



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania
Charitable
Trust

A Parish of the
Diocese of
Greensburg

First Sunday of Lent March 10, 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 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.

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 this year, please call the Parish Office. This Candle may be in memory of a loved one, or for a special intention. The cost of this year's candle is \$270.

Paschal Candle & Altar Candle Ring Flowers

During the Easter Season flowers are placed at the base of the Paschal Candle and in the Altar Candle Rings. 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.

Second Collection

The second collection today is for the annual Catholic Home Missions collection.

Lenten Reflection

Free copies of the Little Black Book are available in the church vestibule.

Stations of the Cross

will be prayed on Friday's during Lent at 6:30 p.m.

Spring Craft Show

St. Sebastian Parish will hold a Craft Show on Saturday, **April 6**. All are invited to come and support this event for our parish. For more information, call Kathy Rygiel at 724-326-0129.

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.

Join us to pray the Rosary every Sunday



Diocesan Lenten Appeal

"Open your heart to HOPE," the 2019 Diocesan Lenten Appeal, helps parishes build HOPE. The DLA supports renovations and repairs in the parishes. Go to dioceseofgreensburg.org/HOPE for a video of Bishop Malesic describing how the DLA builds our parishes. To make an online DLA donation to your parish visit dioceseofgreensburg.org/HOPE. This week you should be receiving in the mail information regarding the Diocesan Lenten Appeal. As a parish, we simply could not survive without the presence of our Diocese; therefore we all need to be aware of our own responsibilities to support the Church of Greensburg.

Stewardship of Treasure—March 3, 2019

Regular Offertory:	\$ 7,256.00	(320 envelopes out of 1298 families)
Youth:	\$ 38.00	
Loose:	\$ 856.00	
Total Offertory:	\$ 8,150.00	
Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory	\$7,986.31	
Over/(under) budget:	\$ (730.31)	
Average adult donation this weekend	\$10.00	per envelope
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	217.00
Votive Candles:	\$	318.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	812.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	222.00
Eastern Europe:	\$	7.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	86.00
Sanctuary Flowers:	\$	63.00
Home Missions:	\$	30.00
Lenten Offering:	\$	1,902.00
Total March 2/3 collection:	\$11,807.00	

Rite of Sending/Call to Continuing Conversion

At the 11:00 a.m. Mass today, Sunday, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending for our R.C.I.A. Candidate. At the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral with others from across the Diocese he will celebrate the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. Our Candidate, celebrating the Call to Continuing Conversion, is: PASQUALE CIOTTI. He is a baptized Christian and will be presented to the Bishop who will recognize him as a candidate for Reception into the Church, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Let us pray for all who will be received into the Church on Easter.

Heifer Project

Just as a reminder, if you wish to make a contribution to purchasing an "ARK" through Heifer International, you can put it in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket. The ARK consists of a collection of animals that will provide an opportunity for people around the world to support not only their families but also help build their communities. To understand what your donations can do, each week I will talk about the animals and how they are used.

The gift of a Heifer: Your gift of a heifer means better nutrition and provides milk which is good for you and delicious! But some children never get milk to drink. They don't grow as they should, and they are often sick. A heifer can give as much as four or more gallons of milk a day – enough for a family to drink, make into yogurt or cheese and sell. As an added bonus, each family passes on offspring of their gift animal to another family, and the whole community benefits.



The gift of a goat: Did you know that more people rely on goats for milk than cows? They're a great alternative for families who live in rocky mountainous areas, or own little land. Goats often give about four quarts of milk a day – just the right amount if you don't own a refrigerator. Goat manure makes a fantastic fertilizer for increasing vegetable crop yields, and goats give birth to two kids a year, providing a steady source of income.



Liturgies of the Week

March 9—Vigil

4:30 pm Marge & Joe Biondo—Mary Joyce & Joe Biondo

March 10—First Sunday of Lent

9:00 am (Date of Birth) Josephine Bacha—Family
11:00 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

Monday, March 11

No Mass Today

Tuesday, March 12

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Bill Picchiarini—Wife, Joan & Family

Wednesday, March 13

No Mass Today

Thursday, March 14

No Mass Today

Friday, March 15

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Jo O'Hara—Gene Delia

6:30 pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 16

3:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday, March 16—Vigil

4:30 pm Trasatti & Flora Families—Children, Tammy & Tim

Sunday, March 17—Second Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 am (Date of Birth) Frances Seman—Mark & Evelyn Druciak

Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Mar. 16 4:30 pm N. & V. Francia

Sunday, Mar. 17 9:00 am A. Peden, M. Hamed

11:00 am B. Barber, M. Wasicek

Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers

Saturday, Mar. 16

4:30 D. Free S. Wawro L. Santori, J. Stringhill, M. Free
J. Wiggins, M. Grados, C. Farrier, S. Wawro

Sunday, Mar. 17

9:00 B. Moskovitz L. Kibler D. Stasko, M. & R. Smereczniak
L. Turcheck, M.A. McMillen, B. Mallonee, L. Kibler

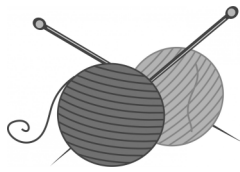
11:00 L. Nallo M. Iacoboni J. Cannizzaro, G. Klamerus
M. Strickland, E. Studnicki, R. Messick, G. Rush, M. Iacoboni
Choir—S. Messick

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND

This weekend, please pick up the blessed ashes, from Ash Wednesday in the priest's sacristy, to take with you on your homebound visits.

Daily Mass

Remember that Mass is celebrated here at St. Sebastian's on Tuesday's and Friday's then Mass will be at Epiphany on Monday's & Thursday's.



Prayer Crafters

will meet tomorrow Monday, **March 11** from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Center.

Monthly Bingo

Come on out to Holy Family Parish, West Newton and enjoy the NEW & IMPROVED BINGO today, Sunday, March 10 when the Early Birds start at 12:30 PM. There are 15 regular games paying \$30 each and 3 specials paying \$50 each. The more who play, the more we will pay. So come on out for a fun Sunday afternoon. Admission is only \$15 for the 15 regular games paper boards.

Spaghetti Dinner

The Monessen/Rostraver Rotary and Knights of Columbus are partnering to host a Spaghetti Dinner on Sunday, March 31, from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall located at 1925 Grand Ave., Monessen. Cost of the meal, which includes spaghetti, meatballs, tossed salad, dessert and coffee, is \$9 for adults and \$6 for children under 12. Tickets are available at the door or they can be purchased in advance from members of the two groups. For more information, call Kristen Joseph at 724-684-7393.

Monies generated from the event are used for community projects by both organizations and by the Rotary to support scholarships for high school seniors at Monessen and Belle Vernon high schools.

Bereavement Support "Helping children deal with Grief and Loss"

Losing a loved one is especially difficult for teenagers and young children. Join us on **March 13** at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Center for a presentation regarding coping skills and tactics to assist children in dealing with the loss of a parent, grandparent, sibling or loved one. All conversations are confidential. All are welcome. For more information call Amanda Minardi of Vistas Healthcare at 724-831-3647.

School News

Math Madness Night, 3/14/19, all children, PreK-7 welcome, 6-8:00

pm. Disney Trip Tickets are on sale at the School; \$10 ea.

Thank you for all of your support!



Reality Tour—Getting "Real" About Drugs

Reality Tour (RT) is a national parent and child drug education and prevention program held at the Belle Vernon High School.

The next scheduled program is on March 25. Pre-registration is required. For more information, go to realitytour.org or call 724-797-0955.

Baptism Congratulations

Logan Louis Everett Angelo, son of Sean and Katelyn (Waugaman) Angelo, was baptized in Christ last weekend. We welcome Logan into the Church. God bless him and his family.

Lenten Musical Revival at Holy Family Parish, West Newton

Holy Family Parish, West Newton, will host a Lenten Musical Revival at their parish March 17-19 from 7-8:30 p.m. each evening with adoration and Benediction on March 19. Father Jim O'Connor will be the guest speaker. The sessions are free and open to all. The topics are "Grace and the Kingdom of God," "Grace and the Sacramental Life" and "Grace and the Real Presence."

Women's retreat "Discerning the Call"

The Greensburg Religious Vocation Council will host a retreat for women ages 18-35, "Discerning the Call," March 15-17 at St. Emma Retreat House, Greensburg. The cost is \$30. Register at basmelko@scsh.org or by calling 724-454-8524.

"Defend the cause of the weak and fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and oppressed. Rescue the weak and needy; Deliver them from the hand of the wicked."
Psalm 82:3-4

FROM THE PASTOR

Temptations of Life

We begin Lent the same way we do every year, with the story of Jesus being tempted in the desert. Sometimes we think that we have heard the story so often that we know and understand all of its meaning and ramifications. However, if we look closer at what is happening, we see that there is much for all of us to learn from this familiar story. First of all, the desert into which Jesus went was a dangerous place. It was full of wild animals and bandits. The people of that time believed that the desert was the haunt of demons, so it is no surprise that Jesus meets the devil there. The 40 days is a reminder of the time that the Jewish people spent wandering aimlessly in the desert before they reached the Promised Land. It reminds us of the saving event of the Exodus.

The temptations that Jesus was confronted with were nothing more than a test to see if Jesus would use his power for his own advantage and gain. The choices that Jesus made throughout his ministry helped to define who he was. Every choice ultimately is about identity. We clearly see that the true identity of the Son of God is revealed not by using his power selfishly but by preparing himself for his mission to bring salvation to others.

As we listen to the temptations that Jesus went through in the desert we are reminded of the temptations he would be confronted with his entire life. And it serves as a preview of our own lives and the temptations we face on a daily basis.

Let's take a look at the temptations we face in life. First of all we need to understand that temptations are not sins, they simply allow us to discover our boundaries for our strengths and weaknesses. Everywhere we look in society today we are being told how we can improve our looks, make life easier, enjoy our leisure time better. Many of these "temptations" are things that we simply do not need or can afford. We are told over and over again that we can buy things even if we can't afford them, just put it on a credit card. Again temptations show us our strengths and weaknesses.

We have no problem admitting to our temptations in life but at the same time we love to find someone else to blame them on. Jesus could have blamed the devil, but he didn't. He was aware of his boundaries and how he wanted to use his power. Temptation always presents us with an option; one that we think will guarantee getting more. Adam and Eve had it all but wanted more. It is hard to deal with temptations today because of the universal notion that we should have everything we want.

Whatever Lenten practices we undertake, it is important to remember what their purpose is. Lenten practices are not about losing weight or finally stopping smoking, but they are about deepening our baptismal identity as children of God and members of the Body of Christ. By remaining faithful to who we are, knowing our limits in spite of temptation, we will grow in relationships with God, self, and others. Lent is all about not taking the easy way out. It is looking at the temptations we have around us and know our limits, our strengths and our weaknesses. The more aware we become of ourselves the better we will be as Disciples of Christ. Jesus was well aware of who he was and what he was able to do, but in spite of the temptations he endured, he never went for the easy way out!

Lord, please remember the sick, the homebound and those in nursing homes from our parish and community:

Doreen Abler, Minerva Albert, Donna Biagini, Sally Biava, Anthony Boyle, Dane Breakwell, Brennan Breakwell, Tricia Pelissero Bruenn, Adam Canigiani, Jr., Elizabeth Cannizzaro, Ron Carson, Eric Cecchetti, Josie Cekinovich, Jenna Christner, Albert Cialone, Joe Ciferno, Sr., Elaine Costello, George L. Cowan, Bernadette Dayner, Frank Delia, David Dubinsky, Darlene Engel, Jean Ferreri, Autumn Fields, Betty Fisher, John Fisher, Dolores Frazier, John Gira, Mary Gira, Wayne Granchai, Michael J. Hazy, Betty Jean Henderson, Maureen Jenkins, Avery Kazakewicz, John Kelemen, Jr., Bronson Keller, Sr., Jared Konsugar, Terry Krolik, Lilian Laird, Cole Layhue, Catherine Lennox, James Litterini, Lori, Marjorie, Lopez, Marge Marek, Stephen McCulloch, Brandon Morris, David Moskovitz, Tricia Pelissero Narus, Val Novak, Paul Novakovich, Melissa O'Brien, Julia Paholski, Jim Pascoe, Shirley Patten, Jack Pesic, Joy Pozum, Barbara Riffle, Joel Rivera, Dorothy Rodgers, Mary Ann Rocco, Matthew Ross, George Rue, Betty Savarino, Patricia Senko, Betty Smereczniak, Ralph Swantek, William Tansmore, Joseph P. Trenk, Debra Vaden, Christopher Valerio, Arlene Vargo, Melvin Walkush, Sr., Jack Welshans, Helene Wozniak, John & Nina Zetty.

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

Please Note: If you know of someone who has recovered from his/her illness, or perhaps has passed away, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.