St. Sebastían Parísh

January 2 2022



THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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They were overjoyed at seeing the star, and on entering the house they saw the child with Mary his mother. They prostrated themselves and did him homage. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. - Mt 2:10-11

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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.330-836-2233Parish School Office.330-836-9107Center for Early Learning.330-836-9107Parish School of Religion.330-836-2233Academy of Culture & Arts.330-836-2233Julie Billiart School at St. Sebastian.234-206-0941EMERGENCY LINE.330-836-2233For a priest at night and only in the event of urgent sickness or imminent death
CLERGY	Reverend John A. Valencheck.PastorReverend Jozef Bozek.Parochial VicarReverend Bede Kotlinski OSB.Weekend AssociateReverend Justin D. Dyrwal OSB.Weekend AssociateReverend Paschal Petcavage OSB.Weekend Associate
ADMINISTRATION	Milissa Smith.Parish Business ManagerLynn Frey-Steward, CAGO, MM.Director of Music/Choirmaster/OrganistCathy Sivec.Rectory Office ManagerJennifer Jones.Rectory Office AssistantMichelle Huber.Director of Marketing & Public RelationsKathy Holaday.Director of DevelopmentMichael Zimmerman.Facilities Manager
EDUCATION	Anthony RohrSchool Principal Keith JohnsonParish Catechetical Leader Cinnamon ChiversPSR Principal John JoyceCoordinator of Youth & Young Adult Programs Scott MasonDirector of the Academy of Culture & Arts Jason WojniczJulie Billiart School Principal
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 jonesj@stsebastian.org.

From The Pastor

Greetings,

A HAPPY AND A BLESSED NEW YEAR TO YOU! Due to printing demands, this letter is being written to you about a week before Christmas so it is awkward even to write, "Thank you for all you did at Christmas" since it has not even taken place yet. But even as this is written, scores of fellow parishioners have already been hard at work preparing for our Christmas celebrations. So, in anticipation of being able to tell you how grateful I am that you were here, that you prayed and participated, that you came to practices, that you cleaned, that you decorated, that you fulfilled ministries, for your generosity, I offer you my thanks for making our celebrations wonderful and our "Christ's Mass Day" centered on what matters most.

IN OTHER NEWS:

CALENDARS: Thanks to Hummel Funeral Homes, there are available 2022 liturgical wall calendars at the entrances of the church. Speaking of having to print in advance, you will notice that Fr. Morris's name is on the calendar instead of Fr. Bozek. Things can change quickly! Thank you, Hummel.

OFFICES CLOSED: The parish offices will be closed Thursday, December 30th through Monday, January 3rd.

TREE TRIMMING: We have been anticipating all of the trees on St. Sebastian Square to be trimmed on December 27th. In theory, the project should have been finished by the time you read this! The trees need to be trimmed during the winter months due to a disease in Ohio that can infect our beautiful oak trees if they are trimmed during the warmer months.

VISITORS: We are blessed to have a few visitors to St. Sebastian over Christmas break. Joseph and Vincent, seminarians from Vietnam studying for the Diocese of Cleveland, moved into the rectory just before Christmas and have been helping out at Masses and such. Charlie has also returned but has a number of duties at his home parish as well as leaving after Christmas for a week to go on retreat.

Cameron, who had been with us much of the last year will no longer be staying with us. Fr. Morris became the pastor of his home parish and he is excitedly assisting at Sts. Peter and Paul in Doylestown! And last, but certainly not least, St. Sebastian Parish School alumnus and my cousin, The Rev. Christopher Trenta, joined us on the altar for Midnight Mass. Please keep all of these men in your prayers.

MISC: We received a thank you letter from Catholic Charities for having exceeded our goal for last year. Thank you! St. Sebastian also received a thank you from the Peter Maurin Center for serving dinner to 90 guests along with cookies made by our first graders, cards made by our students, and "especially the Confirmandi Candidates and parents who helped serve their guests!!!"

EXTRAORDINARY FORM: This is a difficult thing to write since this comes out just as we receive news from Rome concerning new restrictions in this celebration of the Mass and at the moment it is unclear exactly what it all means, the situation certainly changing by the time you read this. These are difficult and challenging times. I wish I had more comforting things to say besides letting you know that you are in my prayers. As we wait to see what exactly shakes out, please also keep in your prayers the priests who are also deeply affected. As soon as I come to know things more clearly, I shall let you know.

God bless,

Fr. Valencheck

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Epiphany of the Lord, January 1/2

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

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

- 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. Justin

Monday, January 3, Holy Name of Jesus

1 *Jn 3:22—4:6/Ps 2:7bc-8, 10-12a/Mt 4:12-17, 23-25* 8:00am Jim Meadows - Fr. Valencheck

Tuesday, January 4, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Religious 1 In 4:7-10/Ps 72:1-2, 3-4, 7-8/Mk 6:34-44 8:00am Richard Keeney - Fr. Valencheck

Wednesday, January 5, St. John Neumann, bishop

1 [n 4:11-18/Ps 72:1-2, 10, 12-13/Mk 6:45-52 8:00am Sr. Mary Petronilla - Fr. Bozek

Thursday, January 6, St. Andre Bessette, Religious 1 In 4:19—5:4/Ps 72:1-2, 14 and 15bc, 17/ Lk 4:14-22a 8:00am Frank Krajcovic - Fr. Bozek

Friday, January 7, St. Raymond of Penafort. Priest

1 [n 5:5-13/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 5:12-16 8:00am Bill & Irene Morely - Fr. Bozek

Saturday, January 8

1 In 5:14-21/Ps 149:1-2, 3-4, 5 and 6a and 9b/ In 3:22-30 8:00am John T. Abell - Fr. Bozek 4:30pm Jack & Wanda Swartz - Fr. Valencheck

Sunday, January 9, Baptism of the Lord

Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 [1]/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22 9:00am Richard Keeney - Fr. Bozek 11:00am The People of St. Sebastian - Fr. Valencheck 1:00pm *Extraordinary Form*—Holy Family Alice Valentine - 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, January 3

8:40am LO	OM, Our Lady of Humility	Library
6:00pm Ac	lult Bible Study	Byrider 2
6:00pm Br	ownies – 2nd Grade	Byrider 3
6:30pm Cu	ib Scout Meeting	Forest Lodge
6:30pm Cu	ib Scouts - Wolf Den	Zwisler Hall

Tuesday, January 4

3:40am	Adoration	Church
7:00-7:30pm	Confession	Church
3:00pm	Gregorian Schola Rehearsal	Church

Wednesday, January 5

4:30pm	Women's Evening of Reflection	Church
7:00pm	Praise & Worship Ensemble	Church

Thursday, January 6

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

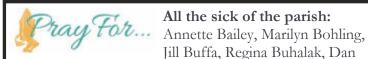
8:40am First Friday Rosary Church 4:00-5:00pm Confession Church 7:30pm Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg. Church Mtg. Rm

Saturday, January 8

3:40am	LOM Virgin Most Powerful	Library
0:30-10:00am	Confessions	Church
7:00pm	Alcoholics Anonymous Mtg.	Church Mtg. Rm

Sunday, January 9

):30am	PSR	School
12:15pm	Gregorian Schola Rehearsal	Church Mtg. Rm



All the sick of the parish:

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, Ann Hubiak, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Jean Labate, Dr. Dan Lehnhoff Myrna Marple, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, Keith Pecek, Jeff Quick, Robert Rader, Mary Ricks, Nancy Ropchock, Beatrice Laura Ryan, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Michael Schnetzer, John Schultz, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Victor Strelbicki, Steve Watral and Dona Wolff.

Right to Life Signature and Media Campaign Next Weekend

After all Masses January 8/9, parish volunteers will be accepting donations to help finance an ongoing pro-life multimedia campaign (via internet, phone apps etc.) to assist pregnant women who may be seeking an abortion. Because they turn to the internet for help, Right to Life of Northeast Ohio partners with media resources to bring up life-affirming choices in the top search results they encounter. Resources include receiving a free ultrasound and the 1-800-712-HELP "Option Line," which directs women to local pregnancy centers. All donations fund the internet searches and the Option Line number. In addition, Right to Life sponsors a petition to federal and state legislators informing them of voter support to remove language or funding any legislation that supports abortion, human-embryodestructive-research, assisted suicide or euthanasia. For more information, please contact Pat Clark-Varga at 330-873-1475, or email, patcv1984@yahoo.com.

Men's Breakfast



Men, start the year off right with breakfast following the 8:00am Mass on **Saturday, January 15**. The gathering at Zwisler Hall will be a chance to hear from Harry Sivec as he talks about a topic of interest to men

of faith. We will be dedicated to finishing up before 10:00am so that you can take care of other weekend obligations. Please RSVP to Bert Brownfield at rbsdad@aol.com or call 330-864 1708, as our cooks need a better count than they have had for the last few meetings. Invite a friend, it may change a life.

Pre-Cana Day

The Pre-Cana Marriage Preparation Day for engaged couples will be **February 12**. Get details and a registration form by sending an e-mail to dmbakron@msn.com. Further information may be obtained by calling Maggi and Dave Blischak at 330-867-0365.

RCIA Rite of Acceptance & Welcoming



We recently celebrated the Rite of Acceptance and Welcoming of Candidates. A warm welcome goes out to Danielle Cox, Tiffany Croff, Kylissa Himes, and Karen Mihalic as they continue their journey of faith. Please keep these ladies in your prayers.

Financial Update

Week of December 12, 2021

4:30pm	. \$2,551
9:00am	
11:00am	\$2,565
1:00pm	\$3,118
Mailed in to Rectory	
ONLINE GIVING (Electronic)	
*weekly average based on a monthly total	
5 6 5	

Total Collection.....\$27,431

Week of December 19, 2021

4:30pm	\$2,178
9:00am	
11:00am	\$2,249
1:00pm	\$1,274
Mailed in to Rectory	
ONLINE GIVING (Electronic)	.\$10,282
*weekly average based on a monthly total	

Total Collection......\$20,472 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.

Musical Arts Corner

Chardon Polka Band Sunday, February 20 at 4:00pm in Zwisler Hall Cost is \$7.00 per person

The Epiphany of the Lord

"Epiphany" means manifestation. And the "Epiphany of the Lord" is Jesus' manifestation not only to these three Magi from the East, but it's also a symbolic but real manifestation of the Christ to the whole world. These Magi, traveling from a foreign and non-Jewish nation, reveal that Jesus came for all people and all are called to adore Him.

These Magi were "wise men" who studied the stars and were aware of the Jewish belief that a Messiah was coming.

God used what they were familiar with to call them to adore the Christ. He used a star. They understood the stars and when they saw this new and unique star over Bethlehem they realized that something special was happening. So the first lesson we take from this for our own lives is that God will use what is familiar to us to call us to Himself. Look for the "star" that God is using to call you. It's closer than you may think.

A second thing to note is that the Magi fell prostrate before the Christ Child. They laid their lives down before Him in complete surrender and adoration. They set a perfect example for us. If these astrologers from a foreign land could come and adore Christ in such a profound way, we must do the same. Perhaps you could try literally lying down prostrate in prayer this day, in imitation of the Magi, or at least do so in your heart through prayer. Adore Him with a complete surrender of your life.

Lastly, the Magi bring gold, frankincense and myrrh. These three gifts, presented to our Lord, show that they acknowledged this Child as the Divine King who would die to save us from sin. Gold is for a King, frankincense is a burnt offering to God, and myrrh is used for one who would die. Thus, their adoration is grounded in the truths of who this Child is. If we are to adore Christ properly, we must also honor Him in this threefold way.

Reflect, today, upon these Magi and see them as a symbol of what you are called to do. You are called from the foreign place of this world to seek out the Messiah. When you discover Him, do not hesitate to acknowledge the full truth of who He is, lying prostrate before Him in complete and humble submission.

--Fr. Jozef Bozek, Parochial Vicar

-ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL

Basketball Skills Program – This program for our second grade students begins on Saturday, January 8, and will run through January 29. This is a four week, one-hour program beginning at 8:00am in the Parish gym. This is a free program, no registration required, and open to second graders in our school and PSR Program.

International Festival – The 50th 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.

Food Fellowship and Faith for Adults



THEOLOGY Join us on Monday, January 17, at 7:00pm as we welcome our Guest Speaker Fr. John Valencheck, Pastor, St. Sebastian Parish, who will present a talk entitled "What To Do When

Everything Seems Uncertain" at El Rancho Mexican Restaurant, located at 1666 West Exchange St., Akron. Please note the new location. Arrival at 7:00pm. Program begins at 7:30. Admission is \$5.00. Free chips and salsa. Food and drinks available for purchase. Sponsored by St. Sebastian Parish, Akron.

The FEST Internship



Calling all college students looking for a paid summer internship.

The FEST (www.theFEST.us) is looking for summer interns to make this year's event the best FEST yet. We are looking for students with interests in theology, business marketing & communications, event planning or logistics management to join the team that puts together our annual Diocesan Family Festival. Interns will be a part of a fast-paced team and will play a critical role in the marketing, planning and coordination of this annual event for thousands of people.

Interns will provide support and have responsibilities including public speaking, marketing, mailings, digital and social media, press releases, logistics, event planning and more. Interns must have strong people skills, work ethic, critical thinking, organizational skills and reliable transportation. For more information or to apply, please send your resume to Caitlin@theFEST.us by January 9.

Family Perspectives

Herod was frightened of Jesus. He feared Jesus would replace him and he would lose control. In families, fear appears when we are threatened by what is out of our control. We fret but it does no good. Give these situations to the Lord and let Him lead us like He led the Magi.

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

Today we celebrate the feast of the Epiphany. Traditionally celebrated on January 6, it has been moved to the Sunday that falls between January 2 and 8. Today we remember the various ways in which our Lord revealed Himself: to the Magi, at His Baptism, and at the wedding in Cana. In our time we use the word, "Epiphany," in a different way. If we have sudden insight into an issue we say we had an epiphany. We might think of it in the same manner when using it for this celebration. Be open to the many ways Jesus wants to show Himself in your life. Then be ready for the epiphanies that follow.

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

Newsletter

The Legion of Mary is now publishing a monthly newsletter to keep you informed on its activities and more. Look for it at all Church entrances.



Extraordinary Form Mass Weekly Readings

Monday:	Titus 2:11-15 & Luke 2:21	
Tuesday:	Titus 2:11-15 & Luke 2:21	
Wednesday	1 Peter 5:1-4, 10-11 & Matthew 16:13-19	
Thursday:	Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12	
Friday:	Isaiah 60:1-6 & Matthew 2:1-12	
Saturday:	Titus 3:4-7 & Luke 2: 15-20	
Sunday:	Colossians 3:12-17 & Luke 2:42-52	
http://www.extraordinaryform.org/properssundays.html		

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is pleased to present... "The Foundation through the Decades" 1971-2021

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.



HELP WANTED!

Help preserve our history and join our parish archive team!

Are you interested in helping us get ready for our 100th Anniversary in 2028 – we are looking for volunteers to 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

Catholic Cemeteries Association

CCA provides free monthly grief support groups in two formats: In-Office at 3:00pm and Virtually at 5:00pm via Zoom. We meet the 3rd Sunday of every month; 4th Sunday if the third Sunday falls on a holiday. Meetings are open discussion, surrounding a monthly topic or whatever is on your heart. The January 16 topic is "Facing the New Year with Hope and Love." We offer a comfortable, private and safe environment where you are free to explore your grief. Come and be in the presence of those who understand. **In-Office Grief Support groups** meet in the main office building at Holy Cross, Akron, 100 E Waterloo Road.

Catholic Cemeteries Association follows the guidelines set by the CDC, the State of Ohio, and the Diocese of Cleveland regarding COVID-19 protocols.

Virtual Grief Support group meets for an hour at 5:00pm via Zoom and follows the same monthly topic discussion as the in-office groups. Sign-up at

http://bit.ly/ccavirtualgriefsupportgroup to receive login information and to download the handout materials. You can join virtually from any Wi-Fi enabled area via computer, laptop, smartphone, or even without Wi-Fi (via audio only) from your analog phone. If you do not have Wi-Fi or email, please contact Rhonda at 216-930-4866.

Your RSVP for both In-Person and Virtual Grief Support is appreciated but not required to attend. For more information or if you have questions, please contact Rhonda at 216-930-4866.

AM 1260 The Rock



It's 2022 and a year that is new. Making a resolution that's way too steep? Enrich your mind, body, spirit with one you can keep!

Start your New Year off by listening to AM1260 The Rock Catholic radio! AM1260 The Rock makes it easy to learn more about our faith with daily Mass, devotionals, news from a Catholic perspective, apologetics and much more. Listen via radio, the internet, or our mobile app. Visit www.am1260therock.com for a complete program schedule, to download mobile app, or for more information. Glory be to God and your loved ones in the New Year and beyond.



Purchase Your Tickets in Advance → It is easy! Tickets may be purchased at church after mass on January 8 and 9. Tickets will also be available for purchase at the Rectory

during office hours starting on January 5-13.

Questions? Please call Marcy Smith 330-836-5624 or chefms68@aol.com

Sorry! There will be no tickets sold at the door. In order to be prepared to serve you, we ask you to **please** purchase your tickets (cash or check) in advance!



