



# St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania  
Charitable  
Trust

A Parish of the  
Diocese of  
Greensburg

## Second Sunday of Lent March 17, 2019



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

### Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston Pastor  
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Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich Business Manager  
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Mr. Scott Martin Director of Faith Formation  
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Mrs. Linda Drury Parish Secretary  
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Mrs. Darleen Koury Bulletin/Faith Formation Secretary  
dkoury@dioceseofgreensburg.org

### 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](http://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](http://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.

### Stewardship

“Money is not the only commodity that is fun to give. We can give time, we can give our expertise, we can give our love or simply give a smile. What does that cost? The point is, none of us can ever run out of something worthwhile to give.”

Steve Goodier  
Christian Author

### Travel Group

There are still seats left for **the May 21-22** trip to Baltimore for “From Sea to Shining Stars”. 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.

Get Catholic news today and every day on Twitter @CatholicAccent and diocesan news: [www.dioceseofgreensburg.org](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org).

**Join us to pray  
the Rosary  
every Sunday  
at 8:30 a.m.**



### 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 this weekend is for the Catholic Accent. The second collection next week is the monthly Utilities & Maintenance collection.

### Diocesan Lenten Appeal

Last week you should have received in the mail your DLA cards. As we begin this season of repentance, we are all called to make changes in our lives that will make us more faithful to our Baptismal Commitments. Stewardship or sharing our Time, Talent and Treasure is what being a faithful disciple means. As a parish we have a responsibility not only to our own needs, but to help support the Diocese as well. Remember that it is not the amount of money you contribute that is important. **What matters most is that you be a part of the process.** With the portion we get back from the campaign this year, I am hoping to proceed with the Roof Project for the church. I ask that you be as generous to this year’s DLA as you can. Know that I am grateful to all that you do for your church and I am confident that this appeal will be a success.

<b>Stewardship of Treasure—March 10, 2019</b>	
<b>Regular Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 5,191.75 (284 envelopes out of 1299 families)</b>
<b>Youth:</b>	<b>\$ 25.50</b>
<b>Loose:</b>	<b>\$ 769.70</b>
<b>Total Offertory:</b>	<b>\$ 5,986.95</b>
<b>Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory</b>	<b>\$7,986.31</b>
<b>Over/(under) budget:</b>	<b>\$ (2,794.56)</b>
<b>Average adult donation this weekend \$10.00 per envelope</b>	
Utilities & Maintenance:	\$ 22.00
Votive Candles:	\$ 260.00
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$ 174.00
Catholic Accent:	\$ 315.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$ 292.00
Home Missions:	\$ 784.00
Lenten Offering:	\$ 1,532.00
<b>Total March 9/10 collection:</b>	<b><u>\$9,365.95</u></b>
<b>Ash Wednesday collection:</b>	<b>\$3,233.55</b>

## Our R.C.I.A. Candidate

Please keep our Candidate, **Pasquale Ciotti**, in your prayers as he journeys with us through Lent to the Easter Vigil.

## Regional Lenten Penance Services

The priests of Region 8 and visiting priests will be available for individual Confession and Absolution. All services are at 7:00 p.m.

St. John the Baptist Church, Perryopolis, April 9

Church of St. Anne, Rostraver, April 10

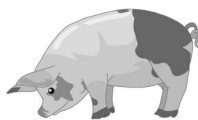
St. Sebastian Church, Belle Vernon, April 11

Holy Family Church, West Newton, April 15

Epiphany of Our Lord Church, Monessen, April 16

**Heifer Project**—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.

**A Gift of a Pig:** To help hungry, undernourished families put protein back in their diets at little cost, Heifer teaches farmers how to raise healthy pigs even with scant resources. A farmer who may not be able to manage cows can raise pigs. In Latin America, pigs eat rejected bananas or damaged yams that otherwise would be wasted. They grow to market weight while producing manure that improves crop production. Around the world, using resources once considered worthless, impoverished families supply themselves with the protein and income they need to build better houses, put their children in school and improve their lives.



**A Gift of a Rabbit:** Why rabbits? Because even a family without the land or resources to raise cows or even goats can find a warm dry spot – in a hutch on a back porch or perhaps even in a cool burrow dug beneath a garden planter – were rabbits can thrive. They can be fed with vegetable waste and kitchen scraps, so they conserve farm resources as they grow. And, like other livestock, rabbits are sources of healthy protein to help feed the hungry. Their nitrogen-rich manure makes excellent fertilizer to put on crops as compost. And everyone knows how rabbits proliferate. Here’s a gift that multiplies! With as many as 40 offspring a year, a trio of rabbits can provide a family with a steady source of protein and income.



## Liturgies of the Week

### March 16—Vigil

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

### 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

### Monday, March 18

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, March 19

8:00 am Joseph Lopez—Jim & Sally Coda

### Wednesday, March 20

No Mass Today

### Thursday, March 21

No Mass Today

### Friday, March 22

8:00 am Joseph J. Campus—Family

6:30 pm Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 23

3:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Saturday, March 23—Vigil

4:30 pm (Death Anniv) Peter Bednarczyk—Daughter

### Sunday, March 24—Third Sunday of Lent

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

11:00 am (Death Anniv) Lorraine Canestrone—Daughter,  
Darlene Pabis & Sons

## Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Mar. 23 4:30 pm A. Peden, M. Hamed

Sunday, Mar. 24 9:00 am G. & J. Pokol

11:00 am A. & C. Hoffman

### Lectors

### Lit. Coordinators

### Ministers

### Saturday, Mar. 23

4:30 C. Gorski J. Moody S. & S. Zolock, T. Rodriguez

S. Wawro, M. Moody, K. Rygiel, J. Moody

### Sunday, Mar. 24

9:00 L. Kapolka B. Mallonee J. Russell, D. Semen, D. Stasko

B. A. Linskens, M. & R. Smereczniak, B. Mallonee

11:00 T. Sebetich R. Hoffman R. & W. Hoffman, L. Aul

Volunteer Needed, F. Aleman, D. Bisceglia, S. Kroskie,

Choir—T. Barger

**Stations of the Cross** will be prayed on Friday’s during Lent at 6:30 p.m.

## 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.

## Sympathy and Prayers

Please remember in your prayers those who have died: Edward Gazi, Scarlett Shoaf, Rickey Jon Kurdilla, and James Lori. We extend our sympathy to their families. May they rest in peace.



## School News

Check your Disney Trip Ticket; it goes off on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration is Open for the 2019-20 School Year, PreK—8th grade. Contact the School at: 724-929-5143. 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](http://realitytour.org) or call 724-797-0955.

## Melchizedek Project for young adult men

The Melchizedek Project evenings for young adult men (those who have completed high school) to discern a vocation to the priesthood will be held at 6:30 p.m. in the rectory at Holy Family Parish, Latrobe, March 24, April 7 and April 28. Contact Father Daniel Mahoney at [dmahoney@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:dmahoney@dioceseofgreensburg.org) to register.

## The Saint Vincent de Paul Society

St. Sebastian Conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society will meet this week this **Tuesday, March 19**, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center.

## Liturgy & Lunch Lent Noon—1:00 P.M.

March 20—First United Methodist  
March 27—Antioch Baptist  
April 3—Fells United Methodist  
April 10—First Presbyterian Church

## Spaghetti Dinner

The Monessen/Rostraver Rotary and Knights of Columbus are hosting 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 is \$9 for adults/\$6 for children under 12. For more information, call 724-684-7393.

## Fish Fry

Remember that Epiphany has a Fish Fry throughout Lent. The Fish Fry starts at 11:00 and runs until 6:00. At 6:00 we will gather in the church and pray the stations. I hope that you and your families will be able to help Epiphany with this venture.

## 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.

## Soup & Sandwich Sale

There will be take-outs during the Craft Sale from 9 am—2 pm  
**Soups:** Broccoli Cheddar, Ham & Bean, Stuffed Pepper, Wedding, Chicken Noodle and Potato Soup.

**Sandwiches:** Tuna Salad, Chicken Salad, Egg Salad  
Preorders are available. Contact Anita 412-393-9319 or Laura 724-797-3959.

## Little Things 4 Little People

The Belle Vernon Ministerium project is serving the needy families in our community, with children ages 0-3, by providing specialty items to care for this age group. The following items are needed to replenish the project's supplies: **Diapers, Diaper Cream, Baby Wash and Baby Lotion.**

Your donations may be brought to the parish office.

## THE WELL Men's Conference, March 30

The diocese's Men's Ministry Team will host THE WELL Men's Conference on **March 30** at Greensburg Central Catholic.

The event includes workshops, open discussions, the sacrament of reconciliation and adoration, and it concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Malesic. The keynote speaker will be Mike McCoy, an Erie native who is a former Notre Dame and NFL star. Register at

[www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/THEWELL](http://www.dioceseofgreensburg.org/THEWELL).

## Saturday Mass, Soup and Bread Lunch at Diocesan Heritage Center in Lent

The Diocesan Heritage Center will host Mass followed by a Soup and Bread Lunch on the remaining Saturdays in Lent (March 23 and 30; April 6 and 13). Mass is at 10:30 a.m. at St. Joseph Chapel at the Christ Our Shepherd Center. The simple lunch follows. The Heritage Center will host a Lenten Exhibition that will be open on Saturdays in Lent from 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

***FROM THE PASTOR*****We Can't Live on the Mountain**

During this season of Lent the goal has been laid out for us. Jesus went up the mountain to pray and was transformed. Lent is not only about being in the desert, but we also must climb the "mountain" that we may also be transformed. Our liturgy this week asks us to think "symbolically" so that we can learn from what is being given.

In the first reading we see Abram entering into a covenant relationship with God. It does help if we understand a little about what the symbols of an ancient covenant ritual of the Near East means. Our reading is taken from the book of Genesis which is a book about beginnings; and our selection today is about the birth of the Jewish people whose chief ancestor is Abraham. The covenant ritual centers on cutting animals in two and then walking between the pieces to symbolize being bound by the covenant. Should they fail to keep the covenant or violate it in any way, they were cursed to share the same fate as the animals, which is death. The birds of prey that swoop down are symbolic of the evils that Israel will encounter throughout their history. With the brazier passing through the animals, Yahweh's intention is to keep the covenant and establish Abraham as the receiver of the covenant to be passed on to all future generations. It is in this covenant that is referenced through the Transfiguration of Jesus in the Gospel.

The Transfiguration of Christ is shrouded in mystery and like the covenant we need to understand what this mystery is telling us. As we hear about the experience of the disciples in seeing Moses and Elijah, we are immediately thrown back to the fact that both the law and the prophets are represented which makes the encounter a reminder of that same covenant that Abraham made with Yahweh. When all became silent and Jesus remained alone without Moses and Elijah he becomes both lawgiver and prophet. As the disciples hear the voice of God telling them that Jesus was God's "chosen Son" they didn't want that moment to pass. They wanted to erect tents so that they could all stay on that mountain and not let go of the moment. Jesus quickly reminds them that they must go down from the mountain, into the world where both pain and love co-exist. There Peter, James, and John will find God; and so will we. We cannot stay on top of the mountain like the disciples wanted to. We cannot hold onto God and try to keep God locked up in some remote place. God must be found in the everyday routine of our lives, at the foot of the mountain where we live. It is there that we must "listen to him."

***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, 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.***