

Church Restoration Underway

Construction crews moved in as soon as Easter services were over this April, as our church restoration project got underway. Recently, the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation announced the project was fully funded, with the Cornerstone of Our Faith campaign successfully raising over \$1 million for the restoration (see story inside).

An amazing amount of work has been completed in the first 12 weeks, including re-painting of the church interior; power washing the exterior; removal of all 112 pews and 240 kneelers for repair and refinishing; cleaning of the massive altar mosaic and the mosaics depicting the stations of the cross; restoration of the coat of arms above the entrance; repair and refinishing of the terrazzo and marble floors; and installation of new doors, a new sound loop, and new lighting.

Work still underway includes the repair and refurbishment of all the statues and shrines, installation

of the refurbished pews/kneelers with new book racks, restoration of the confessionals, cleaning of more than 250 bronze crests, restoration of the brasswork and woodwork, and reconfiguration of the entrance plaza and steps.

One of the contractors hard at work is Lindsay Jones, who was hired to repair and restore most of the artwork in the church. Jones launched her company, Blind Eye Restoration, in 2016 after years of working in historical preservation and, before that, construction. Her background in both areas as well as her degrees in fine art and art history provide her with a perfect mix of skills for this job, which requires her to determine what would be the best, most appropriate approach (in terms of materials as well as artistic and historic sensibility) for the restoration of each unique piece.

One of her first tasks was restoration of the giant coat of arms that resides above the front door. **The metal coat of arms is about nine feet tall**, measuring from the protruding arrows at the bottom to the plumed helmet at top. Jones cleaned the coat of arms and restored all the



Photos courtesy of Blind Eye Restoration

finishes, which included applying patent gold leaf to 70% of the piece while working 50 feet in the air in a bucket truck. The finished product now gleams from its perch above the church plaza on Mull Avenue.

Among the interesting facts Jones has discovered is that **all the gold plating in our church is crafted with 100% 24-karat gold**, even the gold tiles in the altar mosaic. Restoration of the massive mosaic was another of Jones' early tasks. She spent much of her time the first few weeks working high atop five-level scaffolding, which needed to be wide enough to span the 40 x 40 foot mosaic as well as tall enough for her to reach the ceiling so she could also clean the painting above the altar.

Jones says the mosaic is in generally good condition for its 60 years. She would know because **she carefully examined every section of the mosaic made of 175,000 pieces of Venetian glass**, making

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We Will Remember

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni. If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

(February 1, 2018 through May 31, 2018)

✠ Please keep these friends in your prayers ✠

Marilyn Sturmi McDonald '40, April 20, 2018
Colleen Coyle Hassett '41, May 5, 2018
Norman C. Zix '43, May 22, 2017
John J. Schumacher, Jr. '44, February 2, 2018
Lawrence M. Humphrey, Jr. '45, February 18, 2018
Floyd R. Beatty '46, May 12, 2018

Regina Stuhldreher '63, February 19, 2018
Patricia Kelly Quirk '64, April 26, 2018
David J. Ochsenhirt '65, March 7, 2018
Terrence M. Stuhldreher '67, March 15, 2018
Kathryn Lieberth Lytton '94, April 1, 2018

Restoration *continued from pg. 1*

repairs to the grout in some places, resetting tiles in other places, and cleaning everything with a fine-tooth comb, or in this case, sometimes with dental tools. She



got up close and personal with all the mosaic's figures and took this fascinating picture of **the face of**

Jesus, which is about three feet tall and full of colorful tiles. Jones says more color tiles are used in the figures in the mosaic since they are meant to stand out.

Another large job on Jones' plate is the restoration of all 14 shrine statues. Jones says **each shrine statue is hollow and carved out of the same wood, including the statues of Mary and Joseph, which are a little larger and gilded in gold.** Jones painstakingly cleaned each statue, with several of them requiring a great deal of elbow

grease (or really wax) to restore their feet, which were worn and scratched from the loving touches of churchgoers. "Lots of foot touching happening in this church!" Jones notes with a smile. Other repairs included: carving a new toe for St. Francis and a new tail for the sparrow at his feet, repairing St. Joseph's shoulder (which suffered

damage years ago from falling scaffolding), and applying

a patina treatment and aluminum gilding to St. Patrick's crosier.

One challenge Jones faced was figuring out the best way to **restore the more than 250 small (approx. 3 x 3.5 inch) bronze shields that adorn the pews and door handles.** After exploring a few options, Jones chose a bright brass buffed with wax for easier maintenance vs. the failed varnish coat, which even though it was worn out, proved very hard to remove. Once the process was settled, Jones hired someone to tackle that project while she got back to work on the statues. Jones, who will finish her work here by the end of June, has a deep appreciation of our church, saying she likes what she sees in St. Sebastian: "Old buildings like this church were built to last, and if you take care of it, it will last forever."



Class of 1968 50th Reunion

Friday, September 21

10:00: Golf Outing, J.E. Good Park

Evening option: Sit together to watch the STVM v. Hoban football game at InfoCision Stadium or Walsh football game at home v. Cleveland Heights

Saturday, September 22

4:30: Mass at St. Sebastian Church (newly restored!)

5:30: Tour of school

6:00: Dinner and 60's rock & roll, Zwislser Hall

Hotel: A block of rooms for Sept. 21-22 has been held at Fairlawn Hilton (\$119/night, \$219 for suite)

More Info: Details will be mailed to classmates this summer – we hope everyone can join us! Please send address updates or questions to Patti Large Cleary at cleary.patti@gmail.com. And please contact Patti if you did not receive a save-the-date postcard or email!

Stay Tuned! Our next issue will feature the restoration of the pews and kneelers, front plaza, floors, doors, and more!

Alumni Updates

Class of 1948: 70th Reunion!

The Class of 1948 celebrated their 70th Anniversary Reunion on May 15 at Papa Joe's Restaurant in Akron. The class meets twice each year and enjoys the time spent visiting and reminiscing. Fr. John Valencheck, pastor of St. Sebastian Parish, welcomed the alumni and offered the prayer before the meal. Kathy Holaday, director of development for the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, provided exciting updates on current happenings at their alma mater. Plans are being made for a future Class of 1948 luncheon to be held on St. Sebastian's campus and to include a tour of the school and church. More details to come! In attendance at the Class of 1948 Reunion: **Marjorie Wozniak Burkley**; **Thomas Dettling** and his wife, Nori; **Marjorie Mehigan Durbin**; **Paul Klein** and his wife, Carolyn; **Sally Delagrang Longville**; **Charles Kormanik** and his wife, Lorry; **Paul Schlimm**; **George Schumacher** and his wife, Joan; **Patricia Snyder Stiller** and her husband, Bill; **Agnes Myers Stitz**; and **Tony Zeller** and his wife, Gladys.



Class of 1968

David Flanagan is a business consultant who says he and his wife Teresita are "extremely blessed." They live in Katy, Texas and have six children and 15 grandchildren.

Class of 1972



Jim Roetzel was the featured guest at the February session of St. Vincent-St. Mary High School's alumni speaker series. Jim is a renowned nature photographer with a special affinity to the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, but he has photographed all over the U.S. and Canada. His work regularly appears in national and local publications, from Audubon and National Wildlife to Peterson's Photographic and Smithsonian. Jim is also a retired photography teacher of 30 years from Hudson City Schools. A sample of his photos can be viewed at www.jimroetzel.com.

Class of 1973

Classmates **Kathy Coyne Bergh** and **Liz Trockle Pfeiffer** share many fond memories of their school days at St. Sebastian. During a recent campus visit and tour, they shared a few memories with Kathy Holaday: having gym class while skating at Forest Lodge, taking etiquette/dance lessons with Harley Kerr, singing "Ride Like Paul Revere" with Sr. Roseanne directing, listening to Mr. Cummins read to them about Miss Havisham, taking pride in the excellent 8th-grade boys and girls CYO basketball teams, and enjoying the live music provided by **Mark Blinkhorn**, **Mike Friess** and **Marc Lee Shannon** at their 8th-grade dances.

Marc Lee Shannon, a long-time guitarist for Michael Stanley, put out his first solo album in 10 years this May. The album, "Walk This Road," was produced by fellow local singer-songwriter Ryan Humbert and features members of Welshly Arms, The Vindys, Shooter Sharp & The Shootouts, The Speedbumps and more.

Class of 1974

Guy Poux lives in Boulder, CO, where he works as a Development Consultant with Greenstar Consulting Group. Guy says he's looking forward to seeing fellow alumni at the next gathering!

Class of 1979

This spring, **Rose Loraditch Trout** was featured in a media campaign by Summa Health. Rose went through surgery, chemotherapy, and rehabilitation to beat bone cancer and return to being a mom and a first-grade teacher with Akron Public Schools. To view Rose's video testimonial, search for her name on Summa Health's Facebook page or YouTube channel.



Alumni Updates (continued)

Class of 1984

Alissa Danckaert-Skovira and her daughter (and fellow alum!) **Tessa Skovira (Class of 2015)** teamed up to produce an article about the unique reuse of a church. First Presbyterian Church, located in the Middlebury section of Akron, is a 30,000 square foot building that now houses seven non-profits and a coffee house. Alissa wrote the article, while Tessa took most of the photographs. You can find the article at www.strongtowns.org.

Class of 1995

Martin Minrovic and his wife Kim have two children, Leo (5 years old) and Lillian (8 months). Martin works as a Physical Therapist for The Ohio State University.

Class of 1997

Mary Laske Bell was the keynote speaker for the 2018 Our Lady of the Elms Career Day. Mary, an Elms graduate, earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Sociology from the University of Akron and her Ph.D. in Sociology from Vanderbilt University, where she also ran a non-profit dog rescue. Mary was recently featured in the Elms alumni newsletter, where she said she found her true talent and passion in the health and wellness industry helping people look and feel their best. Mary is currently the Regional Operations Lead for three Orangetheory Fitness studios in Brecksville and Beachwood, she coaches group fitness classes at the Brecksville location, and she works as a health coach with Arbonne International. She is pictured here with her husband, Austin.



Class of 2002

Andrew Bader was featured in the February edition of "The Devil Strip," an Akron-based monthly newspaper for music, art and culture. The article explores how Andrew co-founded a company called Additive Engineering Solutions (AES), which owns one of the world's largest polymer 3D printers – a machine known as "BAAM" (Big Area Additive Manufacturing). Andrew's father, **John Bader (Class of 1967)**, and his uncle, **Tom Bader (Class of 1973)**, also signed on as partners in the venture. For the complete article, search for "Andrew Bader" on the newspaper's website at www.thedevilstrip.com.

Kristen Minrovic Lyttle lives in Mt. Washington, KY, where she is a nurse manager for Norton Children's Hospital in Louisville. She and her husband, Sean, have a one-year-old named Wyatt.

Class of 2005

Emily Wilde lives in Lexington, KY and works for Morgan Stanley. Emily, who graduated from the University of Dayton, is engaged to be married in October. Her fiancé, Eric Biggins, is from Copley and works for Smucker's.

Class of 2013

Ben Stiller is stationed in Okinawa, Japan for 1-3 years with the U.S. Marine Corps. Ben graduated from boot camp in September of 2017.

Kasey Williams made the President's list with a 4.0 GPA for both semesters of the 2017-18 year at the University of Akron. Kasey also created a student organization called "Zips on the RISE," which will offer tutoring and programming to homeless children and their families in the Akron area. The new organization will work alongside Project RISE, a local community outreach program.

Send Us Your Alumni Updates

We love to hear from our alumni! Please drop us a line and let us know what you are doing. Newly married? New baby? Get together with fellow alums? Email Anne Morgan Dennée '85 at alumni@stsebastian.org or fill out the online form at alumni.stsebastian.org/contact.html.

Classes of 2014-2015

Claire Heinle (2014) and **Zoe Zelch (2015)** were members of the Our Lady of the Elms High School Speech and Debate team that qualified for the Ohio Speech and Debate Association's state finals in March. Claire and Zoe were part of the Student Congress Representatives team that advanced to quarter finals for the first time in school history.

Sara Mahaney (2014), a former St. Sebastian Parish Choir member and a current 8-year member of the Summit Choral

Cornerstone of Our Faith Campaign Exceeds \$1 Million Goal!

We are so pleased to announce that the Cornerstone of Our Faith campaign raised over \$1 million in one year! Thanks to the generosity of many, this campaign for the restoration of St. Sebastian Church was a great success. Thank you to all our parishioners, alumni, and friends of the parish for your incredible support!

The restoration work began in April and will conclude in July, a few months before the parish's 90th Anniversary Celebration in November. Projects include the restoration of the original pews, terrazzo floors, glass doors, and the brass and woodwork. In addition, the church will have increased accessibility through improved entrance ramps and automatic doors as well as the new sound loop technology. For updates on the project, please visit the parish Facebook page ([Facebook.com/saintsebastianakron](https://www.facebook.com/saintsebastianakron)), where many photos are posted.

It is not too late to donate! A lovely alphabetical list of campaign contributors who donate before October 1, 2018 will be displayed for one year at the church's main entrance. In addition, the



donor list will be printed in the Foundation's annual report, the parish's 90th Anniversary program, and the parish web site. Pledges may be paid through 2019. To learn more, please contact Director of Development Kathy Holaday (330-836-2233 x113 or holadayk@stsebastian.org) or visit our website for more details: www.stsebastian.org/restoration/index.html

Save the Date: November 10, 2018
St. Sebastian Parish 90th Anniversary Celebration

Alumni Updates (*continued*): Classes of 2014-2015

Society Children's Choir, sang at Carnegie Hall in New York City on April 7 in the National Youth Choir Festival. Sara, an Archbishop Hoban graduate, will attend Malone University to study Zoo/Wildlife and Marine Biology. She has volunteered over 300 hours as an Akron Zoo Teen Volunteer.

Congratulations to St. Sebastian Parish School Class of 2014 alumni who signed letters of intent to continue their academic and athletic careers in college: **Reid Allen** (Hoban, football, Wittenburg), **Jack Mullin** (STVM, baseball, John Carroll), **Jacob Saus** (Hoban, football, Wittenburg), **Eric Taggart** (STVM, football, Mt. Union), and **Faith Williams** (STVM, basketball, Notre Dame College). Faith set three basketball records at STVM: most three-pointers scored in a season (73) for girls and overall (girls or boys) and most three-pointers in a girls basketball game (10). The only person in school history to score more three-pointers in one game is LeBron James with 11! Congratulations also to **Scott Walter** for being named winner of STVM's Cistone Award for outstanding male student athlete as well as the U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete and Archie Griffin Sportsmanship awards.

Alex Phillip (2015) led the STVM boys cross country team to a third-place finish in the Division II state championships. Alex was also a member of the STVM 4 x 800 relay team that won 3rd place in the state indoor track and field championship and 5th place in the state outdoor championship.

Cecelia Walter (2015) became the first STVM gymnast to compete at the state finals, where she placed 25th.

Classes of 2016-2017

Natalie Tobin (2016) was on the STVM girls cross country team that won 4th-place in the state for Division II. Leading runner for that team was **Theresa Hagey (2017)**, who won 8th-place individually at the state meet. Theresa was also on the STVM 4 x 800 relay team that won 4th-place in the state indoor track and field championship.

Welcome to Our New Alumni!

Congratulations to St. Sebastian Parish School's 37 newest alumni who graduated on May 31, 2018. This class earned more than \$368,000 in scholarship dollars toward continuing their Catholic education in high school! High school choices included: St. Vincent-St. Mary (16), Archbishop Hoban (8), Firestone (6), Walsh Jesuit (4), Copley (1), Our Lady of the Elms (1), and St. Ignatius (1). Good luck to all our Terrier scholars, and welcome to the St. Sebastian Parish School Alumni Association!

Several members of the Class of 2018 have parents and/or grandparents who also attended St. Sebastian: George Berger is the son of **William (Bill) Berger '80**, Riley Jennings is the daughter of **Jodie Johnson Jennings '89**, Celeste Magoolaghan is the daughter of **Steve Magoolaghan '82**, Leila Piscazzi is the daughter of **Jill Howard Piscazzi '83**, Owen Quinn is the son of **Meaghan Quinn '93**, Xavier Vesco is the son of **Julie Bachmann Vesco '86** as well as the grandson of **John Bachmann '49**, and Megan Williams is the granddaughter of **Michael Beaven '61**.



Macy Askea	Thomas Gupta	Owen Quinn
Eryn Baker	Vitadee Hershberger	Xavier Sakowicz
Noah Bates	Sawyer Huckabee	Veronica Savitski
Stephanie Beitko	Riley Jennings	Nicholas Senko
George Berger	Maarij Khan	Emily Skiera
Christopher Branham	Mia Khayyat	Sophia Stahl
Mitchell Brown	Luka Krejsa	Irish Sullivan
Cassia Chivers	Celeste Magoolaghan	Xavier Vesco
Nicholas Cody	Dominic Mastromatteo	Megan Williams
Michael Eickhoff	Tariq Montgomery	
Brianna Foster	Ben Phillip	
Tyler Fram	Leila Piscazzi	
Dominic Gasper	Andrew Powell	
R-Mani Gisentaner	Michael Puglia	



Congratulations to Our 2018-19 Scholarship Winners

Thirteen students, pictured here with Principal Anthony Rohr and Fr. Valencheck, were recognized at the Scholarship Mass hosted by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation on March 15. These students earned 17 scholarships worth \$11,500 offered by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation and four other parish entities. The awards will be applied to tuition for the 2018-19 school year at St. Sebastian Parish School, or in the case of the eighth-grade students, at a local Catholic high school. Additional eighth-grade scholarships were announced at a school awards ceremony on May 31, graduation day.



St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Scholarships

Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship: Amara Avalos, Kofi Powers

The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Dominic Mastromatteo, Emily Skiera

GOAL Scholarship (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders):

Lola Hall, Frances Knauer, Mia Petit, Joshua Skovira

Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: Grace Mahaney

The John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Tariq Montgomery

Additional St. Sebastian Parish Scholarships

HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship:

Brianna Foster, Tariq Montgomery

The Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Reverend

Terry Peacock Scholarship: Anna Clawson, Tyler Fram

The Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship: Dominic Mastromatteo

The St. Irene Principal's Scholarship: Amara Avalos, Tyler Fram

Thank you to everyone who contributed a special prayer request for the Scholarship Mass! The names of more than 50 loved ones were included in the offertory procession, and the entire student body prayed for them during Mass.

