

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



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 com- mitted 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.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 18, 2026

Father Anthony's Reflection and Prayer

GIVE TO GOD WHAT BEARS HIS IMAGE: 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A

Today is the 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A. The Gospel begins with a trap. The Pharisees and the Herodians ask Jesus whether it is lawful to pay the Roman tax. If he says yes, some may accuse him of cooperating with the occupying power. If he says no, the authorities could accuse him of rebellion.

Jesus sees through their flattery and asks them to show him the coin used to pay the tax. It bears the image and title of Caesar. So Jesus replies, "Give back to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God."

His answer does not simply divide life into a "political" part and a "religious" part. Jesus recognises that we have responsibilities as citizens, but he also makes clear that no earthly ruler can claim what belongs to God. We should fulfil our just civic duties, contribute to the common good and take part responsibly in society. But our ultimate allegiance belongs to God.

The coin bears Caesar's image. But whose image do we bear? The Book of Genesis tells us that every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. The coin may belong to Caesar, but we belong to God. Our lives, our conscience, our gifts and our whole being are entrusted to us by him.

This gives us a practical question: What are we giving to God? Do we give him only an hour on Sunday, or do we allow him to shape how we speak, work, spend, forgive and treat other people? We cannot claim to give God our worship while withholding from him the parts of our lives where he asks us to act with honesty, compassion and justice.

The first reading reminds us that God is Lord of history. He can work even through Cyrus, a foreign ruler, to accomplish his purpose. The second reading praises the Thessalonians for their work of faith, labour of love and endurance in hope. Their faith was not just something they professed; it was visible in the way they lived.

That is the challenge for us. We are called to be good citizens and faithful disciples. We respect legitimate authority, but we do not make any person, party, nation, wealth or ambition into a god. When our faith asks something of us, we must follow Christ with courage. And in our daily choices, we should let the image of God in us become visible through love, truth and service.

Let us pray.

Lord our God, you have made us in your image and called us to belong to you. Teach us to fulfil our responsibilities with honesty and to serve the common good. Keep our hearts free from every false idol, and help us give you our whole lives through faith, love and service. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. 🙏

Fr. Anthony Onoko, Pastor

PRAYER FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER

Loving and merciful Father, During the month of October, we place into Your caring hands all those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit.

We pray especially for all who are battling cancer, heart disease, and every serious illness. Bring them healing, strength, courage, and peace. Bless their doctors, nurses, carers, and all who support them. May they never feel alone, for You are close to the broken-hearted and near to all who call upon You.

We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Comfort them in their sorrow, wipe away their tears, and give eternal rest to those who have died. May the hope of the resurrection strengthen every wounded heart.

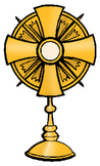
We pray for marriages and families experiencing difficulty, misunderstanding, separation, pain, or lack of peace. Lord, heal what is broken, soften hearts, restore communication, deepen love, and grant the grace of forgiveness and reconciliation.

Bless all Your children throughout this month. Grant us good health, protection, wisdom, peace in our homes, success in our work, and growth in faith. May this month bring renewed hope, unexpected blessings, and a deeper awareness of Your loving presence.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary, may God bless us, protect us, and keep us close to His Sacred Heart. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Fr. Anthony Onoko, Pastor

St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis
invites you to
PRAYER PRAISE and ADORATION
Friday at 6:30 PM
October 30, 2026
All are welcome! Bring a friend!
This event will be directed by the Holy Spirit!
Come Holy Spirit!





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

Bernadette Dayner, Laurel Wachinski
George L. Cowan,
Dolores Petrisin,
Fr. Ronald Simboli
Margaret Flint, Gerald Saxon



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

WISDOM NUGGET **-** An adage says " if you do not throw the toad in hot water and also throw it in the cold water it won't know which is better"

T*HE WISDOM* -
Some times it takes the change of circumstances before one appreciates one's good fortune, never wait until that moment. Always appreciate what you own when you still have it.

AN EVENING OF DIOCESAN HONORS



On October 7, the Diocese of Greensburg recognized members of the faithful whose meritorious service, generous dedication and commitment to the Church have contributed in a significant way to the life of their parish. Two of our parishioners, **Karen Heasly** and **Sandy Wawro**, were among those to receive the Diocesan Medal of Honor presented by Bishop Kulick.
Also receiving this recognition are two parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church, James and Linda Jellick. "Congratulations, blessing and thanks for sharing your gifts."



ACTIV8 CONFIRMATION RETREAT - All youth preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in spring 2027 are required to participate in the Diocese of Greensburg's ACTIV8 Confirmation Retreat. Inspired by Acts 1:8, this retreat provides an opportunity for candidates to deepen their relationship with Christ and be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as they prepare for Confirmation. Retreats will be held at Christ Our Shepherd Center, Greensburg, Wednesdays, Oct. 28 and Nov. 11, and Saturday, Nov. 21, from 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Registration opens at 9 a.m. Morning bus transportation is available. Families are invited to attend Mass at 4:30 p.m., and parents are required to participate in a meeting with Bishop Larry J. Kulick at 6 p.m. For information and registration details, visit DioceseofGreensburg.org/ConfirmationRetreat.

Can You Help With D.L.A.?

Our Parish Goal is $116,726. Through your kindness, we have thus far we have received **$92,975.55** in pledges. All gifts now will remain in our parish and will help with the continued upgrade and repairs to our Sound & HVAC systems. There are envelopes are in the pews for your convenience.



PAINT AND SIP SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 2026 12:00 N - 3:00 PM



The Ladies of Faith will host a Paint & Sip in the Parish Hall on November 7, 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.

LADIES OF FAITH FUNDRAISER TODAY!!!

Dine at Hoss's today, Sunday, **October 18**, at any time of the day and present the card when you place your order. Hoss's will donate a percentage to the Ladies of Faith. Your consideration will help their group to continue their good works for our parish.

Don't have a card?

Clip the one below and take it to Hoss's and give it to the server when you order!



ESSAY CONTEST

The Knights of Columbus, Council #954 is sponsoring an Essay Contest for Catholic students grades 8-12. This year's theme is taken from President John Kennedy's inaugural address. Specific instructions and entry forms will be available in the Church vestibule and Parish Office. The contest closes on **November 15th** with a cash prize awarded to each first-place winner in each grade. Winning entries will then be forwarded to district and state offices for further judging.

The 2027 Cash Calendar Parish Fundraiser

Calendars are available for purchase before and after Mass each weekend and during the week at the Parish Office while supplies last. Support our Parish and our Calendar sponsors. Pick up your 2027 Cash Calendar today for only $25!

You'll have 365 chances to win!



HELP WANTED!
School Crossing Guard

St. Sebastian School is seeking a reliable and responsible School Crossing guard to help ensure the safety of students arriving at and leaving school. Hours are Monday - Friday, 7:00 am - 8:30 am and 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm. Three hours per day. Applicants must be dependable, safety-conscious and confortable working outdoors.
Background check and Child clearances are necessary. For more informaton or to apply please contact: Nbvborough@gmail.com or call 724-929-6930.

OCTOBER COUNT

The month of October has 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.

Appalachian Christmas Shoe Box Project

The Appalachian Christmas Shoe Box Project is through the Diocesan Central Council of Greensburg, Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Flyers are in the church pamphlet racks listing the items most needed. Thank you and God bless you for your kindness. Last day to drop off your donations at the church vestibule is Sunday, October 18th, 2026.

*Anyone wishing to **help pack** the Shoe Boxes can come to the Parish Hall on **October 24** at **10 :00AM**. Your help will be most appreciated.*

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Cor (from the Latin cor, meaning "heart") is a **Council 954** initiative for ALL men in our Parishes, that attempts to build Christ-centered brotherhood through prayer, formation and fraternity. **Cor** does not replace or compete with any existing ministries but serves as a resource to help deepen men's interior lives. In the coming weeks, we will be offering additional information about **Cor** and encouraging all men in our parishes to investigate and participate.

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 _____



Fr. Anthony's Office Hours To meet with Fr. Anthony please call for an appointment. He can be available at St. Sebastian (724-929-9300) on Wednesday from 10:30 AM - 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 first.

TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - OCTOBER 18, 2026

FAITH FORMATION NEWS: Faith Formation for our youth in PreK through 12th Grade is now underway. Haven't registered yet — you still can by going to this link: https://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/mid-mon-valley-region-faith-formation-registration-2026-2027/

Sacrament Preparation Sessions are underway for those requesting to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist. If you have not yet attended, please contact Adelle at aslebodnik@dioceseofgreensburg. Two (2) full years of formation are required.

7th Grade parents will have meetings during their child's formation session beginning October 18, email reminders have been sent.

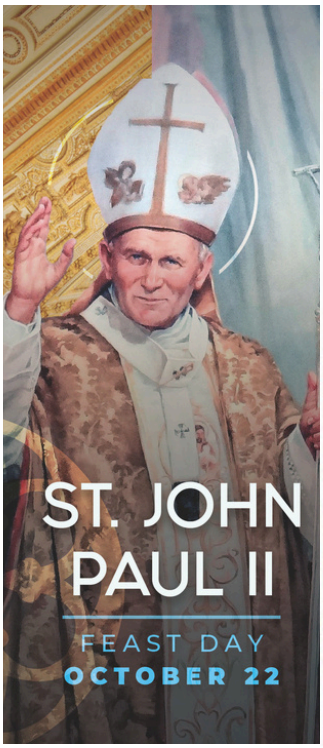
7th and 8th Grade youth are required to attend a retreat day, information has been emailed to all registered formation families. If you have not registered, please use the link above.

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









MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS – WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT PAX: CHOSEN

Calling all middle school students! Get ready for an unforgettable night! Register now for PAX: CHOSEN, Friday, November 6, from 6-9:30 PM at Our Lady of Grace Parish, Greensburg. Join us for an evening of games, food, friends and a powerful faith experience. Keynote speaker Mari Pablo will remind you how God has CHOSEN you for greatness. Register now at DioceseofGreensburg.org/PAX.

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

SAINT SEBASTIAN REGIONAL CATHOLIC SCHOOL

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

Offertory for October 11, 2026

Regular Offertory	$6,079.00
Loose Collection:	$1,583.25
Utilities/Maintenance:	$1,329.00
Votives:	$298.00
All Souls:	$112.00
Capital Projects:	$85.00
All Saints:	$62.00
World Mission:	$115.00
Thanksgiving:	$20.00
Retired Priests:	$50.00
Mission Co-op:	$17.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	$15.00
Total Oct. 10/11	**$9,765.25**

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

Liturgies this Week

October 17—Vigil
4:30 PM † Michelle Spoonhoward- Judith Fieldy

October 18 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM † Doris & Tom Barruso - Baron Family

11:00 AM For all the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, October 19 - St. John de Brebeuf & Isaac Jogues and Companions
8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord
Eucharistic Adoration

Tuesday, October 20 - St. Paul of the Cross
8:00 AM † Isabella Herron - Family

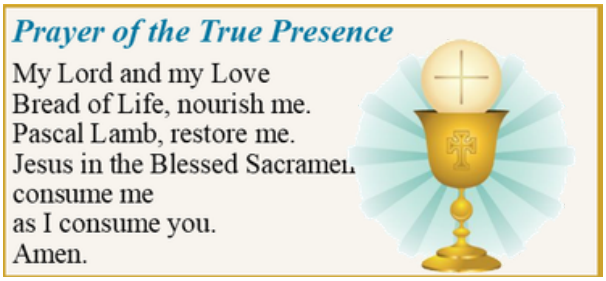
Wednesday, October 21
9:00 AM Mass at St. John the Baptist
Eucharistic Adoration

Thursday, October 22 - Pope St. John Paul II
8:00 AM Mass at Epiphany of Our Lord

Friday, October 23 - St. John Capistrano
8:00 AM † Margaret Weaver - Jack & Jennie Timlin
Eucharistic Adoration

October 24- Vigil
4:30 PM † Tina & Carl Rihtarcik - Son, Steve

October 25 - 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
9:00 AM Special Intention for Rita Kinder - Galiotto Family
11:00 AM † John Dunlap - Wife, Sue & Family



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

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

Please scan the QR code for:
FAITH FORMATION

(OCIA) ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OFADULTS

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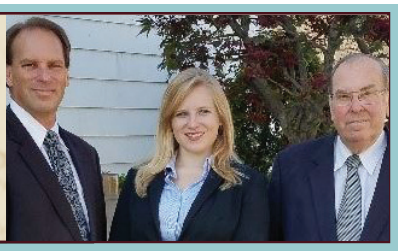

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