



STEWARDSHIP

TIME TALENT TREASURE

2013 - 2014

ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH

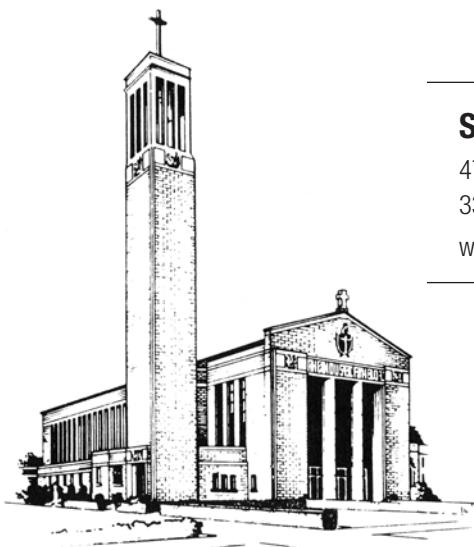


STEWARDSHIP DIRECTORY

476 MULL AVENUE AKRON, OHIO 44320
330-836-2233 WWW.STSEBASTIAN.ORG

AD SPACE

GENERAL INFORMATION



St. Sebastian Parish

476 Mull Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44320

330-836-2233

www.stsebastian.org

Mission

We, the people of St. Sebastian Parish, Roman Catholics committed to grow in holiness through the Eucharist and prayer, witness our faith through life-long learning and teach Gospel values according to the example of Jesus Christ.

Purpose

Founded in 1928, the people of St. Sebastian Parish are called to be a reflection of Jesus Christ and to share our time, talent, and treasure. As one body in Christ, we commit ourselves to nurturing a spirit of caring in our parish and in our neighborhood and global communities. We welcome all visitors in Christian hospitality.



STEWARDSHIP

TIME TALENT TREASURE

Stewardship In Our Parish

St. Sebastian Parish is a Stewardship Parish. We are continually striving to build a vibrant community in which every parishioner plays an active role. We welcome your talents and gifts in our parish community! Guided by the Holy Spirit, we believe that we can make a difference in this community and the world.

Good Stewards of Our Time...

- † Make Mass the top priority on Sunday
- † Spend time in prayer every day
- † Pray with family and loved ones

Good Stewards of Talent...

- † Remain active in parish ministries
- † Remain open to new ministries
- † Teach their children to serve in the church

Good Stewards of Treasure...

- † Make an intentional gift each week or month
- † Base their gift on a percentage of income
- † Use offertory envelopes or online banking



Our Prayer for Stewardship

Jesus, teach us to pray.

Help us to manage our time so that we can spend it with you.

Holy Spirit, fill us with your gifts.

May we offer ourselves in sacrifice for our parish and for all in need.

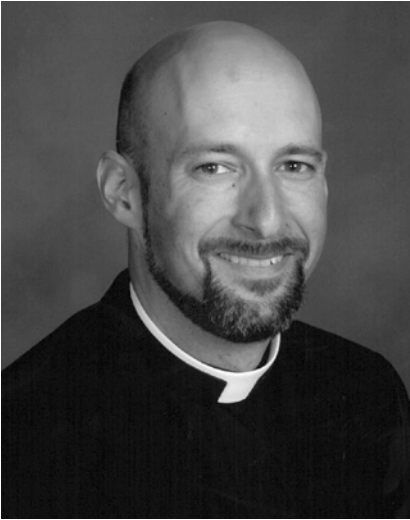
Father, give us generous hearts.

Help us to manage our finances and to offer first fruits to you.

As your faithful disciples, we ask this for ourselves and for all the faithful everywhere, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Greetings!



Greetings!

If you are a new parishioner receiving this book for the first time, WELCOME! If you have been a member for a spell, it is a blessing to greet you once again in this way. Please find a place somewhere handy in your home to hold on to this Stewardship Directory. It will hopefully help you in a number of different ways. Within is contact

information, insights into the various ministries and other programs for the Church and Parish School with which you might want to be informed or become involved.

Thank you for being a part of the Saint Sebastian Parish community. Please know of my constant prayers for you.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fr. Valencheck'. The signature is stylized and includes a small circular mark on the left side.

Fr. Valencheck

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone Numbers

Rectory (330) 836-2233
Rectory FAX. (330) 836-2235
School office (330) 836-9107
Preschool office. (330) 836-3838

Parish Clergy

Rectory (330) 836-2233

Pastor

Reverend John A. Valencheck frvalencheck@stsebastian.org. Ext. 102

Parochial Vicar

Reverend Edwin Leonard leonarde@stsebastian.org. Ext. 104

Deacon

Deacon Terry Peacock Ext. 103

Parish Staff

Parish Business Manager Ext. 106

Office Manager

Jennifer Jones. jonesj@stsebastian.org Ext. 101

Development Director

Jennifer Knapp Ciarlariello jenniferc@stsebastian.org Ext. 113

Development Assistant

Lisa Steel steell@stsebastian.org Ext. 114

Development Assistant

Mandy Brooks brooksme@stsebastian.org Ext. 119

Parish Staff continued

Bookkeeper

Beth Flora florab@stsebastian.org Ext. 112

PSR Principal

Melane Francis francism@stsebastian.org . . (330) 836-9107
VM Box 233

Director of Music/Choirmaster/Organist

Lynn Frey-Steward, CAGO, MM . . . freyl@stsebastian.org Ext. 111

Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry

Cathy Sivec sivecc@stsebastian.org Ext. 134

Marketing and Public Relations Coordinator

Michelle Huber huberm@stsebastian.org Ext. 135

Zwisler Hall Manager

Julie Musci jmusci@sbcglobal.net. Ext. 133

Support Staff

Facilities Manager

Aaron Salisbury salisburya@stsebastian.org Ext. 126

Environmental Engineer

Edward Goodrum goodrume@stsebastian.org Ext. 126

Parish Contact Information

Mass Schedule

Monday – Saturday	8:00 a.m.
Thursday	8:15 a.m. (all year)
Saturday	4:30 p.m. (Vigil Mass)
Sunday	9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. Extraordinary Form of Mass (Latin)

Low Gluten Hosts Available - We are happy to reach out to those with Celiac Disease. If you wish to receive the Eucharist under the form of consecrated bread, we have low gluten hosts available. You will need to come to the sacristy at least 10 minutes before Mass so that we can be prepared. It is your responsibility then to be in the celebrant's line (the presiding priest) and to identify yourself clearly when it is your turn to receive.

Rosary

Daily after morning Mass followed by Chaplet of Divine Mercy

Prayer Line

825-9330 • 867-2757 • 873-1559 • 867-7081

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Preschool to Grade 8

Sundays 9:30 - 10:45 a.m.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

Helping children understand the Gospel for the Mass. Kindergarten through Grade 2.

Saturday Vigil Mass 4:30 p.m.

Sunday Mass 11:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Friday 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Saturday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.

Also by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesday 8:30 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Benediction 7:45 p.m.



PARISH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

For all Administrative Ministries please contact
Jennifer Jones, 330-836-2233, Ext: 101 or jonesj@stsebastian.org

Bakers Hospitality Group

This group provides baked goods for diverse church functions. Anyone who loves to bake please join our group.

Collection Counters

Our weekend collection is counted on Sunday morning with a rotating team on a once a month schedule. Members gather at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday to count all three weekend Masses usually ending by 12 noon. Volunteers are needed in both routine and substitute capacities.

Finance Council

It is the responsibility of the Parish Finance Council to advise and aid the pastor in the administration of the parish finances in order to carry out the mission of the Parish.

Grounds Crew

St. Sebastian takes tremendous pride in its campus. Volunteers work Thursday mornings and one Saturday morning a month from April to October to plan, plant, and mulch flower beds. A small group works weekly to maintain the beds by weeding, watering, etc. All parishioners are invited to help keep our grounds in tip-top shape.

Parish Council

Parish Council is an advisory group for the pastor. It seeks to foster parish unity, assesses parish needs, develop parish programs, coordinate parish activities, encourage parish participation in spiritual and apostolic life and provide a forum for parish dialogue.

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ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES continued

Rectory Cooks

Cooks are needed to prepare dinners for our priests. Volunteer to help out once a month or more to fit your schedule. This is a great opportunity to serve those who selflessly serve this parish.

Rectory Office Volunteers

Volunteers are periodically needed in the parish rectory to perform a variety of tasks, including stuffing bulletins, clerical work, help with mailings and answering the phone.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH MINISTRIES

For all Community Outreach Ministries please contact
Jennifer Jones, 330-836-2233, Ext: 101 or jonesj@stsebastian.org

Giving Tree

Many of our neighbors have little, often lacking even life's bare necessities. The Giving Tree offers parishioners the opportunity to meet those needs during the Christmas Season. The work of this seasonal ministry (Advent), which requires some coordination with local charities and parish organizations, entails setting up, maintenance and clean-up of three trees, construction of ornaments, gathering of gifts and, finally, delivery to these charities on two weekends in December.

Good Samaritan Hunger Center

The Good Samaritan Hunger Center provides food to Akron area residents faced with hunger; low-income individuals and families, the homeless, the unemployed, the elderly, the mentally and physically disabled. GSHC is unusual because it is mobile: Hot meals are served and bags of food are handed out at at-risk locations in the Summit County area. Volunteers are needed to serve hot meals and distribute bags of food Monday through Friday from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the various sites.

Medical Transportation Ministry

Volunteers are needed during the week to take parishioners, who cannot drive due to health or other reasons, to their doctor and/or other medical appointments.

Nazareth Housing

Nazareth Housing Development Corp. is a faith-based non-profit organization that provides affordable housing assistance to low and moderate income families in our community. Nazareth provides new home construction, home rehabilitation and down-payment assistance for first time home buyers. Volunteers are needed for office support, grant writing, fundraising, and “work sessions” on various projects. Help us make a house a Home.

Open M

Feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, nurturing children, supporting families and strengthening neighborhoods for 40 years. You can help!

Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl benefits Catholic Relief Services.(CRS). CRC is the right arm of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in giving not only financial assistance to foreign countries in need but by promoting true development in poorer countries. The Operation Rice Bowl is a major fundraiser for them and St. Sebastian Parish and school participate by praying, collecting loose change to give, by fasting to be in solidarity with those less fortunate and by learning more about the plight of other countries to be aware of the bigger issues in our world. The children enthusiastically give every year and learn what it means to give generously. In so doing, they themselves receive even more by learning to serve others.

The Peter Maurin Center

Located in the Summit Lake neighborhood of south Akron, where 37% of the people live below the poverty line and the population is the youngest in Akron, this center tries to provide basic needs to these residents. St. Sebastian parishioners prepares dinner once a month for the center.

DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES

For All Development Ministries please contact
Jennifer Knapp Ciarlariello, 836-2233 Ext. 113, jenniferc@stsebastian.org

Alumni Committee

This is a fun new group within the development office who is organizing our alumni records and looking for our graduates today! Help us plan future exciting events and ways to keep us all connected. Reading records, party planning, social networking and being able to have fun are some perfect qualifications!

Arrow Society

This ministry recognizes and honors individuals who have included the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation in their estate plans.

Bereavement

This ministry reaches out to those who have recently lost a loved one. Its purpose is to make the Church present in this time of grief. Members send cards and offer condolences, or help in other ways.

Development Committee

Join this group of talented volunteers to plan fun community and recognition events, help write newsletters, assist parish organizations with their fundraising efforts, and much more. Would you like to help secure the future of St. Sebastian Parish and join the foundation's development team? Do you have ideas, a voice and talents you can use to help the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation continue growing stronger and smarter every day?

Donut Thursday Ministry

Everyone is welcome! Come share the school mass and your faith with our students and lead by example. Join us for coffee and donuts after the school mass on select Thursdays after the school mass during the school year, usually on Thursday's, and help us build a stronger community faith with our younger parishioners. Check with the Development Office for exact dates.

Grant Writing Group

Can you help the development office and our school faculty research and apply for grants to help us offset the crippling state funding cuts our school is now faced with and help secure the financial future of our parish? We are a new group and open to all the help and suggestions you can offer.

Socials Ministry

The St. Sebastian Social Ministry is designed to foster friendship and community in a positive Christian atmosphere in the St. Sebastian Parish. This ministry seeks enthusiastic parishioners to host “Socials” throughout the year with various themes. These hosts generously plan and graciously pay the cost of the party while 100% of the ticket price to attend that party goes directly to the parish school. Not only is this a way to support our wonderful parish school, but most importantly, it is also a way to build a strong relationship with the St. Sebastian family! Be a part of the fun!

Stewardship Council

The Stewardship Council promotes the concept of gratefulness for gifts received from God and the responsibility of displaying this gratitude by sharing these gifts with others. Activities include the annual Stewardship Renewal and promoting the stewardship message of time, talent and treasure throughout the year. The committee meets monthly. Members need an earnest desire to help others appreciate their God-given gifts and guide them in using those gifts.

FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES

For all Faith Formation Ministries please contact
Cathy Sivec 330-836-2233 Ext: 134 or sivecc@stsebastian.org

Adult Faith Formation

Faith Formation does not stop after Confirmation or First Communion. There is always more to learn about Christ and His Church and how to live that Faith in the world. The Adult Faith Formation Committee meets to discuss and plan opportunities for adults to grow in faith. This includes bible studies, book clubs, movie series, and more.

Baptism Preparation Team

A dedicated group of lay leaders prepare parents and godparents to understand and appreciate the responsibilities that come with the Sacrament of Baptism. Members prepare the sacramental to be used during the baptism and assist the families that day.

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Bible Study

St. Jerome said, "To be ignorant of Scripture is to be ignorant of Christ." Studying the Bible is very much a part of being Catholic. St. Sebastian Parish Church offers different bible study series throughout the year. Delve into Scripture and draw closer to Christ.

Catechist Formation

Christ commanded His disciple to go out and teach all nations. Having received the gift of faith in baptism, we need to delve deeper into knowing the truth of Christ. We have great catechists in our PSR program teaching preschool - grade 8. They are indispensable in helping parents pass on the Faith to their children. A great way to learn the Faith well, is by teaching it to others. There is required training involved for one interested in being a catechist.

Children's Liturgy of the Word (CLOW)

During the Scripture readings and homily at the 4:30 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass and 11:00 a.m. Sunday Mass, children in kindergarten through 2nd grade go and hear the Word of God at an age-appropriate level. Adults are needed to lead and assist in proclaiming the Word and engage children in faith-filled activities. No registration is necessary. The children will be called up before the first reading to go with their respective age group. Ages 5-8 will line up on the left side of the altar.

Confirmation

The sacrament of Confirmation allows the students to become fully initiated members of the Catholic Church and occurs during the student's 8th grade year. The program consists of four meetings in the church, an overnight retreat and the Confirmation Mass in February or March with a Bishop presiding. The students will also have to select a sponsor, a confirmation name, do 20 hours of service and write a letter to the Bishop.

Faith Lodge

Held every Thursday at 7 pm in Forest Lodge, doors open at 6:30. A different speaker each week will discuss current topics regarding our Catholic Faith. Coffee and desserts are served.

First Communion

The sacrament of First Communion is the third sacrament students receive. St. Sebastian Parish School students and PSR students work together to prepare for the sacrament of First Communion which is celebrated during the Second Grade school year. Preparation for this sacrament includes home instruction, religion and PSR classes at school, and special catechetical meetings on several evenings with parents, students, teachers, and priests. Students are then prepared to receive the sacrament towards the end of the school year during a special parish mass in May.

Jesus Day

Jesus Day is a special retreat day for second graders. During Jesus Day, our second graders join together with our second grade PSR students to strengthen their relationship with God by participating in meaningful activities such as a “Church Search” and a service project. Jesus Day is held just before the second graders’ First Communion.

Junior High Youth Ministry

Jr. High Youth Ministry programs provide a safe, caring and accepting environment for 7th & 8th graders in the parish and offer a wide range of activities designed to promote the spiritual, social, and service components integral for effective Catholic youth ministry. Activities include monthly faith-based meetings, social and service activities, as well as one annual retreat. Volunteers are needed to help chaperone, drive, and assist at meetings.

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Public school students from 4 years of age to 8th grade receive religious instruction every Sunday from 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Peer Music Ministry Group

This music group meets every Monday from 7 pm – 8:30 pm. Plays music for Confirmation, Youth Masses, and retreats.

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Reconciliation

St. Sebastian Parish School students and PSR students work together to prepare for the sacrament of Reconciliation, which is celebrated during the Second Grade school year. Preparation for this sacrament includes home instruction, religion and PSR classes at school, and special catechetical meetings on several evenings with parents, students, teachers, and priests. Reconciliation is celebrated with a communal penance service in December and includes students and their families. Later in the year, the students participate in another penance service with the school during the Lenten season.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)

The RCIA team always appreciates people who want to help with hospitality and welcoming potential new members of the Catholic Church. The sessions are times of learning, discussion, and faith sharing. There are also volunteers who facilitate the reflection period for the catechumens who are dismissed from the 9:00 a.m. Mass on Sunday.

Senior High Youth Ministry

Sr. High Youth Ministry programs provide a safe, caring and accepting environment for high school students of the parish and offer a wide range of activities designed to promote the spiritual, social, and service components integral for effective Catholic youth ministry. Activities include monthly faith-based meetings, social and service activities, as well as an annual retreat.

Vacation Bible School

VBS is offered in the summer for any child in grades K-5. Adult and teen volunteers lead activities which encourage children to grow in their relationship with Christ while having fun.

Young Adults Group (Ages 20s - 30s)

This group meets on Sundays from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Forest Lodge. You don't need to be single or married to participate; you don't even need to be a member of the parish. All you need is a thirst for God's word and a willingness to share what it means with others your age. We also discuss encyclicals and other books on occasion.

LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

For all Liturgical Ministries please contact
Jennifer Jones 330-836-2233 Ext: 101 or jonesj@stsebastian.org

Altar Servers

Altar servers assist the priest for daily and weekend liturgies. Interested boys and girls, grade 5 through high school, must participate in training sessions and periodic refreshers. Young men are needed to serve at the Extraordinary Form Mass.

Art & Environment

Members plan and prepare the church for liturgical and secular seasons with an appreciation and understanding of Catholic liturgy. Parishioners are welcome to contribute their gifts of designing, decorating, sewing, woodworking or other visual arts.

Cutting Garden for the Sanctuary

The cutting garden was established as a low cost alternative to provide flowers for the church sanctuary. It is located on the south side of the church building on Elmdale Avenue. Volunteers are needed to help with weeding, watering and general maintenance of the garden. Volunteers with some expertise in floral arranging are needed, as well

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

EMHCs distribute the Eucharist under both species for liturgies and special events. Parishioners are nominated by current EMHCs and must be approved by the pastor. Both diocesan and parish training are required. For those seeking more involvement, an EMHC may complete extra training to become a Mass Coordinator, one who oversees the duties of the liturgical ministers at the weekend or holy day liturgies.

General Intercessions

This committee meets to pray, reflect on the Sunday readings and write the Prayers of the Faithful proclaimed at the Sunday liturgies.

Lectors

These men and women proclaim the Scriptures during the Mass. As the Word is a central element of the liturgy, lectors must be willing to study the readings and proclaim them with understanding. Training is provided.

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LITURGICAL MINISTRIES continued

Memorial of Fresh Flowers

Would you like to remember a loved one, honor our patron saints or brighten the church with flowers from your garden?

Ushers

The ushers' ministry is one of welcoming and service. Responsibilities include assisting special needs people, distributing and collecting material, etc. Ushers are trained in using a defibrillator. Parishioners of all ages are welcome.

MARKETING MINISTRIES

For all Marketing Ministries please contact
Michelle Huber 330-836-2233 ext: 135 huberm@stsebastian.org

PR/Marketing Team

The purpose of this team is to promote and foster the positive aspects and image of St. Sebastian Parish and School and to create a consistent and promotable image that will be used within the parish and school as well as in conjunction with media and community events and news releases.

Web Site Team

This group is responsible for maintaining the Parish website which includes the Church, Foundation and School. Anyone interested in editing and coordinating with other Parish groups for website content is welcome to join our team!

MUSIC MINISTRIES

For all Music Ministries please contact
Lynn Frey 836-2233 Ext. 111, freyl@stsebastian.org or lfrey001@att.net

Cantors

Cantors lead the assembly in worship and song. A pleasant voice and a welcoming demeanor are essential. The ministry is open to anyone Junior High age or older. Training is provided; rehearsals are held seasonally.

Children's Cherubim Choir (Grades K-2)

Children's Christmas and Easter Choir is open to all children grades K-2. Rehearsals are on the second, third and fourth Wednesday of the month from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the church for 8 weeks prior to Christmas and Easter.

Children's Seraphim Choir (Grades 3-8)

Children's Christmas and Easter Choir is open to all children grades 3-8. These rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the church for 8 weeks prior to Christmas and Easter.

Gregorian Schola

This is the Extraordinary Form Mass choir that sings at the 1:00 p.m. Extraordinary Form Mass. Hymns of both English and Latin based along with Gregorian Chant are performed. Rehearsals are on Tuesdays at 8 p.m. year round. No audition required.

Handbell Choir

Through the unique sounds of bells, members enhance liturgies during the year and participate in other musical outreach programs. The ability to read music is not required. Rehearsals are weekly from September to May. Membership is open to teens and adults. An audition is required.

Parish Choir

Parish Choir sings traditional and multicultural music for Sunday Liturgy as well as for other special occasions. Open to teens and adults with pleasant singing voices, they rehearse weekly from September to June. They are available to perform for prayer and social gatherings. No audition is necessary and the ability to read music is optional.

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MUSIC MINISTRIES continued

Praise and Worship Ensemble

This group provides a wide variety of instrumental, vocal, and ensemble music for Sunday Liturgies and special occasions. Teens and adults with a pleasant singing voice or capable instrumental skills are welcome.

School Liturgies

Oversee music for school liturgies and plan school liturgical calendar for the year.

PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

For all Parish Life Ministries please contact
Jennifer Jones 330-836-2233 Ext: 101 or jonesj@stsebastian.org

Altar-Related Crochet Ministry

Responsible for creating and providing Church Lace, Surplices and Altar Cloth. New members are welcome.

Archivist

Archivists compile the history of the parish family through words, photos and videos. They review parish records and documents to preserve the history of the parish for future generations.

Athletics/CYO

Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) is a group that fosters participation in athletics for youth. All children of the parish, no matter what school they attend, may participate in CYO sports. The program is always in need of women and men to coach all sports.

Booster Club

The Boosters are a group of interested parents and parishioners devoted to maintaining a sports program at St. Sebastian Parish School. Through their fund-raising programs, sports equipment and uniforms used in sports programs are purchased.

Boy Scouts/Troop 96

Troop 96 offers a year round camping and weekly activity program for boys ages 11 through 17 and beyond. Our program here at St. Sebastian includes monthly outings and a week of summer camp each July. Scouting is primarily a boy lead program with close support of adult leaders. Scouting teaches life skills in socialization and leadership while having fun at the same time. Opportunities for adult volunteering are also available with many options for support and training.

Bridge Flights

Both singles and couples with an interest in bridge, fellowship and fun are encouraged to join! The flights meet once a month from September through May. A portion of the dues are donated for parish needs.

Brownies & Girl Scouts

In an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build character and skills for success in the real world. In partnership with committed adult volunteers, Girl Scouts cultivate leadership, social conscience, and conviction about their own self-worth. They enjoy outdoor fun, crafts, and community service projects, as well as the ever-popular cookie sales!

Chesterton Society

For people who enjoy G. K. Chesterton's writings this group gathers once a week to discuss various topics. For more information, current readings, and meeting times, visit akronchesterton.blogspot.com

Cinematheque Faith and Art in Cinema

John Paul II said that viewers should know how to react in a critical way in the face of the ever more demanding proposals offered by the world of the media, including the cinema, and be ready to judge between what may be an opportunity for growth or an occasion of harm. With this in mind, Art and Faith in Cinema was conceived to educate others to become more discriminating in their choice of media by providing an alternative to movies in wide release, and to screen films that provoke reflection, good entertainment, artistically beautiful, and uphold our Catholic moral values. According to Cardinal Poupard, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture, cinema should be regarded as an irreplaceable vehicle of communication and evangelization. Art and Faith in Cinema hopes to use the films being screened as a means to discuss our Catholic faith and values.

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PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES continued

Creation (Crafting Group)

This group is for anyone who loves to make things. We get together at the Church to create, snack, chat, pray, and have a great time. There will be plenty of room to work on those projects you never seem to have time to finish. Just a few ideas of what you could work on... scrapbooking, beading, crochet, knitting, sewing, painting, Rosary making, embroidery, quilting... the list goes on!

Cub Scouts/Pack 3096

Through participation in den meetings and outings, boys in grades 1-5 play games, build crafts, earn advancement, and learn to do their best. Activities are used to achieve the aims of scouting: citizenship training, character development, and personal fitness. Many parent volunteers are needed.

Donut Sunday Ministry

Join your parish family the first Sunday of each month for free coffee and donuts! Make new friends and catch up with your old ones. Parish Council is always looking for parish groups to sponsor these monthly treats.

Handmade Prayer Shawls

Prayer Shawls are knitted or crocheted as gifts of comfort and caring. They are blessed and given to people who are in need of healing, strength and prayer. Those who knit or crochet are welcome to be part of this ministry.

Knights of Columbus

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal service organization of men, founded under the principles of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism. This organization provides men with a vehicle for building up the parish community and family life with an emphasis on family, youth, church, council, and community activities.

Little Flower Garden Club

Under the patronage of Saint Theresa, the Little Flower, the mission of this ministry is to stimulate the knowledge and understanding of all growing things. Volunteers, with or without gardening experience, help promote gardening and conservation efforts in the parish and community. The nationally sanctioned garden show held in August is the one of the area's premier gardening events.

Mentor Couple

When a couple prepares for marriage, we request that they meet with a “mentor couple” to journey with the engaged couple and help them get ready to receive God’s graces on their wedding day and to live married life in a healthy holy way. If a married couple is interested in mentoring others call the parish. There is some training involved.

Pre-Cana

An important part of wedding preparation is the Pre-Cana session. The program helps couples entering marriage for the first time to better understand each other and the importance and dignity of married life.

Sanctuary Society

Sanctuary Society, which includes all women of the parish, is financially responsible for all items relating to the sanctuary: altar breads, wine, candles, flowers, and vestments for the clergy, etc. Monies are raised through various events as well as through annual dues and donations. Sanctuary Society is always looking for volunteers to help with their fundraisers as well as serve on the operating board.

Ski Club

All parishioners and students are invited to hit the local slopes during the winter months.

Surviving Spouses

This group for widows and widowers is committed to providing encouragement, with spiritual and social support, to those who have lost their spouse. They gather for a variety of activities in the spirit of prayer, fun and fellowship.

Toddler & Preschool Open Gym

Toddler & Preschool open gym takes place twice a month during the school year in Byrider Hall. This is an opportunity for children to meet new friends, practice social skills, and run off some of that pent up energy. Parents or caregivers must stay with their children the entire time.

Welcoming Committee

Members of this committee welcome new parishioners through personal contact and by hosting various events to make them feel at home.

SOCIAL ISSUES MINISTRIES

For all Social Issues Ministries please contact
Jennifer Jones 330-836-2233, Ext: 101 or jonesj@stsebastian.org

Disciples for the Dying

This ministry meets once a month and offers prayers for people who have recently passed away. Mass rotates between St. Bernard, St. Sebastian and St. Vincent Parishes.

Ecumenical Efforts

The purpose of this group is to develop and maintain relationships with neighboring Christian churches, affording our parish the opportunity to meet, greet, promote harmony, celebrate and worship together. Events include picnics, book reviews, speakers and joint worship services. Volunteers are needed to help plan as well as assist with physical needs of such events.

Emmaus Roundtable

An Evangelization and Apologetic Workshop that teaches Catholics how to explain and defend the truths of the Catholic Church.

Faith & Light Community

Faith & Light Communities are prayer groups made up of persons with intellectual disabilities, their families and anyone wanting to be their friends. They meet together on a regular basis in Christian spirit to share friendship, prayer and celebrate life.

Funeral Luncheons

Easing the pain of grieving families, this group coordinates the receptions or luncheons which accompany parish funerals. Volunteers are needed to set-up, serve, and clean-up after the event. **Please note:** this group does **not** provide food for the luncheons.

Legion of Mary

Through a devotion to the Blessed Mother, members seek a sanctified life through prayer and service. They attend weekly meetings and also perform the apostolic work of taking Communion to area nursing homes, hospitals and senior day care centers while promoting their devotion to Mary.

Ministry to the Sick

So much of Jesus' ministry was healing the sick. Whether through his miraculous cures or his peaceful presence, He brought God's healing touch. All of us are called to heal the sick in some way and every time we visit someone in the hospital or one who is homebound we participate in Jesus' healing ministry. In addition, St. Sebastian Parish has a staff member to visit hospitals on an almost daily basis to visit sick parishioners and bring Holy Communion. We also have a group of dedicated parishioners (including but not exclusively the Legion of Mary) who also visit the sick helping them to keep connected with our church and community.

Mother of Sorrows Support Group

Mother of Sorrows is a support group for the bereaved. This ministry is one of worship, service and healing. Members attend all parish funerals to offer support and consolation through prayer, song and group presence.

Respect Life Committee

This ministry is dedicated to defending human life from conception to natural death. The committee works to build a "culture of life," primarily through prayer, but also by educating the community about current legislation and practices that uphold the dignity of life. With volunteer help, activities are organized throughout the year: Life Chain, Mother's Day carnation sale, Crosses for Life display and the Right to Life media campaign.

St. Vincent-DePaul Society

A traditional Catholic organization, it provides care for the poor within the parish boundaries through the distribution of funds, blankets and food. Referrals to outside social service agencies may provide additional assistance for clients.

Social Justice

This group seeks to lead the parish and community effort that responds to the call of Jesus – through prayer, education, advocacy and action – to raise awareness of today's social issues and implement the Church's mission of justice. Together, members read, study and discuss issues of social justice locally, nationally and internationally, in order to educate themselves, the parish and the community. They meet monthly.

SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES

For all Spiritual Ministries please contact
Jennifer Jones 330-836-2233 Ext: 101 or jonesj@stsebastian.org

Adoration (Eucharistic)

Parishioners are invited and encouraged to spend time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday during Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00 a.m. until 7:45 p.m. ending with Benediction. Volunteers are needed as the Blessed Sacrament cannot be left unattended. Sign-up sheets are located by the Blessed Mother's Shrine and at the back entrance of the Church.

Eucharistic Holy Hour Prayer Group

Meets every Tuesday during Eucharistic Adoration from 7:00 – 7:45 p.m.

McDonough Resource Library

This library, located in the rear of the church, is the perfect quiet spot to read or study our Catholic Faith. It houses an extensive collection of books, periodicals, audio and video tapes, and equipment for the use of parishioners and catechists. Additional volunteers are needed to help maintain this valuable resource.

Men's Breakfast Club

Open to all Catholic men, the breakfast club meets on the first Saturday of each month to reinforce the grace available through camaraderie, shared faith, and commitment to each other and the church. Our primary mission is to allow Jesus to open the spiritual eyes of these men and to set their hearts ablaze for Christ, helping them to become truly men, truly Catholic.

Prayer Line

When parishioners request special prayers, their intentions are passed to many people via the Parish Prayer Line. This is an effective way to intercede for important prayer intentions. New intercessors are always welcome.

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Retreats

Retreats held at Loyola Retreat House in Portage Lakes, are offered to parishioners as a way to deepen and continue their spiritual journey and build a faith community. Both the men's and women's retreats are held on a weekend in Lent. Additional retreats are scheduled in autumn depending upon interest. Volunteers are essential in the success of these retreats.

Rosary Cenacle of Prayer – Church

Based on Fr. Gobi's "Marian Movement of Priests," parishioners meet in Church every Friday from 1:00 - 1:30 p.m. to pray for the needs of the Church, for vocations and for individual intentions. The Rosary is also prayed daily after 8:00 a.m. Mass, and before the Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:00 p.m. All parishioners are welcome to join us.

Rosary Cenacle of Prayer – Home

The blessings received from praying the Rosary as a small group or as a family are many. Copies of the Marian Rosary Booklet, including the Mysteries, are available.

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCDS)

The Secular Order of Discalced Carmelites, officially Ordo Carmelitarum Discalceatorum Saecularis, and formerly known as the Third Order Carmelites, is an association in the Roman Catholic Church with lay persons as its primary members but can also accept members of the secular clergy. OCDS exists to give lay contemplatives to Christ and his Church. The Secular Carmelite Order follows a specific tradition of spirituality within the Church from the doctrine of St. Teresa of Jesus and St. John of the Cross, our Carmelite parents. If you are being called to a deeper life of prayer, you are welcome to join the OCDS Community of the Holy Family (Akron- Canton). We meet every first Sunday of the month in Byrider Hall from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. For more information, visit our website, ocdsakroncleveland.catholicweb.com.

Serra Club 31

Let us join together, as a Catholic community, to pray that those, whom God is calling to serve His church, in the Diocese of Cleveland will have the courage and fortitude to answer His call and to be faithful to his/her vocation. Each member chooses one date of the month that is easy to remember (i.e. birthday, anniversary). Each month for the next year, offer Mass on that day for Church vocations. pray for past, present, and future priests, religious sisters, brothers and deacons who serve St. Sebastian Parish. If you miss your chosen date one month, the nearest convenient date is fine.

GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION



St. Sebastian Parish School

500 Mull Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44320

330-836-9107

www.stsebastian.org/school

Telephone Numbers

School Office	(330) 836-9107
School FAX	(330) 836-7690
Preschool Office	(330) 836-3838
Auxiliary Services	(330) 864-8977
Auxiliary FAX	(330) 869-2927

School Administrative Staff

School Office (330) 836-9107

Principal

Mrs. Sandie Isabella isabellas@stsebastian.org Ext. 115

Secretary

Mrs. Diana McGee mcgeed@stsebastian.org Ext. 116

Mrs. Amy Sboray sboraya@stsebastian.org Ext. 117

SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit our website for more information on school programs at
www.stsebastian.org/school

For all School Volunteer Opportunities please contact
Diana McGee 836-9107 Ext: 116 or mcgee@stsebastian.org or
Amy Sboray 836-9107 Ext: 117 or sboray@stsebastian.org

Big “G” Box Tops

Simply collect your Box Tops and turn them into the school office.

Book Fair

The Book Fair helps support our school library. Volunteers are needed to help setup, work a shift and help breakdown.

Brownies & Girl Scouts

Girls can join a local troop or group for fun and friendship, but they also find out about building character and self-esteem and serving their communities. In Brownies and Girl Scouts, girls find a safe place to grow and share new experiences, learn to relate to others, develop values, and contribute to society.

Catholic Schools Week

A week long Diocesan sponsored event celebrating Catholic Schools. The week starts with an Open House and each day has a special event or activity planned for the children to help celebrate attending a Catholic School.

Cub Scouts & Boy Scouts

For over a century, the Boy Scouts of America has helped build the future leaders of this country by combining educational activities and lifelong values with fun. Adult help and supervision is always needed.

CYO Coaching

If you are interested in coaching or assisting an athletic team, you must be Virtus trained and have a completed background check. Please consider going thru the process so you can support our many athletic teams.

Home and School Association (HASA)

This organization fosters and continues the basic concepts of Catholic education while enhancing the parents' and teachers' role in the education of children by increasing their mutual understanding of children. It provides an opportunity for parishioners and parents, in an advisory and service capacity, to work together with the faculty and administration for the good of children. HASA works toward funding projects which benefit the children and the school. For more information on these, and other HASA opportunities, please visit the school website or refer to the HASA Directory.

Additional opportunities within HASA include:

- **ACME Receipts** – Collect Acme receipts and turn them into the school office.
- **Campbell's UPC Labels** – Collect Campbell Labels and bring them to school. Labels are redeemed for school items.
- **Coke Rewards** – Collect Coke product bottle caps and bring them into the school office. The school receives money toward activity equipment.
- **Father Daughter Dance** – This event will be held in February 2014. Volunteers needed!
- **Giant Eagle Apples For The Students** – A percentage of your Giant Eagle purchases will go directly to the school. Register your Giant Eagle Advantage Card number by calling 1-800-474-4777 or on-line at www.gianteagle.com. Our school ID# is 1170.
- **Halloween Parade and Party** – The school participates in a Halloween Party with parade and refreshments. Volunteers are needed to help.
- **HASA Newsletter** – Published monthly, the HASA newsletter communicates current events at St. Sebastian School.
- **Ink Cartridge Recycle** – Save your ink/toner cartridges and turn them into the school. Cartridges are recycled for cash.
- **Magazine Sales** – Magazine subscriptions will be sold through the school.
- **Market Day** – This fundraiser offers a unique selection of food and products. Order forms are sent home with the students.

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Home and School Association (HASA) continued

- **Mother/Son Monster Mash** – Yearly event held in October.
- **Used Uniform Exchange** – Bring in your gently worn uniform that your child has outgrown and pick-up uniform separates in their new size. This is a free service for all our students.
- **Santa Shop** – This committee organizes a Christmas sale where students buy for family and friends. Assistance is needed with setup, clean up and helping the students shop.
- **Spirit Shop & Spirit Wear** – Includes shirts, sweatshirts and other school spirit items.
- **Sports Day** – Students engage in relay races and sports activities during the last week of school.
- **Teacher Appreciation Meals** – Organize, serve and clean up various meals for the teachers throughout the year.
- **Walk-a-Thon** – Students mail sponsor letters to family and friends. On the day of Walk-a-thon, students participate in various activities. Prizes and refreshments are included. Last year, the school raised over \$20,000.
- **Welcoming Committee** – Welcomes new families to school. Organizes new family picnic, parent coffee days and assists HASA with Open House events.
- **Yearbook** – Each HASA dues-paying family will receive one complimentary yearbook. Additional copies are available for purchase. Pictures are needed for classrooms and events.
- **Athletic Gear Swap** – In conjunction with the Booster Club, students have the opportunity to swap outgrown gear such as cleats, jerseys, etc.

One Day a Year

Each household with St. Sebastian Parish School students is asked to volunteer a total of 24 hours a year to the church and/or school (single parent families, 12 hours). One Day a Year will help provide structure and accountability for much of the volunteer work that's already taking place and bring many more parents into the volunteer fold. Whether you are the new parents of a Preschooler or have had children at St. Sebastian for many years, One Day a Year will not only help parents get to know each other better, but also provide a positive example of the importance of volunteer service to your children. Giving of oneself is about time, talent and treasure. These are the nuts and bolts that make our parish school and church work.

Operation Rice Bowl

Operation Rice Bowl benefits Catholic Relief Services.(CRS). CRC is the right arm of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops in giving not only financial assistance to foreign countries in need but by promoting true development in poorer countries. The Operation Rice Bowl is a major fundraiser for them and St. Sebastian Parish and school participate by praying, collecting loose change to give, by fasting to be in solidarity with those less fortunate and by learning more about the plight of other countries to be aware of the bigger issues in our world. The children enthusiastically give every year and learn what it means to give generously. In so doing, they themselves receive even more by learning to serve others.

Playground Monitor

Trained parent volunteers supervise all St. Sebastian Parish School students on the playground during lunch recess. There are always at least 3 playground monitors present each day.

Room Parent

Room parents work together with volunteer parents and teachers to provide snacks and activities for the: Halloween Party/Social, Christmas Service Project, Teacher Appreciation Week, Teacher Birthday Recognition, 1st Communion and Reconciliation, school picnic and miscellaneous needs of teachers. The commitment is approximately 1-2 hours per activity. Much of the work can be done at home by simply making phone calls for volunteers. Room parents are organized and kept informed through the year by the room parent committee members.

Sebastian's Garden

Sebastian's Garden is designed to meet two goals. First, the space is intended for teachers and students to use as an outdoor classroom/ laboratory for lessons and experiences about organic gardening, nutrition, and science. Second, it is intended to provide community members with access to fresh produce. Help plant, harvest and maintain the garden.

September Spectacular

The September Spectacular is our Parish school's largest fundraiser. Now in its tenth year, we have raised a total of more than \$385,000. These funds have been used for tuition reduction for every child – K through 8th grade – and to purchase new technology for the classrooms. September Spectacular is an evening event; the themed dinner, live and silent auctions are held each year in Zwisler Hall. September Spectacular is organized by a committee of dedicated individuals who work tirelessly throughout the year to put on a successful and entertaining fundraiser for our school. Generous local businesses and individuals donate the items for both the live and silent auction. To find out how you can also contribute to this important event click on our link at www.stsebastian.com/school.

Tuition Reduction Incentive Program (TRIP)

The St. Sebastian TRIP program allows you to purchase gift certificates on a regular basis that spend just like cash at major retailers. A percentage of each dollar you spend goes to fund the St. Sebastian tuition fund. The same percentage goes to your own special account that is used the following year as a credit to your tuition!

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