


**Pulse of the Parish
April 2023**

Parish Council Member	Summary
Linda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Dave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Booster Club - CYO says that there were \$3000 in uncashed checks dating back to 2019. CYO will reissue them so Booster Club can add to its account. • Diocese has a strict rule regarding reimbursements: only an original receipt will be honored. An Amazon account would alleviate this. Does the school have an Amazon account? Won't have to pay tax then. • Club is working on a set of bylaws and mission statement. Never had any before. • There will another $\frac{7}{8}$ grade football team in the fall due to increased sign ups • Bishop Gries Scholarship was awarded to St Sebastian Athletics. \$4000 fro football helmets. Enough to buy 14 helmets.
Sue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GSHC/Parish Garden- They are having an issue with the shed. Previously, the shed was primarily for their use with occasional items from around the church campus. Now it has become the 'catch all' for any and everything making it difficult for them to access the gardening materials. They'd like permission to erect a small shed immediately behind the current shed. This shed would be 6x5 and would not take up much space and could hold their lawn mower, wheelbarrow, shovels, etc. The shed they plan to purchase is easily movable for future changes that may happen to the church campus. Michele said they would like permission to purchase the shed and will maintain it themselves. Attached is a photo of it. <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • emHC- no report • WSCC- no report
Ed	<p>SVDP: Right now the number of requests received weekly is stable and the treasury amount is stable. In short, we seem to be in a “normal” period. If past is prologue, then utility shut offs and requests about them will increase in May and throughout summer, as utility companies avoid bad publicity</p>

when shutting people off when the weather is warm and folks are not freezing because of a shut off. (Per Bernard Smith)

SOCIAL JUSTICE: St. Sebastian/St. Vincent Social Justice Ministry

General Session: Mary Yanko led the discussion of “TOWARDS A POLITICS OF COMMUNION, Catholic Social Teaching in Dark Times”, Introduction, pages 1-14

- **The twentieth century provided ‘a flickering of light’ of lives that throw the darkness into relief and toward real hope; and ‘we all have a right to expect some illumination’.**
- **Catholic Social Teaching (CST) insists on the transcendent origin and destiny of the human person as the most important frame for all meaning. Transcendence brought about from illumination under darkness. Social justice defined by mutual living. Look beyond a narrow focus to expand our understandings (i.e., not book burning).**
- **CST relates to ideas of our human ways of living in a common world. The ability to challenge authority for the common good. CST provides a lens to look through whilst we are gazing the world.**
- **Humankind lives in a world of interdependence. Look at the labels on our clothing along with the sourcing of food.**
- **“The encounter of reason and faith enables us to learn to better recognize and know what is true and what is good.”**
- **The pathway to love must take in Justice. Love is a language of self-giving, care, and of forgiveness.**
- **We must balance private interests and common good through public and social forms of life.**

St. Vincent:

• **Beginning March 2nd, Alpha sessions will be held in the Corrigan and Scullen rooms. Alpha is a series of sessions exploring the Christian faith, typically run over eleven weeks. Each talk looks at a different question around faith and is designed to create conversation/discussion in small groups.**

St. Sebastian:

• **March 23 (West Akron) — Meet the Mayors Candidates Night hosted by Dorchester, Mineola, Delia and Mull block clubs in Zwisler Hall at St. Sebastian, 476 Mull Ave., from 6 to 8 p.m. This town hall is free and open to the community. The public is encouraged to ask questions regarding housing, economic development, education, safety and crime.**

Announcements:

1. March 31st - First Friday Club – Deacon Ray DiMascio and Amie Mancine, speaking on: “Increasing Mindfulness through Iconography”

Our Lady of Cedars, 507 South Cleveland Massillon Road – Doors open at 11:00 am

Catholic Commission Update:

• **Akron Primary Mayoral Social Justice Forum was held on Thursday, March 16th at Garfield High School auditorium. Sponsors were Catholic Commission, NAACP, LWVA, Akron Interfaith Social Justice Group. The event was well attended from the community at large and effectively organized with very good moderators.**

Marcy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No report
Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Band and Academy - Spring concert is Tuesday, May 16 at 7pm in Zwisler Hall. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Academy of Culture and Arts Recital is for Cadet and Advanced bands only. It is on Sunday, May 21 and begins at 2pm in Zwisler Hall. • School Advisory Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> –Blue Ribbon application has been submitted with the changes that were requested by the deciding body. It seems that everything is running smoothly with this process. –Bringing families back to Church/Takeover Mass is going as planned. This weekend is the student-led mass. It is on Sunday, May 30th at 9am. The 5th grade class is leading the mass. The next takeover mass is in May and will be led by the 7th grade class. –Update on We Give Catholic fundraiser. This was the fundraiser to raise money for furniture for the Early Learning Center. Furniture has been ordered and due to be delivered at the end of the school year. –Angel Scholarship update: The Diocese raised \$4.5 million, St. Sebastian is to receive \$69,879.12 for the 2023-24 school year. –Spectacular raised \$131,000. Paddle funds have been utilized to update the school library. –An End of the School Survey will be going out to families this Friday, April 28th. –New dates and events have been added to the future calendar: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grandparents Day is coming back! September 14, 2023 Curriculum Night is being brought in for families to come and experience the classes and meet teachers. This might be on August 29th or 31st, or both days.
Will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scouts - No update • KoC - No update • Prayer Warriors - No update • HASA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Over 100 families attended the Father/Daughter dance. One of the best turnouts and range of students (8th grade through Pre-K and also PSR families). Positive feedback and many made comments how welcomed they felt ○ Next year's Father/Daughter HASA is requesting approval for the dance tentatively scheduled for March 9th (during lent). Earlier times conflict with International Festival, later times conflict with Spectacular. This is a community focused event with no alcohol or fundraising/sponsorship. ○ HASA is working with Mr. Rohr to finalize end of year plans including funding additional busing and field trips for 5th and 7th graders. Also will be helping to support end of year family picnic with funds and volunteers ○ Planning has begun for 2023/24 school year with Mr Rohr and mapping out key events for August including open house and a new curriculum night at the request of parents.
Natalie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Jennie	No report

<p>Jim</p>	<p>Altar Servers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Many thanks to all ministries assisting at Easter...very solemn, reverent and glorious Triduum and Easter ● Families sent 41 servers to cover...volunteers were even quick to fill the difficult Masses ● 15 new servers added to the schedule before Easter...2 more week after. All being trained through April and May before deploying on Sundays ● Will land at 53 after 8th grade and high school graduations ● Random scheduling was liked by parents and teachers, but quality of service declined and missed schedules increased. Hybrid model will be used through May...new servers go twice in close succession, experienced servers twice a month ● 4th and 5th grade (newbies) will serve 3 times a week and then on the randomized schedule ● Prepping is in process for a summer server retreat (Maria, Jen Sullivan, Kelly Rybka) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Extra training ○ Community Service project ○ Spiritual Growth Discussion ○ Fun time worked in as well ○ Support needed from server dads, interns, etc. <p>Audio/Visual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tricaster parts are beginning to fail ● Camera port failed Sunday...3 ports are down to two with two cameras ● Operation is ok for now, but if another port fails...out of business ● Wayne is attempting to replace the input card for a third port to keep a backup slot ● Trained another teen for the summer plus two choir members...coverage is good <p>PSR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Push for next year registrations is on ● Desire to see the first communion class continue
<p>Hannah</p>	<p>Grounds Crew</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The crew went back to work last Thursday (weeding beds, cutting dead wood, transplanting hostas) ● Rented an edger and finished about half of the property ● The crew is regrouping on Saturday 4/29 (they got rained out last week) to turn teh beds and finish the edging <p>Parish Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Report: drafts being reviewed ● Annual Scholarship Mass: March 30th. The Foundation awarded 42 scholarships totaling more than \$34,000 ● Alumni Alley: installed new photo boards @ New School Entrance ● Parish Archives has a new leader: David Redle

- Visited the 8th Grade class. Welcomed them into the Alumni Association.

Finance Council

- Challenges and miscommunication related to the construction continue
- School update from Mr. Rohr:
 - 341 registered for 2023/2024 school year
 - Screening continues for new applicants
 - Budgeting for the school continues for next year
- The Superintendent for Catholic Schools gave a presentation on School Choice Ohio (formerly EdChoice)
 - There is a lot of support from the Ohio Statehouse
 - In the Diocese there are only 13 schools that don't accept EdChoice, and St. Sebastian is one of the 13. We didn't need it, and there are concerns about EdChoice changing the culture of the school.
 - The old program is being changed, which alleviates some of the former concerns. The new program is based on income, not home school district performance. There will be a Committee established to consider this for St. Sebastian School.

Marketing

- New Family Picnic – Thursday, August 17th
- Back to School Open House – Sunday, August 20th (with Backpack Blessing)
- Grandparents Day – Thursday, September 7th
- Pre-K – Kindergarten Dinner – Friday, October 6th
- Explorer Day – Friday, November 3rd
- Catholic Schools Week Open House – Sunday, January 28th
- St. Sebastian Spectacular – Saturday, April 20th

Parish Council Email

- No credible emails to report.

Susan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Votives: Kris Gallagher is the new contact person, having replaced Terry Tolson. The ministries list has been updated to reflect this change. • Women of St. Sebastian: Family Nights, Open Gyms, and Women's Nights Out continue. The next book to be discussed is Wheel Within a Wheel (Willard) and will be held on 4/28. • Ushers: No report. • Girl Scouts: No report. • Lectors: No report.
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