



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time February 24, 2019



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

Parish Staff

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Parish Telephone Numbers:

Parish Center/Office: 724-929-9300
Parish Fax: 724-930-7611
Faith Formation Office 724-929-9300

Parish Website: www.saintsebastianchurch.org

Weekend Masses:

Saturday 4:30 p.m.; Sunday 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Weekday Masses:

Tuesday and Friday 8:00 a.m.
Holy Days, Holidays, call the Parish Office

Sacrament of Penance:

Saturday 3:00—4:00 p.m.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Saint Sebastian Regional School

Dr. Nina Zetty Principal
nzetty@dioceseofgreensburg.org
Mrs. Tiffany Miller School Business Manager
tnmiller@sssbv.org
School Telephone 724-929-5143
School Fax 724-929-3038
Website www.sssbv.org

Bulletin Deadline: 9:00 a.m. on Monday. Please print or type all announcements.

Ministry to the Homebound: For the Sacraments of the Eucharist, Reconciliation or Anointing of the Sick, call the Faith Formation Office.. Extraordinary Ministers are available for Communion to the Homebound on Sundays.

Catholic Charities: Counseling is available through the Diocesan Catholic Charities Office. Call 724-929-4699.

Religious Education/Formation: Please call the Faith Formation Office at 724-929-9300.

(RCIA) Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: Anyone interested in becoming a Catholic, please call the Faith Formation Office.

Sacrament of Marriage: Arrangements are to be made at least six months in advance. Couples must participate in Marriage Preparation sessions.

Sacrament of Baptism for Infants: Please call the Faith Formation Office to schedule Baptism and to register for the Baptism Preparation session held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. Parents must attend prior to their child's Baptism.

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.

Stewardship

The Bible, from the first page on, teaches us that the whole of creation is for humanity, that it is men and women's responsibility to develop it by intelligent effort and by means of their labor to perfect it, so to speak, for their use. If the world is made to furnish each individual with the means of livelihood and the instruments for growth and progress, all people have therefore the right to find in the world what is necessary for them.

Populorum Progressio
 ("On the Development of Peoples"),
 Pope Paul VI, 1967, #22.

Travel Group

There are still a few seats left for the **May 21-22** trip to Baltimore for "From Sea to Shining Stars". Final payment of \$263 is due by March 15, 2019.

Call Sandy Wawro for more information, 724-938-0865.

Additional 2019 Trips

★ In Jennerstown:

Mid Life 2—Aug. 8:

Million Dollar Quartet—Oct. 10

★ Sweet Treats & Fancy Eats in York—July 31-Aug 1.

★ Ark Adventure in Kentucky—Oct. 16-17.

Hearing Assistance

Our parish has special hearing assistance technology. Please see Fr. Mike, in the sacristy, at least 15 minutes before Mass.

Second Collection this weekend is the monthly Utilities & Maintenance collection.

Belle Vernon Rotary Annual Pancake Festival

The Belle Vernon Area Rotary will sponsor their annual Sausage and All-You-Can-Eat-Pancake Festival on Shrove Tuesday, **March 5**, from 11:30 am until 7:00 pm in our Parish Hall. Tickets may be purchased from any Rotarian or at the door.

Get Catholic news today and every day on Twitter

@CatholicAccent and diocesan news at

www.dioceseofgreensburg.org



Spring Vendor Show

St. Sebastian Parish will hold a Vendor Show on Saturday, **April 6**. We are looking for anyone interested in participating as a Vendor for this show. For more information, call Kathy Rygiel at 724-326-0129.

Estate Planning

From the kindness of your heart, please remember Saint Sebastian Parish in your will.

Stewardship of Treasure

February 17, 2019

Regular Offertory: \$ 5,887.00 (298 envelopes out of 1294 families)

Youth: \$ 20.40

Loose: \$ 780.50

Total Offertory: \$ 6,687.90

Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory \$7,986.31

Over/(under) budget: \$ (2,099.31)

Average adult donation this weekend \$10.00 per envelope

Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 45.00
Votive Candles:	\$ 292.96
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 277.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 165.00
Eastern Europe:	\$ 48.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 5.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$ 5.00
Lenten Season:	\$ 85.00
Home Missions:	\$ 5.00

Total February 16/17 collection: \$ 7,615.86

The Season of Lent

With the celebration of Ash Wednesday next week we begin the season of Lent. This is a period of time set aside by the church to afford us the opportunity to look at our relationship not only with God but also with one another. The entire message of Jesus is one of discipleship, being for one another. As we look at what we can do for this season, it would be good to see just how we relate to one another and determine how we can improve. With the current situation of having one priest between two parishes, there will be a change in the usual schedule.

Ash Wednesday: Mass will be celebrated at Epiphany of Our Lord at Noon, and there will be a communion service with the distribution of ashes at 8:00 am.

At St. Sebastian's I will be celebrating Mass at 9:30 am and 7:00 pm. There will be distribution of ashes at 4:00 pm.

Monday evening at 6:00 we celebrate

Taizé Prayer at Epiphany of Our Lord.

Monday evening at 6:30 we will have an adult Education series where we explore the Gospel of Luke.

Friday's during Lent, Epiphany will pray the stations at 6:00 pm and St. Sebastian's will pray Stations of the Cross at 6:30 pm.

Daily Liturgy at 8:00 on Monday and Friday with Mass at St. Sebastian's on Tuesday and Friday.

In addition to these services you can also journey through Lent with an online program called "Best Lent Ever. You can sign up for this at

BestLentEver.com/ParishsignUp.

This is a free program that runs throughout the Lenten Season.

I am hopeful that you will be able to avail yourselves to some of these events.

Father Mike

For Your Lenten Reflection

Free copies of the Little Black Book as well as copies of The Word Among Us are available in the church vestibule.

Liturgies of the Week

February 23—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) Andrew Adametz—Wife & Children

February 24—Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Lee Vincent Yowonske—Dave & Donna Atkinson

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, February 25

No Mass Today

Tuesday, February 26

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Marie "Jane" Hazy—Husband, Michael J. Hazy & Family

Wednesday, February 27

No Mass Today

Thursday, February 28

No Mass Today

Friday, March 1

8:00 am (Date of Birth) Nancy Trilli—Arthur Trill & Family

Saturday, March 2

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

Saturday, March 2—Vigil

4:30 pm Catherine Mendicino—Rose Biagini & Judy Cioccio

Sunday, March 3—8th Sunday of Ordinary Time

9:00 am The Cleri Family—Helen Yencsik

11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Mar. 2 4:30 pm M. Lancy, S. Molesky

Sunday, Mar. 3 9:00 am M. Hamed, A. Peden

11:00 am B. Barber, E. Breckenridge

Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers

Saturday, Mar. 2

4:30 C. Gorski J. Barnot K. Rygiel, L. Santori, C. Farrier
J. Stringhill, S. Wawro, J. Wiggins, M. Grados

Sunday, Mar. 3

9:00 L. Kapolka B. Mallonee M. & R. Smereczniak, D. Seman
B. A. Linskens, L. Turcheck, J. Russell, B. Mallonee

11:00 M. Patterson M. Iacoboni J. Cannizzaro, R. Messick
G. Klamerus, G. Rush, M. Strickland, E. Studnicki, M. Iacoboni
Choir—T. Barger

Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Bonita Spina. We extend our sympathy to her family. May she rest in peace.

Girl's Scholarship

The 2019 annual scholarship of the Catholic Women's College Club will be awarded to a Catholic senior girl who is a current resident of: Belle Vernon, Bentleyville, California, Charleroi, Donora, Finleyville, Fredericktown, Monessen, or Monongahela with a GPA of 3.50 or higher. Applications are available at the parish office or guidance offices at Belle Vernon, Bentworth, Beth Center, California, Charleroi, Monessen, Ringgold, Geibel, Serra, Seton LaSalle or Greensburg Central Catholic High Schools. **Deadline** for the application is **March 8, 2019**.

Winter retreat for high school students March 1-3

The annual winter retreat, "I Am Called," for diocesan high school students will be held March 1-3 at Laurelville Retreat Center in Mount Pleasant. Cost is \$120. Register at your parish. Information is at www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/winterretreat.

Save the Date

Theology on Tap—Thursday, **March 7**, from 6:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. Father Timothy Kruthaupt, pastor of St. Peter Church in Brownsville, will be the speaker for this evening. Gathering site to be announced in a future bulletin.

School News



Register your child/grandchild NOW for St. Sebastian Regional Catho-

lic School. Disney Trip Tickets are on sale at the School; \$10 ea. Texas Roadhouse Drive-Thru Dinner order forms are in the bulletins.

Thank you for all of your support.

“Celebrate with Joy: The Ministry of Cantor!”

All cantors in the diocese are invited to join Thomas Octave, the diocese's director of sacred music, for a FREE evening workshop to reinvigorate your ministry. It will start with a review of practical skills and move toward building confidence and passion for your ministry. The workshops will be held March 11 at 7 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish, Irwin; March 13 at 7 p.m. at Mount St. Peter Parish, New Kensington; and March 18 at 7 p.m. at St. John the Baptist Parish, Scottdale. Respond to Becky Bouille at bbouille@dioceseofgreensburg.org.

Prayer Crafters will meet on Tuesday, March 11 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Confirmation Parent Meeting

There will be a meeting for the parents of 7th grade students who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on November 7. The meeting will take place tomorrow, **Monday, February 25** at St. Sebastian Parish Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Lectio: Prayer—A Lenten Study

Though prayer is one of the essentials of a thriving faith, we often feel as if we're talking to ourselves—or, worse, as if we're talking to no one at all. How can something so vital to the Faith be so elusive? In six video sessions, *Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God* captures the secret to opening our hearts and minds to Scripture as the means to hear from God and then respond in conversation, basking in His presence and resolving to live in and through His love.

Join us at St. John the Baptist, Perryopolis on Sundays, March 3 - April 7 at 11:30 am

If that time/day doesn't work for you...join us at **St. Sebastian on Thursdays, March 7 - April 11 at 10:00 am.**

FROM THE PASTOR

Be merciful just as your Father is merciful...

Today's liturgy speaks to every one of us about life and what lies in our hearts, and how well we know our own hearts. As we live our lives we all deal with life as it comes at us. Sometimes we deal well with the problems we face and sometimes not so well. However we deal, we all do the best we can with what we know. That is not to say we cannot learn more about our relationships with one another and how better to cope with life; this is the message Our Lord is putting in front of us today. We are being told in no mixed words to "be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

In the first reading for today's liturgy we see David who has been unjustly condemned by King Saul reacting with that mercy and compassion Jesus speaks of. Saul who was consumed by jealousy of David's rising popularity has driven him out of the court and pursues him into the desert. When David had the opportunity to take the king's life, he chose not to because he was the anointed one. He spared Saul's life showing compassion and mercy. David did not allow his own feelings to guide his actions, rather he followed the mercy of God. How often in life do we all react from our emotions without thinking about what we are doing or saying. How often have we criticized or even condemned another because we didn't agree with them. It is way too easy to allow ourselves to be driven by emotions without any thought as to what might be right or merciful.

We are reminded by St. Paul that we all resemble Adam in the sense that we are created out of the earth with all of the faults and weaknesses we possess. And yet at the same time, we all resemble Christ because we have been formed in His image as well. The hard part is melding our humanity with the persona of Christ. This becomes the proverbial struggle, dealing with our emotions and remembering the law of Christ. Far too often in life we allow our anger, jealousy, insecurity, and judgmental attitudes to direct our lives without thinking about the consequences.

In the gospel for today Jesus emphasizes that forgiveness and love for one's enemies should be our guiding light. Judging from our standards, God's governance is not just. Equity, equality, democracy, and leadership are measured by a different value system in God's reign, and Jesus is asking us to make those standards our own. We cannot argue with the fact that forgiveness and acceptance is easy, but then again we expect people to enact those standards on us. It is far easier to be forgiven than to forgive others.

There is no doubt that as followers of Christ we are called to a higher standard of living, and this standard is not an easy one to embrace! It always gets down to our acceptance of things in life. We need to be aware of just how much we have been accepted and forgiven before we can start to do the same for others. If we do not feel forgiven, then we probably will not be so forgiving. It is always about the mercy and love of God that is in the forefront of all that life is about. When we remember that simple fact, maybe then it won't be so hard to follow after the teachings of Christ. We all need to make the command of Jesus a part of who we are and far more importantly who we are to become to "be merciful just as your Father is merciful."