

Parish Contact Information	476 Mull Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44320 Email: church@stsebastian.org Website: www.stsebastian.org To reach Parish Council email: parishcouncil@stsebastian.org
Office Telephone Directory	Main Office
CLERGY	Reverend John A. Valencheck
ADMINISTRATION	Milissa Smith
EDUCATION	Anthony Rohr
Prayer Line	Legion of Mary 330-485-3731
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Tuesday, 7:00 to 7:30pm, Friday, 4:00 to 5:00pm, Saturday, 9:30 to 10:00am and by appointment
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	Tuesdays, 8:30am-8:00pm, closing with Benediction at 7:40pm
Registration	New parishioners are most welcome to stop by the rectory office or visit the parish website to register.
Office Hours	Rectory office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:30am-5:00pm, Saturday 8:30am-4:30pm and Sunday 8:30am-1:00pm.
Bulletin Deadline	Requests must be submitted by 8:00am on Saturday morning. Requests for full page inserts must be submitted 2 weeks in advance using Microsoft Word or Publisher software. Drop off at the Rectory, fax to 330-836-2235 or email to ionesi@stsebestian.org

jonesj@stsebastian.org.

# From The Pastor

# Greetings,

It is the fourth week of the longest possible of Advents. Because of that, the Christmas/Sunday schedule is going to be bit odd this year so please take special note of the Mass schedule these three days and make plans:

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE**

Friday, December 24th

4:00 Mass

7:00 Mass

**MIDNIGHT** 

#### **CHRISTMAS DAY**

Saturday, December 25th

9:00 Mass

11:00 Mass

1:00 Extraordinary Form

#### **SUNDAY**

Sunday, December 26th

9:00 Mass

11:00 Mass

1:00 Extraordinary Form

There will be a Friday 8:00am Mass on December 24th.

There will be no Anticipatory Mass (4:30 Vigil Mass) for Sunday on Saturday.

There will be no confessions over the Christmas weekend.

#### IN OTHER NEWS:

PARISH CHOIR CHRISTMAS CONCERT: This Sunday evening at 7:30pm, our parish choir will have its Candlelight Christmas Concert in the church! Free and open to the public.

LAST ORGAN RECITAL; The final Advent Noon Adoration and Organ Recital will be this Tuesday in the church.

BALDWIN WALLACE MEN'S CHOIR: At the eleventh hour, the Baldwin Wallace Men's Choir Christmas Concert had to be cancelled this past week due to illness in the choir and the lack of time to have everyone tested before performance time. If you purchased tickets from them, please contact their ticket office directly. I believe that the issue of all the tickets purchased from the rectory have been addressed but if not, please contact Cathy Sivec. The choir was very sorry not to be here and for any inconvenience this situation may have caused. Hopefully we can have them back in the future!

OFFICES CLOSED: The parish offices will be close Thursday the 23rd, through Monday the 27th of the following week.

God bless,

Fr. Valencheck

# Fourth Sunday of Advent, December 18/19

Mi 5:1-4a/Ps 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19 [4]/Heb 10:5-10/ Lk 1:39-45

4:30pm The People of St. Sebastian - Fr. Valencheck

9:00am For the Intentions of Nate Mungo - Fr. Bozek

11:00am George Thomas - Fr. Valencheck

1:00pm Extraordinary Form—Rorate Sunday

For the Intentions of the Ryan Children -

Fr. Pascal

## Monday, December 20

Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4ab, 5-6 [cf. 7c and 10b]/ Lk 1:26-38

8:00am Patricia Reade - Fr. Bozek

# Tuesday, December 21, St. Peter Canisius, Priest & Doctor of the Church

Sg 2:8-14 or Zep 3:14-18a/Ps 33:2-3, 11-12, 20-21 [1a; 3a]/Lk 1:39-45

8:00am Frank Cleary & For the Intentions of Anna Lee Cleary - Fr. Valencheck

#### Wednesday, December 22

1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abed [cf. 1a]/ Lk 1:46-56

8:00am Leroy Wittler - Fr. Bozek

# Thursday, December 23, St. John of Kanty, Priest

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14 [cf. Lk 21:28]/Lk 1:57-66

8:00am Richard Mark Hamlin - Fr. Valencheck

## Friday, December 24

Morning: 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29 [2]/Lk 1:67-79

8:00am Joseph Savey - Fr. Bozek

4:00pm Infant John Joseph Beringer - Fr. Valencheck

7:00pm For the Intentions of Barb Bongiovanni -Fr. Bozek

12:00am Marie T. White - Fr. Valencheck

## Saturday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

Vigil: Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29 [2a]/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25 or 1:18-25

Night: Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 [Lk 2:11]/

Ti 2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

Dawn: Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti 3:4-7/

Lk 2:15-20

Day: Is 52:7-10/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 [3c]/Heb 1:1-6/ In 1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

9:00am The People of St. Sebastian - Fr. Bozek

11:00am Richard Maloyan - Fr. Valencheck

1:00pm James R. White - Fr. Bede

# Sunday, December 26, The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1]/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Lk 2:41-52 or 1 Sm 1:20-22, 24-28/Ps 84:2-3, 5-6, 9-10 [cf. 5a]/1 Jn 3:1-2, 21-24/Lk 2:41-52

9:00am Mary Floreani (Anniversary) - Fr. Valencheck

11:00am Pamela Oliver - Fr. Bozek

1:00pm Extraordinary Form—Sunday in the Octave Richard Hudkins & Laura George - Fr. Bede

# **WEEKLY CALENDAR**

# Monday, December 20

8:40am	LOM, Our Lady of Humility	Library
6:00pm	Adult Bible Study	Byrider 2
6:00pm	Brownies – 2nd Grade	Byrider 3
6:30pm	Cub Scouts Pack Meeting	Forest Lodge
7:00pm	K of C 4th Degree Officers Mtg.	Zwisler Hall

#### Tuesday, December 21

8:40am	Adoration	Church
7:00-7:30pm	Confession	Church
8:00pm	Gregorian Schola Rehearsal	Church

#### Wednesday, December 22

7:00pm Praise & Worship Ensemble Church

# Thursday, December 23

9:15am	Preschool & Toddler Open Gym	Byrider Gym
7:00pm	Boy Scout Troop # 96	Byrider 1 & 3
7:00pm	Parish Choir	Church
7:00pm	Legion of Mary	Library
7:00pm	RCIA	Forest Lodge
7:00pm	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	Byrider 2

## Friday, December 24

Saturday, December 25

#### Sunday, December 26

12:15pm Gregorian Schola Rehearsal Church Mtg. Rm.





# All the sick of the parish:

Annette Bailey, Marilyn Bohling, Jill Buffa, Regina

Buhalak, Dan Canale, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Rita Cummings, Anthony D'Attoma, Linda Davis, Marjorie DeLuca, Mary Pat Doorley, Melane Francis, Rita Buhalak Gossford, Robert Hickey, Phil Hochstetler, John and Terry Hogan, Rich Huber, Ann Hubiak, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Jean Labate, Myrna Marple, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, Keith Pecek, Jeff Quick, Robert Rader, Mary Ricks, Nancy Ropchock, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Michael Schnetzer, John Schultz, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Victor Strelbicki and Steve Watral.

# **Giving Tree**



This is the final week for our parish Giving Tree. All gift cards need to be returned by **Sunday**, **December 19**, to allow distribution by Christmas Day. Please return your gift cards with the tags attached and place them under the tree. Your support has been

invaluable to these families in need and is greatly appreciated! Any questions please contact Paul and Lori Oakes at 330-861-6417.

# **Fourth Sunday in Advent**

# Christmas is Near

Today as we light the fourth and final candle on our Advent wreath we can see that the light comes very close to overcoming all darkness. The only candle that is left now is the center candle, the Christ candle, which we'll light on Christmas morning.

When Jesus came to this earth, He brought a special kind of love. This love is unselfish, compassionate, unconditional. He loves us just as we are. Our condition is irrelevant to His love. It is a love that picks us up just where we are in life and carries us further than we could ever go on our own.

He gives us His love so we can give it away in the same unselfish, compassionate, unconditional way He gave it to us. He tells us this love will be our trademark. It will distinguish us as followers of Jesus.

Your actions reflect Jesus to the world around you. You can choose to offer love or to hold it back. In situations where it is hard to offer love, ask him to give you an abundance of his own in your heart so you are able to give it away.

As you move into Christmas this week, be reminded of the distinguishing mark you carry as a follower of Jesus. Faced with the love he has for us, the Christmas birth is new, amazing, remarkable. The Love Candle is lit within us and we're tasked with keeping it burning throughout the year.

The only way we can succeed, though, is by holding the Baby close.

Fr. Jozef Bozek, Parochial Vicar

# **Financial Update**



Due to early publishing deadlines, financial information for the weekend of December 11/12 will be in next week's bulletin.

Thank you for your continued commitment to St. Sebastian Parish.

We pray for your continued generous support of God's work here at St. Sebastian.



# 2021 Christmas & New Year's Schedule

## Christmas Eve

Friday, December 24th 4:00pm

(Children's Mass)

7:00pm

12:00am Midnight

Christmas Day

Saturday, December 25th

9:00am 11:00am 1:00pm

(Extraordinary Form Mass)

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31st

8:00am

# New Year's Day (Not a Holy Day of Obligation)

Saturday, January 1st, 2022 8:00am Vigil Mass 4:30pm

# **Pre-Cana**

Registrations are now being taken for the **February 12, 2022,** Marriage Preparation Day. Engaged couples who are planning their weddings should send an e-mail to dmbakron@msn.com for details and a registration form. Call Maggi and Dave Blischak at 330-867-0365 for further information.

# **Musical Arts Corner**

**Advent Noon Recital** 

Tuesday, December 21 - Wesley Howell

**Christmas Candlelight Concert** 

Sunday, December 19 - 7:30pm



# MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Dear St. Sebastian Parish Community,

As we are celebrating our season of Advent and are waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, I reflect on the many blessings that have been bestowed upon me from our Lord. One that I hold dear is the St. Sebastian Parish School students, their families, the faculty and staff, Father Valencheck, and Father Bozek. I want to thank the entire school and parish community for all of your support, prayers, and generosity. We have all proved we are "St. Sebastian Strong" this past year! I would like to thank our teachers and staff, as they strive every day and are committed to providing the tools for academic excellence, and also assist in the development of the whole student-mind, body, and spirit.

There is an old tale that describes the dreams of three trees that sat upon a mountain. One tree dreamed of being a treasure chest holding the most valuable possessions; the second tree wanted to be a great ship to cross vast oceans carrying mighty kings of the earth; and the final tree dreamed of standing tall on a hillside and being as close to God as possible.

After many years of waiting, woodworkers finally came to cut the trees and the trees were so excited as they believed their dreams were going to come true. The first tree was cut down but not into the treasure chest it had dreamed of; instead it was crafted into a trough for animal feed and hay and placed in a barn. The second tree was crafted into a fishing boat, not the mighty ship of its dreams. The final tree was cut into beams, and left in a lumberyard. As time passed, the trees began to lose hope of their dreams ever being fulfilled.

Then one night, a couple placed a newborn baby into the animal trough when suddenly voices were heard singing praise to this new baby boy. This first tree was not bestowed with treasures of gold, but it soon realized it was holding the greatest treasure in all the world. A group of men set sail on the old fishing boat made from the second tree and a storm rapidly approached, nearly capsizing the little boat. One of the passengers stretched out his hands to settle the storm and the storm ceased. The second tree knew this passenger was the King of kings who commanded both heaven and earth. The third tree was formed into a cross and carried by a man to the top of a large hill. The tree realized that Jesus was crucified on this tree and on the third day, rose from the dead, bringing salvation to the world.

We have spent this Advent season reflecting and preparing for the coming of our Savior. Let this story of the three trees serve as a reminder to us all and when we see our own Christmas trees may we reflect on the truth that Christmas is about the coming of our Savior, Jesus, who would suffer and die for us. Like our journeys in life, the dreams of the trees became reality but not in the way they envisioned as God had a different purpose for them each. It is God who will guide us through our dreams, but in His time, not ours. On behalf of the faculty and staff of St. Sebastian Parish School, may you rejoice in the coming of the Lord as we strive to fulfill His dreams for us. Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours in Christ, Anthony Rohr Principal St. Sebastian Parish School



# St. Sebastian Parish FOUNDATION End of Year Donation Information

Important "End of Year" donation information that might be of interest:

# **IRA News!**

A donation to the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from your IRA when you are 72 years old can reduce your taxable income.

Be sure to check with your financial advisor to reduce your related taxes and support our Foundation! Up to \$100,000 can be transferred to a charity tax-free each year. Thank You!

Please contact Kathy Holaday for more details: holadayk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 x113

# **Adult Confirmation**

If you are a baptized Catholic and have not yet received Confirmation, but would like to, you are invited to contact Keith Johnson to find out how you can receive the sacrament at the Confirmation Mass to be held on **March 4**. Keith can be reached at johnsonk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 ext. 134.

# IN MEMORIAM

Let us pray for those recently deceased especially: **Sue Kotlinski** (Mother of Fr. Bede Kotlinski).

# Adoration for Vocation Campaign

Vocations are everyone's business

Please come and offer one hour on Tuesday from 8:30am to 8:00pm for vocations

Benediction at 7:40pm The Harvest Is Great - the Laborers Are Few

# Catechetical Corner

"O come, O come Emmanuel..." This hymn captures the heart cry of the Golden Nights - those days just prior to Christmas where we find ourselves now. Imagine the longing of faithful Israelites who knew the prophecies of the coming Messiah. How they must have longed for His appearing! "Rejoice... Emmanuel has come to thee, O Israel!" What joy would flood the hearts of those who heard the good news! This is the sense indicated in the liturgy and through this week as we make final preparations for Christmas. In addition to all the preparations that you are making for the celebration, take some quiet moments for prayer and allow yourself to enter into the ache of those who were waiting. Allow it to kindle a fire of anticipation in your soul. Then prepare to come and greet the newborn King on Christmas Day!

Have a question you would like to see addressed in the Catechetical Corner? Send to Keith Johnson at johnsonk@stsebastian.org.

--Keith Johnson, Parish Catechetical Leader

In honor of the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation's 50th Anniversary, we hope you will join us for a "Walk through the Decades." These beautiful displays, part of our 50th Anniversary celebration, will be included in our bulletin and on display in the narthex of our church over the next few weeks.

2010-2019











To learn more about the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, please contact Kathy Holaday: Office Phone: 330-836-2233 x113; Email: holadayk@stsebastian.org









# **HELP WANTED!**

Are you interested in our parish history and love to discover old photos and newspaper articles?

Join our parish archive team! Please contact Cathy Sivec in our Parish Rectory Office for more details.

# Attention Parishioners! Volunteers Needed!

If you are interested in helping us organize and create a library of our precious photos and memorabilia, please contact:

Cathy Sivec in our Parish Rectory Office: 330-836-2233 X107

# **Sharing Secrets**

The Legion of Mary, Our Lady of Humility, shares from The Secret of the Rosary by St. Louis Marie de Montfort. The saint writes of 50 "Roses" or secrets of the Most Holy Rosary.

## From the Thirty-Fourth Rose:

The Albigensians were a heretical group spreading Catharism in Southwest France. Those who led these battles against them were devoted to praying a daily Rosary and their armies, though greatly outnumbered, always came out victorious. Five hundred beat ten thousand; thirty defeated three thousand; and eight hundred horseman and one thousand infantrymen triumphed over one hundred thousand forces from the King of Aragon. In one battle Our Lady allowed one hundred fifty rocks to fall upon the enemy; in another one hundred fifty small hills arose miraculously above the water allowing the troops to escape.

Many of the enemy converted as they related stories of what they had seen in battle against Othere, a Breton, who would ride unaided into battle with a sword, shield, and a rosary. One spoke of Our Lady and Our Lord's images appearing on the General's shield which allowed him to become invisible as he fought. Another saw fiery swords surrounding the General as he advanced.

(p.s. Do you know why 150 rocks fell or 150 hills rose up?)

# Extraordinary Form Mass Weekly Readings

Monday: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 & Luke 3:1-6

Tuesday: Ephesians 2:19-22 & John 20:24-29

Wednesday 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 & Luke 3:1-6

Thursday: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5 & Luke 3:1-6

Friday: Romans 1:1-6 & Matthew 1:18-21

Saturday: Hebrews 1:1-12 & John 1:1-14

Sunday: Galatians 4:1-7 & Luke 2:33-40

http://www.extraordinaryform.org/properssundays.html

# **Alternatives to Abortion**

Option Line: 1-800-712-HELP.

Abortion Pill Reversal Hotline: 1-877-558-0333. Project Rachel (post-abortion healing): 216-334-2966

# St. Sebastian Scholarship Applications Due Jan. 25

Thanks to the generosity of our school and parish community, there are many opportunities for parish school students and parishioners to earn scholarships for next year. Scholarships for the 2022-23 school year, listed below, are available for students currently in grades pre-K to 7 (to be applied to next year's tuition at St. Sebastian) as well as 8th grade students (to be applied to high school tuition). The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, which acts as a clearinghouse of information for all these scholarships, has posted applications and additional information on the school's website at www.stsebastian.org/school/scholarships.

The application deadline is Jan. 25, 2022. If you have questions, please contact the Foundation at scholarships@stsebastian.org. Last year our students earned \$18,500 in scholarship awards!

## SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED THROUGH THE ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH FOUNDATION

- **Mary Ley Burke Scholarship** is for students currently in K-7 to help cover tuition costs for families who appreciate the Catholic values and exceptional academics at our school.
- **Christopher James Consilio Memorial Scholarship** is for 8th-grade students who will attend St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.
- **Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship** is given to students currently in grades pre-K to 7th to promote and encourage a diverse student body.
- Elms Family Scholarship is for 8th-graders who will attend Our Lady of the Elms High School.
- **Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship** is for 8th-grade students who will attend Archbishop Hoban High School.
- **Lynn Frey-Steward Organ Scholarship** is for organ lessons for parishioners currently in grades pre-K to 7th who are interested in studying the beauty of playing the organ.
- Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship is for 8th-graders who will attend Walsh Jesuit High School.
- **GOAL Scholarship** (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders) is for students currently in grades 2-7 who exemplify leadership and academic excellence.
- **NEW!** Hanlon Family Scholarship provides financial assistance to students currently in grades pre-K to 7th. Frances L. Sharp Scholarship is given to students currently in grades 4-7 who participate in the school band or choir.
- **John A. Trecaso Scholarship** is for 8th-graders who will attend St. Vincent-St. Mary High School.

## SCHOLARSHIPS FUNDED THROUGH PARISH SCHOOL/PARISH RELATED GROUPS

- **HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship** is given to two 8<sup>th</sup>-grade students to recognize and reward their community service.
- **Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship** is for students currently in grades 5-8 who are ushers or altar servers.
- **St. Irene Principal's Scholarship** is for students who exemplify the school's mission. There are 2 awards: one for students currently in grades K-7, and one for a current 8<sup>th</sup>-grade student.
- **Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Deacon Terry Peacock Memorial Scholarship** is given to two 8<sup>th</sup>-graders to further their catholic education at one of our area catholic high schools.

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