



# St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania Charitable Trust

A Parish of the Diocese of Greensburg

## Third Sunday of Lent March 24, 2019



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

### Parish Staff

|                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Rev. Michael J. Crookston           | Pastor                             |
| mcrookston@dioceseofgreensburg.org  |                                    |
| Mr. Daniel F. Lisovich              | Business Manager                   |
| dlistovich@dioceseofgreensburg.org  |                                    |
| Mr. Scott Martin                    | Director of Faith Formation        |
| smartin@dioceseofgreensburg.org     |                                    |
| Mr. Dean Dellamalva                 | Coordinator of Liturgical Music    |
| ddellamalva@dioceseofgreensburg.org |                                    |
| Mrs. Linda Drury                    | Parish Secretary                   |
| ldrury@dioceseofgreensburg.org      |                                    |
| 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                        | <a href="http://www.sssbv.org">www.sssbv.org</a> |

**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 at 6:30 pm 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.

**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—Late July.
- ★ 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.

**CBPW**

The Catholic Business and Professional Women will meet on Tuesday, March 26 at 6:00 p.m. This is a Diocesan organization. All Catholic women are invited. For details call the Epiphany Church Office at 724-684-7661 or email Tara at [tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org](mailto:tmanderino@dioceseofgreensburg.org)

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 week is the monthly Utilities & Maintenance collection.

**2019 Diocesan Lenten Appeal**

We finished the kick off portion of the campaign for this year with all of the cards being mailed. For only one week into the appeal we have already heard from 35 people and from those responses we are already at \$12,060.00! I am more than grateful for such a generous response so early in the appeal, and for this I thank you all. Remember that our parish goal is \$85,678, so as you can see we do have a way to go. For those who have not responded yet, won't you consider doing so? All that I ask is that you do whatever you are able, but please be a part of the process.

| <b>Stewardship of Treasure—March 17, 2019</b>                   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Regular Offertory:</b>                                       | <b>\$ 5,982.00</b> (300 envelopes out of 1298 families) |
| <b>Youth:</b>   | <b>\$ 17.00</b>   |
| <b>Loose:</b>   | <b>\$ 973.00</b>  |
| <b>Total Offertory:</b>   | <b>\$ 6,972.00</b>                                      |
| <b>Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory</b>             | <b>\$7,986.31</b>                                       |
| <b>Over/(under) budget:</b>                                     | <b>\$ (2,004.31)</b>                                    |
| <b>Average adult donation this weekend \$10.00 per envelope</b> |   |
| Utilities & Maintenance:  | \$ 5.00   |
| Votive Candles:   | \$ 213.00   |
| Capital Project/Roof Fund:                                      | \$ 173.00   |
| Catholic Accent:  | \$ 981.00   |
| Ash Wednesday:  | \$ 107.00   |
| Home Missions:  | \$ 367.00   |
| Lenten Offering:  | \$ 1,334.00   |
| Sanctuary Flowers:  | \$ 58.00  |
| <b>Total March 16/17 collection:</b>                            | <b><u>\$10,210.00</u></b>                               |

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

Please keep our candidate, **Pasquale (P.J.) Ciotti**, in your prayers as he journeys with us through Lent to the Easter Vigil.

**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.

### Filling the ARK!

We are doing a fantastic job of getting our ARK filled! Last week because of your generosity we were able to board:

- One Sheep
- One Pig
- One Ox

Remember if you wish to make a donation, simply put it in an envelope and drop it into the collection.

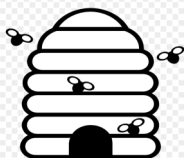


**Gift of a Lama:** Domesticated by the Incas 6,000 years ago and selectively bred for their gentle nature and fine fiber, llamas appear intelligent and serene. They play a pivotal role in the cultural life of indigenous communities on the high plains of Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru.

Women weave fleece into warm clothing to wear or sell. They load them up with goods for market and trek with them across rugged slopes at high altitudes. As they travel, llamas' padded feet do not damage the fragile terrain and their selective browsing doesn't destroy sparse vegetation.

**Gift of Bees:** The way bees work together is a lesson for us all. They produce food, care for the young, recycle waste and create an effective, efficient community. They pollinate

fruits, flowers and vegetables in the process – a benefit for us all. Bees can as much as double some fruit and vegetable yields. A package of Heifer International bees and a hive can give a family better crops, candle wax, pollen for medicine and honey to eat and sell.



## Liturgies of the Week

### March 23—Vigil

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

### 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

### Monday, March 25—Annunciation of the Lord

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, March 26

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Andrew Adametz—Joe & Ernie  
Norelli

### Wednesday, March 27

No Mass Today

### Thursday, March 28

No Mass Today

### Friday, March 29

8:00 am (Death Anniv) Virginia Swantek—Family

6:30 pm Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 30

3:00 pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation*

### Saturday, March 30—Vigil

4:30 pm (Date of Birth) James A. Savarino—Savarino Family

### Sunday, March 31—Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Barbara Timlin—Joe & Cathy Gazdick

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

### Liturgical Ministers—Servers

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

Sunday, Mar. 31 9:00 am Volunteers Needed

11:00 am L. DiPietrantonio, E. Angelo

**Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers**

### Saturday, Mar. 30

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

### Sunday, Mar. 31

9:00 M. Shaughnessy B. Moskovitz M.A. McMillen, J. Russell  
L. Turcheck, D. Seman, B.A. Linskens, L. Kibler, B. Moskovitz

11:00 M. Patterson C. Korber J. Cannizzaro, G. Klamerus  
R. Messick, M. Strickland, E. Studnicki, C. Korber, G. Rush  
Choir—S. Messick

## Stations of the Cross

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



## School News

Registration is Open for the 2019-20 School Year, PreK-8<sup>th</sup> grade. Contact the School at: 724-929-5143.

Easter Showcase Tickets (\$10 meat ticket and much more) on sale at the School. Thank you for all of your support!



## 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 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

## 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.

## 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 soup & sandwich take-outs during the Craft Sale from 9 am—2 pm

**Soups:** Broccoli Cheddar, Ham & Bean, Stuffed Pepper, Wedding, Chicken Rice and Potato Soup.

**Sandwiches:** Tuna Salad, Chicken Salad, Egg Salad, Ham Salad.

To preorder contact Anita 412-393-9319 or Laura 724-797-3959.

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

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.

## Epiphany Fish Fry

The Fish Fry starts at 11:00 and runs until 6:00. At 6:00 pm 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.

## 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. Then next scheduled date is this Thursday, **March 27** from 10:00 am until 12:30 p.m.

## 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).

## Day of Recollection

St. Emma Monastery, Greensburg, April 13, 8:30 a.m.—2:30 p.m. Theme: *The movement of Holy Week, The Triduum*  
Presenter—Msgr. Roger Statnick  
Cost: \$30  
To register call 724-834-3060.

**FROM THE PASTOR****Repent or Perish!**

Already we are celebrating the Third Sunday of Lent with only three more to go! It is hard to believe that we are half way through this season of repentance. Our Liturgy presents us with all of the great themes of Lent; we have God's call, repentance, conversion, baptism and new life, they are all here. Even though there are many themes present, there is a message we all can carry with us and it has to do with conversion and change.

For most of us, change is hard and it certainly doesn't happen overnight. Examples like losing weight, quitting smoking, changing jobs or moving are difficult changes that we cannot make happen in a short period of time. They take patience, perseverance and time. We certainly cannot expect instant results with change. It takes time to make new things or ways of thinking a part of our lives. The liturgy today is telling us that conversion or a "change of heart" is something that cannot happen suddenly or by itself. Like other changes in our lives, it takes patience and time.

Today we hear Moses' call by God; this serves as yet another example about the many ways that God speaks to us in life. Last week we asked ourselves where we encounter God; this week we are shown how God speaks to us in the most unlikely places. As Moses encountered the presence of the Divine in the burning bush, he was given a message that would bring change to his life. Whenever we encounter the voice of the Divine it usually means a conversion of some sort. Like Moses we are weak and sinful people yet God can call us to do wonderful deeds, if we listen.

St. Paul in the second reading is calling for the Corinthians to repent and Jesus is warning us in the same way through the Gospel. The gospel opens with people questioning Jesus about a tragedy that killed eighteen people, and Pilate who was known for his brutality executed some pilgrims who came to Jerusalem to offer sacrifice. The people were inferring that because of their sinfulness, they died. Jesus quickly points out to them that we should never speculate on other people's lives why disaster or misfortune happens; rather we need to look at our own lives and recognize our own need to repent.

The story about the fig tree is one that gives us hope and at the same time serves as a warning. Usually a fig tree was a good symbol in the scriptures; a happy Jew was one sitting under a fig tree at peace with the world. The fig tree needs a lot of nourishment in order to bear fruit. In today's gospel the fig tree hadn't borne fruit for three years and the simple answer would be to cut it down. However, Jesus teaches patience. He uses the symbol of the fig tree to say that we are like that tree, not using the opportunities given us to bear good fruit. God is patient with us and gives us ample time to ripen into giving Christians so that we, too, like the tree may be productive. This has often been referred to as "the gospel of a second chance." Jesus gives us second chances all the time to become productive, to give, to share our bounty, to fall and rise again. God is the careful gardener who offers us a chance to bear fruit. Repentance as a change of heart is a lifelong task requiring our attitudes to change. The challenge is simple; repent or perish; bear fruit or be cut down. Lent is the time to cultivate and fertilize so that we can bring forth much fruit.

***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.***