Prayer Breakfast

Please join in the 2nd Annual Rosary Prayer Breakfast, **October 3**, with Mass, Rosary, Breakfast and guest speaker, Deacon William Newhouse, presenting "Holy Mary, Mother of God. Fill out the form below or a form from the church pamphlet racks and return to Darleen at the Parish Office.

Rosary Prayer Breakfast—October 3, 2026

Name _____

Phone _____

Reservation cost of \$10, must be included with this form.

Check _____ Cash _____

Please make checks payable to St. Sebastian Ladies of Faith. RSVP by Wednesday, September 23.

Return to St. Sebastian Parish Office.

**GET YOUR 2027 CASH CALENDAR HOLD OUT #
THIS WEEK ONLY!!**

Stop by the Parish Office between **10 AM** and **2 PM** this week,
Tuesday, September 8 thru **Friday September 11** to purchase
your Hold Out Cash Calendar number.

Calendars paid upon pick-up. No phone calls to hold numbers.

Hold Outs this week will be 1st come/1st serve.

Beginning Saturday, September 12, calendars will be available
for sale before and after Mass while supplies last.



**Appalachian Christmas
Shoe Box Project**

Once again, we will be participating in the
Appalachian Christmas Shoe Box Project
through the Diocesan Central Council of
Greensburg, Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
The shoe boxes will then be given to recip-
ients as gifts for Christmas. Flyers are in
the church pamphlet racks listing the items
most needed. Thank you and God bless
you for your kindness.

Fr. Anthony's Office Hours

To meet with Fr. Anthony please call to set up an ap-
pointment. He could be available at St. Sebastian (724-
929-9300) on Wednesday from 10:30 AM until 3:00
PM. He is available at Epiphany of Our Lord (724-684-
7661) on Tuesday and is at St. John the Baptist (724-
736-4442) on Monday. Please call the Parish Office to
set up an appointment to meet with Fr. Anthony.

Has your contact information changed?

Would you like to Join our Parish?

Please check all that apply:

☐ New Parishioner ☐ I Would Like Envelopes

☐ Change Information

Name

Address

City, State, Zip

Phone ()

E-mail



Golden Wedding Anniversary Mass

Bishop Larry J. Kulick invites all married
couples celebrating their **50th Wed-
ding Anniversary** during **2026** to join
him for the Diocese of Greensburg's annual **Golden
Wedding Anniversary Mass**. The Mass will be cel-
ebrated on **Sunday, October 4, at 3 PM**
at **Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg**.
This special celebration offers couples and their fami-
lies an opportunity to give thanks to God for fifty
years of married life, to renew their gratitude for the
grace of the Sacrament of Matrimony, and to receive a
blessing as they mark this joyful milestone. To regis-
ter visit: www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/GWA.



PICNIC HELPERS WANTED

If anyone would like to help on the day of the
Picnic, **September 19**, please call Mary Ann

724-366-5370 or

Janet 724-684-8202

There will be a final meeting for the parish pic-
nic. If anyone is interested in helping, please at-
tend the meeting on Wednesday, **September
16** at 5:30 PM in the parish center. We are in
need of help loading cars on Friday, setting up
and clean up on Saturday and serving food.

There are other small jobs that we need help
with also. We have a great turnout for this
years picnic, please consider helping for a little
while. If you cannot attend the meeting but
would like to help, please call the office before
the Wednesday meeting.

Faith Formation/
Religious Education 2026-2027
TO REGISTER USE:
mmvformation.flocknote.com.

REGISTRATION for FAITH FORMATION

is now available. There are multiple options available for families to choose from. For more info, please sign up for **flocknote**.

Registration is online only....you can scan the QR code. If you need assistance with registration, please reach out to Adelle To schedule a time to meet and complete the online registration together.

SCAN HERE



Faith Formation
Registration

Diocesan Lenten Appeal Continues

Help us reach our **Parish Goal** is \$116,726. So far we have received **\$90,302.55** in pledges. Your additional gifts will remain in our parish and will help with the continued upgrade and repairs to our Sound & HVAC systems. There are envelopes in the pews for your convenience or you may scan the QR code for this year's DLA.



SCAN TO DONATE

MARCH FOR LIFE IN HARRISBURG

Buses are planned for the annual Pennsylvania March for Life in Harrisburg **Monday, September 21**. Parishioners of all ages are invited to join Bishop Larry J. Kulick on this peaceful march to support the unborn. For information and to register: DioceseOfGreensburg.org/Pro-Life-Ministries.

40 Days for Life begins, Tuesday, September 22

Join advocates for life for Mass and candlelit Eucharistic Procession to Planned Parenthood on Tuesday, **September 22**. Mass will be at 6 PM at Divine Mercy Parish, Epiphany Church in Pittsburgh. It is recommended to park downtown and walk to the Church, to be near your car when the event ends in front of PP. Bring a package of disposable diapers to assist area pregnancy resource centers.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE

Bishop Larry J. Kulick invites you to the Diocese of Greensburg's 75th Anniversary Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on **Saturday, September 19**. For schedule and registration at DioceseOfGreensburg.org/Pilgrimage.

WHAT DOES COR FEEL LIKE?

Authentic Joy! Register your High Schooler today for our Sunday, **September 13th**

COR "Awaken the Heart" with musical guest, Dana Catherine. Register at:

<https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/cor-september-2026/>

Go to this link to listen to Dana Catherine sing:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?>



Formation Volunteers

NEEDED

Be the change and make a difference by joining our team of dedicated volunteers who help share the Good News to our children and youth! Multiple days and locations.

Contact Adelle at aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org for more information on how you can serve in this ministry

We are looking for Catechists, Classroom Aids, Youth Mentors for Youth Ministry, Hallway Monitors, Drop Off/Pick Up Organizers, Hospitality/Snacks/Food, and any other way that you would like to help.

Adult Faith Formation Day

Adult faith formation catechists, youth ministry members, Christian Initiation catechists, Catholic school teachers and priests are invited to a Faith Formation Day on Saturday, **September 26**, from 9 AM—1 PM at Christ Our Shepherd Center. The day includes discussions and conclude with lunch. Registration required at DioceseOfGreensburg.org/FaithFormationDay.

SAVE THE DATE!

Spirited

2026 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Mari Pablo

Ali Hoffman

"Chosen and precious in the sight of God."
—1 Peter 2:4

NOV 7 2026

Christ Our Shepherd Center
2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg, PA 15601

More Details and Registration Coming Soon.

KNOW HIM

THROUGH HIS MOTHER'S EYES

THURSDAY OCTOBER 22 2026

PRESENTED BY
THE OFFICE OF FAITH, FAMILY AND DISCIPLESHIP

Join us for this experiential event to encounter Christ through the eyes of His Blessed Mother. Explore the ways Mary leads us more deeply to her Son.

SAVE THE DATE

Christ Our Shepherd Center • Greensburg • 2:00 PM and 6:00 PM
Registration Opens September 1, 2026

Looking for answers?
Questions on how to grow in faith?
Not sure where to start?

The Order of Christian Initiation process involves a journey of faith and conversion. A person is introduced to the beliefs, life, liturgy, and apostolic work of the Catholic Church. Christian Initiation is for those over the age of 7 (3rd Grade) and are:

- unbaptized
- baptized and would like to receive Confirmation and Eucharist
- those who just have questions

Adult and Youth Sessions will begin in September.
For more information contact:
All Inquiries: Adelle at aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Adults: Barbara at 412-417-1595
Youth: Maureen at mruschak@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Prayer of the True Presence

My Lord and my Love
Bread of Life, nourish me.
Pascal Lamb, restore me.
Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament,
consume me
as I consume you.
Amen.



Renew & Refresh

Order of Christian Initiation for Adults Training

Saturday, September 12, 2026
9:00AM - 3:00PM
Lunch provided

Christ Our Shepherd Center
2900 Seminary Drive, Greensburg, PA

Sponsored by the Diocese of Greensburg
Office of Faith, Family, and Discipleship
Free for those involved in Christian Initiation in the Diocese of Greensburg

Scan the QR code, or visit
DioceseofGreensburg.org/OCIAtraining
to register.

For more information,
e-mail: FFD@DioceseofGreensburg.org

Calling all Middle School Students...
YOU'RE INVITED!

CHOSEN PAX

Scan the QR code or register at:
DioceseofGreensburg.org/PAX

Friday • November 6 • 2026
6-9:30PM • Our Lady of Grace Church • Greensburg

SAINT SEBASTIAN CHURCH, BELLE VERNON, PENNSYLVANIA

The Parish Staff

Pastor—Rev. Anthony Onoko

aonoko@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parochial Vicar—Rev. Michael Thomas

mthomas@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Office Manager/Clearances—Mrs. Amy Legeza

alegeza@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Regional Business manager (off site)—Ms. Christine Coletti

ccoletti@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Regional Director of Faith Formation and Discipleship

Mrs. Adelle Slebodnik

aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Coordinator of Liturgical Music—Mr. Dean Dellamalva

ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Parish Secretary—Mrs. Linda Drury

ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary—Mrs. Darleen Koury

dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance/Housekeeping—Ms. Lynn Rusnak

lrusnak@dioceseofgreensburg.org

Maintenance—Mr. Patrick Frederick

pfrederick@dioceseofgreensburg.org

St. Sebastian Regional Catholic School

Principal

Mr. Jason Scaramucci

jScaramucci@sssbv.org

School Business Manager

Ms. Tiffany Zetty—TZetty@sssbv.org

School Telephone—724-929-5143

Website—sssbv.org



In **Observance of Labor Day**, the Parish Office will be closed, Monday, **September 7**. The Office will reopen on Tuesday, 9 AM.

Offertory for August 30, 2026

Regular Offertory	\$5,508.00
Loose Collection:	\$1,091.00
Utilities/Maintenance:	\$48.00
Votives:	\$343.00
Catholic Accent:	\$5.00
Capital Projects:	\$52.00
Catholic Schools	\$393.00
Assumption:	\$6.00

Total Aug. 29/30 \$9,046.00



Consider online giving.
Scan the QR code to set up your account.
Thank you for your support.

Liturgies this Week

September 5—Vigil

4:30 PM † Mike Wassilchalk, JR.—Kim Zuchowski & Pat Amprim

September 6—23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 AM † Neil Belan—Dr. & Mrs. Joseph DeBlassio
11:00 AM For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, September 7—Labor Day

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

Tuesday, September 8—Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:00 AM † Jarvis and Frederick Parents—Children

Wednesday, September 9—St. Peter Claver

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

Thursday, September 10

8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, September 11

8:00 AM † (DB) Linda Callaway—Sally Williams
Eucharistic Adoration

10:00 AM Special Intention

September 12—Vigil

4:30 PM † Tonarelli & Paglia Families—Gerry, Tina & Elaine

September 13—24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

(Mass Intention abbreviations: **MM**—Month's Mind; **DA**—Death Anniversary; **DB**—Date of Birth.)

The Rosary is Prayed on Sundays at 8:30 AM. Please join us.



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:

FAITH FORMATION



(OCIA) ORDER OF
CHRISTIAN INITIATION
OF ADULTS





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