

**Pulse of the Parish
March 2024**

Parish Council Member	Summary
Linda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Report
Dave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament was the first weekend in March. Same number of teams as last year. \$3600 profit was made; A little under \$700 profit was also made in concessions. • Spring Sports: Practices started February 26th. • Track and field has 40 kids so far registered. Over 100 back in 2022. They are also short a couple of coaches. • Lacrosse - has enough girls for one large team or two small teams. Team will use Schneider Park for games; St. Sebastian must staff the games. • Stars Soccer has 45 kids registered for Wednesday night and 46 for Thursday night. 11 kids on the waiting list, but all kids will be accommodated. None get turned away. • DD Soccer has 55 kids registered so far; 65 is max. • Bishop Gries Grant Application - Booster Club plans to apply for Lacrosse equipment (goals and helmets). Applications are due by May 1st.
Sue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Report
Barb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WSCC-preparing for the upcoming event with Dr. Kreeft. Will be choosing a new book for next year's meetings later on, • Sanctuary Society- working on Easter Memorials • St. Vincent DePaul Society-anticipating an increase in requests for utility help in mid-April after winter emergency programs end; will receive a \$3K grant from the October Blanket Sunday collection through the diocese. • Our Mother of Sorrows- nothing new to report. • Bible Study- still studying The Beatitudes
David	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8th Grade Girl Scouts - ceased meeting last October. No current date for resumption. • Women of St Sebastian: The women's group had an excellent turn out at a recent event! The event was geared toward moms of younger children and had about 20 moms and a total of about 50 participants. <p>It seems like there has been a lot of interest in creating community. You know how important that is to us women! And the church!</p> <p>Recently, it has been discussed that there is a need for meeting rooms that are available during the day. We need a meeting room that is ADA accessible (and stroller accessible). The church basement has steps. Forest lodge has bathrooms upstairs and the room itself is relatively hard to get in and out of and can be worse depending on the weather. The forest lodge nature stone is difficult on crawling</p>

	<p>baby's knees. Byrider has potential, but the meeting rooms are often not accessible during the school day.</p> <p>Personally, I feel that this next group of women are ones that we want to keep at our parish! They are passionate, and I can see future involvement.</p> <p>What can we do to be more welcoming to families?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Meeting rooms that are ADA accessible 2. Area for a youth group to meet 3. Speakers in back of church 3. Area to nurse babies 4. "Busy bags" for children <p>It would be nice to have a welcoming area for a youth group to meet. Some other suggestions have been adding speakers to the back of the church because often parents are going to mass but can't hear because they are in the back tending to a rambunctious child. Some mothers use the bride's room to nurse their infants. This is a great location that can easily be better used with a chair with arms to nurse a child. It is difficult to nurse in a pew or the cry room due to hard backs and no arms. "Busy bags" for children at church. St. Hilary has these.</p> <p>Thanks for reaching out and considering some of the needs of the women of the parish!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Votive lights - locks on both the poor box and the coin box by the small candle stand have been replaced. Kris thinks some brief operating instructions may be in order at the candles or possibly in the bulletin. She's noticed many sticks burned at both ends, matches dropped into the candles, and broken glass on the small stand. • Lectors and Kindergarten Brownies did not respond.
<p>Ana</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St. Sebastian Marching Band - marched at the very wet St. Patrick's Day parade in downtown Akron on March 9th. Another successful yet soggy performance. A number of non-band students wearing the new Blue Ribbon shirts were part of the parade, as well as the cheerleaders. The Band's next performance is the Spring Concert on May 23rd. • Brickstreet Jazz and Wine Festival is set to go on Thursday, June 20th from 5-10PM at the courtyard. Info will be coming out on the parish website and the Academy facebook page. • St. Sebastian/SAC Updates: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) No school on April 8th due to the Eclipse. The school will be covering the eclipse with their students for example, 5th grade teacher, Mrs. Friedl, have received LightSound devices that can be used as an educational tool in describing the eclipse phenomena. 2) The annual Spectacular is fast approaching. It's on Saturday, April 20th. Invites have been mailed, sponsorships have been coming in and auction items are being gathered and prepared. 3) Angel Scholarship Funds for \$100,272 have come in for the 24-25 school year. An increase from this school year's \$69,879. Thanks to all the family efforts and contributions. 4) The Hallow app has been announced to the school community. A faculty kickoff training session happened last week.

	<p>5) Kindergarten Screening happened this past Monday and Tuesday. 65 families registered to be screened. I think that we should see a good number of new students/families from this influx, I do fear that lots of these students are non-Catholics. From my perspective as one of the aides in Kindergarten, it has been a concern by the teachers that this might encourage a bigger class size for the coming class and with the limited space, this may affect our standard of teaching a new generation of St. Sebastian students.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JB - no update
<p>Will</p>	<p>Scouts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campout this weekend. In addition, Eagle Scouts have submitted their project to Father V <p>KoC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hike at the NatureRealm being planned for June 2nd. Parish invited to join. • Trivia night maybe returning in May or June @ ZHall pending hall availability • Raffle tickets to be sold after some in April (after Easter) <p>HASA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarterly parent coffee after school mass was held but low attendance. Brainstorming ideas for making this a routine for parents • Planning for Father/Daughter dance has begun • 2nd annual School Supply package fundraiser being finalized. Convenient way for parents to save time on shopping for school supplies • Over \$700 raised from Acme receipt drive • Adding a new event - Family Photo Fundraiser. Photos will be taken on the beautiful St. Sebastian grounds at the end of April. Families will get 3 images with proceeds going to HASA. • HASA accepting nominees for board members. Elections in May. Current president requesting an exit interview with Father V and Principal Rohr.
<p>Terry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
<p>Chris</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baptism Preparation Team and Altar Server Training: New altar server training on Wednesday, April 17 from 3-5 p.m. in the church. This is open to all current 4th grade children and older. • Donut Sunday: Still looking for assistance for the 11am mass • Respect Life Committee and Book Rack: No update
<p>Jim</p>	<p>Audio/Visual</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Tricaster installed after previous failure...received a substantial discount • Streaming is up and running smoothly • New system has been “debugged” by our elite tech squad <p>Servers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Triduum roster is filled • Holy Week was full within 24 hours • Only missing 2 spots for Sunday @ 11am Mass <p>PSR - no issues as of early March</p>

<p>Hannah</p>	<p>Finance Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · School is being clustered and non-school parishes would recommend St. Sebastian School · The School has been getting a lot of interest and are giving a lot of tours · Down 4% YTD on Sunday collections · Expenses are within budget for the church <p>Parish Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · 64 parish school student scholarships were celebrated last Thursday, March 14th. The Foundation awarded 57 of those scholarships representing \$43,000. · The latest issue of the Alumni Arrow Newsletter has been mailed. · The 2023 Annual Report project is in progress. <p>Marketing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Spectacular invitations have been mailed · Spectacular auction items are coming in strong · Next BrickLot will be in May · Parish Directory should be delivered any day · Directories will not be mailed, parishioners can pick them up after Masses · Michelle Huber is retiring at the end of the school year, or budget year (June 30th) after 11 wonderful years!!!
<p>Susan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <p style="text-align: center;">St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏</p>