



# St. Sebastian Catholic Church

A Pennsylvania  
Charitable  
Trust

A Parish of the  
Diocese of  
Greensburg

## Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time March 3, 2019



801 Broad Avenue ~ Belle Vernon, PA 15012

### Parish Staff

Rev. Michael J. Crookston	Pastor
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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	<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 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 Flowers 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.

**Daylight Savings time starts Sunday, March 10. Turn the clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed Saturday night so you're on time for Mass Sunday morning.**



Time to Spring Ahead

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



## ALTAR CANDLE RING FLOWERS

This weekend the flowers are in honor of Catherine M. Diederich by her Family.

## 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.

## Second Collection Catholic Home Missions

The annual Catholic Home Missions Collection will be taken at Masses March 9-10. The theme is "Strengthening the Church at Home," and funds benefit dioceses in the United States that cannot provide basic pastoral services without outside help. For more information about the collection, go to [www.usccb.org/home-missions/collection](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions/collection).

## For Your 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.

## Stewardship of Treasure

### February 24, 2019

**Regular Offertory: \$ 6,248.00 (290 envelopes out of 1292 families)**

**Youth: \$ 31.00**

**Loose: \$ 784.00**

**Total Offertory: \$ 7,063.00**

**Amount budgeted for weekly regular offertory \$7,986.31**

**Over/(under) budget: \$ (1,738.31)**

**Average adult donation this weekend \$10.00 per envelope**

Utilities & Maintenance:	\$	1,678.50
Votive Candles:	\$	225.01
Capital Project/Roof Fund:	\$	263.00
Catholic Accent:	\$	165.00
Eastern Europe:	\$	10.00
Ash Wednesday:	\$	5.00

**Total February 23/24 collection: \$ 9,409.51**



## Heifer Project

As a Stewardship project for our parish this year we are going to help Heifer International. Heifer International is a non-profit, humanitarian organization dedicated to ending world hunger and caring for the earth by providing livestock, trees, training and other resources to help struggling families around the globe.

Animals from Heifer provide milk, eggs, wool, draft power and other benefits that can mean improved nutrition, higher income, education for children, health care and improved housing – literally, a new way of life.

As a parish, our target is to purchase a whole Ark of animals that help promote self reliance to as many as 30 families around the world. An Ark includes:

2 Sheep	\$240.00
2 Trios of Rabbits	\$120.00
2 Pigs	\$240.00
2 Oxen	\$500.00
2 Goats	\$240.00
2 Beehives	\$ 60.00
2 Flocks of Geese	\$ 80.00
2 Flocks of Chicks	\$ 50.00
2 Trios of Guinea Pigs	\$120.00
2 Water Buffalo	\$500.00
2 Cows	\$800.00
2 Trios of Ducks	\$ 50.00
2 Donkeys	\$800.00
2 Camels	\$900.00
2 Llamas	\$300.00

We have six weeks to fill up our Ark. You may put your contributions in an envelope marked for Heifer. Once again, this is a wonderful way to help your children learn about good Stewardship and in the process it is helping so many needy people.

## Rite of Sending/Call to Continuing Conversion

At the 11:00 a.m. Mass next Sunday, we will celebrate the Rite of Sending for our R.C.I.A. Candidate. Later that day he will gather at the Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Greensburg with others from across the Diocese to 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.

## Liturgies of the Week

### March 2—Vigil

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

### March 3—Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am The Cleri Family—Helen Yencsik

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

### Monday, March 4

No Mass Today

### Tuesday, March 5

8:00 am Cora McGraw—Niece, Sue Dunlop

### Ash Wednesday, March 6

9:30 am For All the People of Saint Sebastian Parish

4:00 pm Liturgy of the Word/Distribution of Ashes

7:00 pm Theresa Sable—Shirley Zippay and Ed & Cheryl Zippay

### Thursday, March 7

No Mass Today

### Friday, March 8

8:00 am George “Rudy” Clay—Tom & Patty Canigiani

6:30 pm Stations of the Cross

### Saturday, March 9

3:00 pm Sacrament of Reconciliation

### Saturday, March 9—Vigil

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

### Sunday, 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

## Liturgical Ministers—Servers

Saturday, Mar. 9 4:30 pm A. & A. Peden

Sunday, Mar. 10 9:00 am G. & J. Pokol

11:00 am E. & L. Baron

**Lectors Lit. Coordinators Ministers**

### Saturday, Mar. 9

4:30 S. Wawro C. Farrier S. & S. Zolock, T. Rodriguez  
J. Moody, M. Moody, K. Rygiel, C. Farrier

### Sunday, Mar. 10

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

11:00 C. Rhodes H. Baron F. Aleman, D. Bisceglia  
R. & W. Hoffman, C. Korber, S. Kroskie, H. Baron  
Choir—M. Druciak

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND

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

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

### 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. Applications are available at the parish office. **Deadline** for the application is **March 8**.

### 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.

### 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 for TOT will be the Clubhouse Grill at Cedarbrook Golf Course.

### 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 for \$10. Thank you for all of your support!



### THE WELL

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).

### *Lectio: Prayer, A Lenten Study*

*Prayer: Finding Intimacy with God*  
We will open the Scripture as the means to hear God and respond. **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.**

### 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.

### "The Accent On-Air" debuts March 3 at 11:30 a.m. on WTAE-TV Channel 4

The Diocese of Greensburg's "The Accent On-Air" debuts March 3 at 11:30 a.m. on WTAE-TV Channel 4. The premier broadcast, "Faith & Food," includes the story about The Epiphany of Our Lord Parish in Monessen winning the Ultimate Pittsburgh Pierogi competition along with other features, including Lenten lessons from Bishop Malesic and Father Tyler Bandura. The show will be rebroadcast at **2:08 a.m. on March 5, 8, 14 & 29.**

### 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.

If you have any suspicion about the sexual abuse (or any other type of abuse) of a minor child by anyone, please contact PA Childline immediately at 1-800-932-0313. If the alleged abuser is functioning in a parish, school or diocesan position as clergy, religious, paid staff or volunteer you are also requested to contact the Bishop's Delegate for Matters of Sexual Misconduct after you have called the Childline number and made the report. The Bishop's Delegate may be reached at 724-837-0901, Ext. 1221.

## ***FROM THE PASTOR***

### **Talk really can be cheap...**

As we prepare to begin the season of Lent our readings this week give us much food for thought. As Jesus reminds us it is not always what we do but the thoughts and motivations behind our actions are what really matter. Sirach in the first reading reminds us that talk can be cheap! He reminds us that the way a person speaks reveals their true inner self. We all need to listen to one another carefully before judging, that is the proof of true wisdom. He is telling us that conversation is the real proof of one's character.

If you stop and think about this we can all benefit from Sirach's words. When we speak to others, if we are gossiping, have a foul mouth, or come off as knowing it all, what does that really say about our character and the kind of person we really are. The way that we speak to others gives evidence of our own interior living, our speech reveals where we have allowed ourselves to be planted, and how we view ourselves. Sirach is realistic as he assesses how people talk. If we listen we can learn a lot not only about others but far more importantly about ourselves.

In the gospel for this Sunday Jesus once again speaks in parables and leaves it up to us to apply the message to our lives. He says "every tree is known by its own fruit", exactly what kind of fruit do we put out into the world. The secrets of the heart are revealed by the words of the mouth. The way that we speak to or about others reveals what kind of person we really are. We are being cautioned to think before we speak or act, to be aware of how we are perceived by others. We are being cautioned that it is much easier to look outward at others rather than looking inward.

Why is it so easy for us to see the many "splinters" planted in another's eye, yet be totally oblivious to the ones that are keeping us from seeing clearly? We are always ready to help someone else remove those splinters yet don't seem to mind the ones in our own eyes. We are being reminded that it is time to get our own eyes checked, to remove the film of distrust and correct any shortsighted suspicion.

If we make these words a part of our lives, what a great way to begin this season of Lent. Last week we were reminded that awareness is always the first step, maybe it is time to become aware of the many splinters blocking us from being the people God made us to be. Remember that we are reminded that a "good person out of the store of goodness in their heart produces good, but an evil person out of a store of evil produces evil, for from the fullness of the heart the mouth speaks." We are all being challenged to use God's mercy as a key to making a better world both inside and out. Start this Lent by becoming more aware of your speech and the way that you relate to and about others. Remember that talk truly can be cheap if they do not speak of what is in our hearts!

*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 Lennex, 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 Pesl, 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.*