## St. Sebastian Parish

December 26, 2021



# THE HOLY FAMILY

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He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was obedient to them; and his mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus advanced in wisdom and age and favor before God and man. - Lk 2:51-52

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,

#### A MERRY & BLESSED CHRISTMAS TO YOU!

To those of you who are visiting, welcome to St. Sebastian Parish. I hope you feel at home and that your time here freshens your joy and hope. If you are looking for a spiritual home, you are most certainly invited here. If you are Catholic, you can register online anytime or in person during business hours or by appointment. If you are not Catholic, you are extended an invitation to consider becoming so. Our parish office will most happily direct you on what you need to do next!

If you are home for the holidays, welcome back to your parish home! You have been prayed for as your presence has been anticipated. Whether you are home from school or back in town from the place to which you moved, seeing your face was eagerly anticipated!

And to those who celebrate here week in and week out, what a privilege it is to be your pastor. Thank you for all that you do, and know of my daily prayer for you. May this Christmas and our celebration together be a blessing to you and renew your faith, hope and love.

#### IN OTHER NEWS:

SUNDAY MASS FOR DECEMBER 26th: Because of the Christmas schedule, there is no 4:30pm Vigil Saturday Mass. Please attend one of the Sunday Masses at 9:00, 11:00 or the 1:00pm extraordinary form.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASSES: The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, typically celebrated on January 1st, is not a holy day of obligation this year. There will be a Saturday morning Mass at 8:00am followed by confessions at 9:30am. The 4:30 Mass that Saturday will be the Anticipatory Mass (Vigil Mass) for Sunday.

OFFICES CLOSED: Just a reminder that the Parish Offices will be closed through Monday, December 27th.

ADORATION: Would it be pleasant to get a break away for an hour from all the hubbub of activity over the holidays? There will be adoration all day Tuesday (as there is every Tuesday) following the morning Mass until 8:00pm. There will be confessions from 7:00 until 7:30pm. Compline and Benediction are celebrated beginning at 7:40pm.

ANGELUS LETTER: There was a report in the last Angelus Letter, which comes out on Thursdays, concerning all of the work going on in and around St. Sebastian Parish including news from our latest meeting with the city. If you do not receive this electronic letter and wish to, please contact the parish office at 330-836-2233.

God bless,

Fr. Valencheck

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

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 [n 3:1-2, 21-24/

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

### Monday, December 27, St. John, Apostle & Evangelist 1 [n 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 [12]/[n 20:1a, 2-8

8:00am Sebastian Kanakkanatt (Anniversary) -Fr. Valencheck

## Tuesday, December 28, The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

1 *[n 1:5—2:2/Ps 124:2-3, 4-5, 7b-8 [7]/Mt 2:13-18* 8:00am Philip F. George Sr. & the Family - Fr. Valencheck

#### Wednesday, December 29, St Thomas Becket, Bishop & Martyr

1 [n 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6 [11a]/Lk 2:22-35 8:00am Anita Harris - Fr. Bozek

#### Thursday, December 30

1 In 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10 [11a]/Lk 2:36-40 8:00am Margaret Connors - Fr. Bozek

### Friday, December 31, St. Sylvester I, Pope

1 [n 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13 [11a]/[n 1:1-18

8:00am J. Harold (Hal) Traverse - Fr. Valencheck

## Saturday, January 1, Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 [2a]/Gal 4:4-7/ Lk 2:16-21

8:00am Eugene Sawan - Fr. Bozek

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

#### Sunday, January 2, Epiphany of the Lord

Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13 [cf. 11]/ Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

9:00am Michael Riccardi - Fr. Bozek

11:00am Bob & Helen Abell - Fr. Valencheck

1:00pm Extraordinary Form—Most Holy Name of Jesus Living & Deceased Members of the von Spiegel & Horn Families - Fr. Bede

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

## WEEKLY CALENDAR

### Monday, December 27

8:40am	LOM, Our Lady of Humility	Library
6:00pm	Adult Bible Study	Byrider 2
1	,	2
6:00pm	Brownies – 2nd Grade	Byrider 3

### Tuesday, December 28

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

### Wednesday, December 29

7:00pm	Praise & Worship Ensemble	Church
7:00pm	K of C Officers Meeting	Forest Lodge

#### Thursday, December 30

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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	St. Vincent de Paul Meeting	Byrider 2

#### Friday, December 31

4:00-5:00pm Confession Church

#### Saturday, January 1

9:30-10:00am Confessions Church

#### Sunday, January 2

12:15pm Gregorian Schola Rehearsal Church Mtg. Rm

#### 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.



### 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.



## New Year's Schedule

New Year's Eve

Friday, December 31st 8:00am

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

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

### **Christmas Tea Thank You**

Thank you to all the ladies who attended the Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 8. Sanctuary Society has held this event every year for free for all the women of St. Sebastian Parish and School in appreciation of its constant support of the organization.

Thank you to our entertainment this year, the St. Sebastian School Band and St. Sebastian Academy's String Ensemble. A special thank you goes out to Mr. Scott Mason and Mrs. Sarah Husak for all their hard work in getting these students ready. Thank you to Abigail Coleman, Sydney Borges and Francis Knauer for playing the piano through some parts of the evening.

Till next time, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. We will see you at our next event, the International Festival, on February 5.

# Extraordinary Form Mass Weekly Readings

Monday: Ecclesiasticus 15: 1-6 & John 21: 19-24

Tuesday: Apocalypse 14: 1-5 & Matthew 2: 13-18

Wednesday Titus 3: 4-7 & Luke 2: 15-20

Thursday: Titus 3: 4-7 & Luke 2: 15-20

Friday: Titus 3: 4-7 & Luke 2: 15-20

Saturday: Titus 2: 11-15 & Luke 2: 21

Sunday: Acts 4: 8-12 & Luke 2: 21

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

## **Financial Update**



Due to early publishing deadlines, financial information for the weekend of December 11/12 & December 18/19 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.

## **Parent Preparation Baptism Class**



The next parent preparation class for the baptism of infants (birth to age 7) will be on

Monday, January 10, in Byrider Hall Room 3 at 7:00pm. This is a requirement for all first time parents wishing to have their child/children baptized at St. Sebastian Parish. Please call the parish office at 330-836-2233 for more information or to register your child's baptism.

## **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

## **Catechetical Corner**

"Joy to the world! The Lord is come!" What else could characterize this holy season than joy? Our Lord has come. With His coming comes also the hope of salvation, which is a cause for great joy. Today we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We recall that our Lord came as an infant and was given two very godly parents to raise Him. The Holy Family is our model for family life. In them we see simplicity, industry, and prayer. How do we incorporate those same principles into our own lives and the lives of our families? This week, you can make that a particular intention as you seek the intercession of the Holy Family and the blessing of our Lord!

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

## A Walk Through the Christmas Season

The Church's liturgical season of Christmas is one of its shortest, but also one of its most unique. Within it is the eight-day celebration of the Lord's Nativity — known as the Christmas octave — as well as other feasts pertaining to the manifestation that Jesus is Lord of the nations. Within the octave are various feast days that have rich histories and traditions.

## December 26: Feast of St. Stephen

It is interesting to note that the first feast day after Christmas — the very next day, December 26 — is the feast of a martyr. Recalling the purpose for which Christ came and the assignment of His divine mission, Christians are reminded, at this early stage of the celebrations of the Christmas season, of the Lord's exhortation that anyone who wishes to follow after Him must take up his cross. St. Stephen, the first martyr of the Christian faith, is held up as a living witness of what it means to proclaim that Christ is savior without counting the cost.

## <u>December 27: Feast of the Apostle and Evangelist St. John</u>

Regarded as the disciple closest to Jesus, St. John — believed to be the author of a Gospel, the Book of Revelation and three New Testament letters — is the one who teaches us that "God is love."

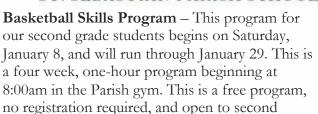
## December 28: Feast of the Holy Innocents

The Holy Innocents were martyrs killed as the result of Herod's murderous rage, resulting in his desire to eliminate any threats to his power by killing anyone who fit the profile of the newborn king he learned about from the Magi. Taking no chances for the babe's survival, he ordered the murder of all boys in or around Bethlehem under the age of 2.

#### Feast of the Holy Family

Many of the few details we know of Jesus' early life relate to his familial relationships. As a young man, we know he grew in the ways of faith as the obedient son of Mary and Joseph. The Church holds up annually the Holy Family of Nazareth as a model for all families, as a model for all human relationships. The feast of the Holy Family is celebrated on the Sunday after Christmas. The octave of Christmas ends with the celebration of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God, on January 1. It also marks the Church's commemoration of the World Day of Peace, first observed 50 years ago in 1968. It seems appropriate and fitting to be celebrated on a Marian feast day, for peace is only possible through total self-sacrifice and surrender — through total love and obedience to the will of God, of which Mary is an icon for the Church.

## ----ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL



graders in our school and PSR Program.

International Festival – The 50<sup>th</sup> Annual International Festival will be held on Saturday, February 5, in Zwisler Hall from 5:00pm –9:00pm. There will be lots of fun games, entertainment, a variety of delicious foods from many different countries and a yummy dessert booth. Please visit the Sanctuary Society page on the Parish website to learn more about volunteer and sponsorship opportunities.

Night at the Races – The St. Sebastian Athletic Booster Club will host this year's *Night at the Races* on Saturday, January 22. Your ticket includes dinner, adult beverages and a really fun evening. You can also purchase your own horse to race. More information including tickets, advertising opportunities and horses can be viewed on the Athletics page on the school website, www.stsebastian.org/school.

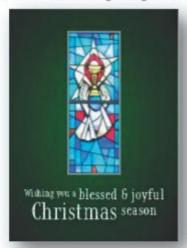
**Open House** – Join us for our Catholic Schools Week Open House on Sunday, January 30, from 11:00am – 1:00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for families to tour the school, meet with teachers and learn more about our school's academic and service programs. Both the day school and the Center for Early Learning will be open for tours. No registration is required for this event.

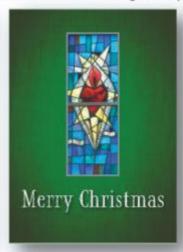
St. Sebastian Spectacular – Remember to save the date for this year's Spectacular, Saturday, February 26. The committee has been working hard to create a wonderful evening with fun entertainment, exciting auction items and delicious food. This year's theme will be *Lights, Camera, Action: A Night in Hollywood* and if you would like to donate an auction item or be an event sponsor, please visit the Spectacular page on the parish school website.

## Foundation's Annual Christmas Card Appeal

## Please consider a gift to the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation during this Christmas Season

Parishioners, school families, alumni, and friends of the parish and school are encouraged to support our parish and school during the holidays with a gift to the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. Each year, the Foundation sends out two Christmas cards featuring images from our beautiful buildings and parish campus.





## Parish Appeal

Gifts to this annual appeal are a critical source of funding for the Foundation's Unrestricted Fund, which provides support for the areas of greatest need in the parish. This year's cover for the parish card features a beautiful image of the Eucharist that is captured in the stained glass windows to the left of the St. Pius X shrine in our parish church. St. Pius X is known for many great achievements as pope, but especially for encouraging Catholics to receive the Eucharist more often.

## Alumni Appeal

The second Christmas card mailed to all of our alumni and gifts to this annual appeal support the Alumni Scholarship Endowment, which helps defray the costs of tuition for all of our school families.

This year's cover for the alumni card features a beautiful image of the Sacred Heart that is captured in the stained glass windows to the left of the Sacred Heart shrine in our parish church. This depiction of a heart on fire and surrounded by a crown of thorns symbolizes Jesus' love for us, which is said to be so strong that His heart is on fire for us.

## **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-fifth Rose:

Blessed Alan de la Roche was very devoted to the Rosary and sang its praises far and wide. He convinced the troops in the Holy Land, one and all, to recite the rosary when greatly outnumbered in battle. They were always victorious, despite the odds.

Saint Bernard, in discussing the devil's fear of the rosary says, "The Angelic Salutation puts them to flight and

makes all hell tremble." Blessed Alan relates that, even those who have sold their soul to the devil, are redeemed when taking up the devotion to the Most Holy Rosary.



NOTE: There is a painting commonly referred to as "Hail Mary, full of grace, punch the devil in his face." This refers to the story of St. Theophilus who sold his soul to the devil in exchange for a bishopric. What is pictured is Our Blessed Mother taking back that signed contract from devil after Theophilus had

repented and prayed for her intercession.

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



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

## 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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