



HANDBOOK  
2015 - 2016



SAINT SEBASTIAN PARISH

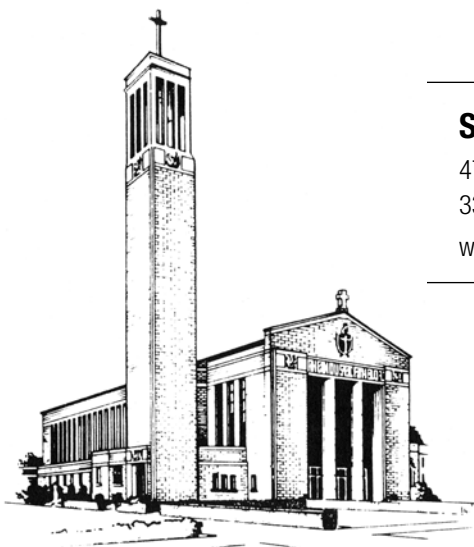
ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH



PARISH HANDBOOK AND DIRECTORY

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

# ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH



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## St. Sebastian Parish

476 Mull Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44320

330-836-2233

[www.stsebastian.org](http://www.stsebastian.org)

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## Mission

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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

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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.

# Greetings!

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Greetings!

Whether you are new to the parish or have been here since its founding, I hope that this handbook will help you learn about your parish and discover ways to become engaged in your parish community. Find within these pages the people you need to contact, descriptions of the parish organizations, the opportunities to volunteer, the services to enjoy, and the “how tos” of the parish.

Every paragraph in this book is the result of this community coming together to worship, educate, reach out, create, and recreate. It is a snapshot of the parish. Please flip through it and familiarize yourself with its pages and hold on to it should you have need of it until your next issue arrives!

Saint Sebastian pray for us!  
God bless,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John A. Valencheck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and "V".

Rev. John A. Valencheck

# PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

## Telephone Numbers

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Rectory . . . . .	(330) 836-2233
Rectory FAX. . . . .	(330) 836-2235
School office . . . . .	(330) 836-9107
School FAX . . . . .	(330) 836-7690
Preschool office. . . . .	(330) 836-3838

## Parish Clergy

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Rectory . . . . .	(330) 836-2233
<b>Pastor</b> Reverend John A. Valencheck. . . . .	frvalencheck@stsebastian.org . Ext. 102
<b>Parochial Vicar</b> Reverend Edwin Leonard . . . . .	leonarde@stsebastian.org . . . Ext. 104
<b>Parochial Vicar</b> Reverend Peter Kovacina . . . . .	kovacinap@stsebastian.org . . . Ext. 136
<b>Deacon</b> Deacon Terry Peacock . . . . .	Ext. 103

## Parish Staff

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<b>Parish Business Manager</b> Kevin Audin . . . . .	audink@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 106
<b>Parish School Principal</b> Sandie Isabella . . . . .	isabellas@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 115
<b>Office Manager</b> Jennifer Jones . . . . .	jonesj@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 101
<b>Director of Music/Choirmaster/Organist</b> Lynn Frey-Steward, CAGO, MM . . . . .	freyl@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 111
<b>Director of Religious Education and Youth Ministry</b> Cathy Sivec . . . . .	sivecc@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 134
<b>Director of Marketing and Public Relations</b> Michelle Huber . . . . .	huberm@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 135
<b>Director of Development</b> Jennifer Knapp Ciarlariello . . . . .	jenniferc@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 113
<b>Development Assistant</b> Mandy Brooks . . . . .	brooksm@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 119
<b>Development Bookkeeper/Admin</b> . . . . .	Ext. 114
<b>Bookeeper</b> Beth Flora . . . . .	florab@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 112
<b>PSR Principal</b> Melane Francis . . . . .	francism@stsebastian.org . . .836-9107 VM Box 233
<b>Zwisler Hall Manager</b> Julie Musci. . . . .	jmusci@sbcglobal.net . . . . . Ext. 133

## Support Staff

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<b>Facilities Manager</b> Aaron Salisbury. . . . .	salisburya@stsebastian.org . . . Ext. 126
<b>Head Custodian</b> Edward Goodrum. . . . .	goodrume@stsebastian.org . . . Ext. 126

# Parish Contact Information

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## 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 and Sunday before the 1 p.m. Mass

## Prayer Line

(330) 825-9330 • (330) 867-2757 • (330) 873-1559 • (330) 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.

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.

# GENERAL PARISH INFORMATION

## Registration

New parishioners are most welcome and should stop by the rectory as soon as possible to register with the parish. Registration helps the parish provide the appropriate and necessary spiritual care for its parishioners. If a parishioner moves, please notify the rectory office as soon as possible.

## Vocations

If you think God is calling you to serve the Church as priest, deacon, religious brother, or religious sister, please contact Fr. Valencheck or any of the clergy at St. Sebastian Parish.

## The Sacramental Life of the Church

As revealed by Jesus Christ, the Church recognizes and celebrates seven sacraments – Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Anointing of the Sick, Marriage, and Holy Orders. Each sacrament of the Church is a celebration of the Paschal Mystery - the suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ – and is truly an encounter with our Lord.

These seven Sacraments are divided into three groups: Sacraments of Initiation, Sacraments of Healing, and Sacraments of Service. The Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist – are the first Sacraments that a Catholic receives to be fully initiated in the life of the Church. The Sacraments of Healing - Penance and Anointing of the Sick - are the sacraments we celebrate when we, spiritually or physically, are in need of his help. The Sacraments of Service – Marriage and Holy Orders – are celebrated in love of and for the Church.

## Baptism

The Sacrament of Baptism is the first sacrament that a Catholic receives. In this sacrament, the recipient is cleansed from original sin and is claimed as a beloved child of God. Forever changed and configured to Christ, the recipient of baptism receives the gifts of faith, hope, and love and becomes a dwelling of the Holy Spirit. As members of the Church, God calls all the baptized to a life of service: love of God and love of neighbor.

## Confirmation

The Sacrament of Confirmation is a strengthening of the gifts of God in the life of the baptized. At Baptism, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in the baptized and shares the gifts of knowledge, understanding, wisdom, courage, counsel, piety, and fear of the Lord. Each of these gifts helps the baptized live the Gospel in his or her life. In Confirmation, these gifts are strengthened and made full by power of the Holy Spirit. This sacrament is typically celebrated by a bishop and reminds us about the communion that we share with the universal Church.

## **The Most Holy Eucharist**

The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. Everything that we are comes from and moves towards the Eucharist. In the Eucharist, Christ gives the Church his whole person - body, blood, soul, and divinity - as an act of love. Therefore, when we come to receive the Eucharist, we receive a Person into our life who loves us so much that He died for us. With every reception of the Holy Eucharist, we enter into a deep, personal, and holy communion with God and the Church. Because of the centrality and importance of the Eucharist in the life of the baptized, the Catholics come every Sunday and on specified holy days for the celebration of the Holy Mass.

## **Penance**

The Sacrament of Penance offers forgiveness, healing, and hope to the baptized. In baptism, original sin is washed away and the recipient is made new in Christ. However, we still experience the effects of original sin, and we need God's help, especially when we sin. When we have committed serious sin (commonly referred to as mortal sin), we must seek God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Penance. When we confess our sins to God, it allows God to come into our life and to heal our brokenness and hurt. God listens with compassion to his children, and offers His love. Every Catholic is asked by the Church to celebrate and to receive God's unconditional love for them at least once a year through this sacrament.

## **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick**

In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church celebrates the healing power of Christ and his presence with us in the midst of suffering and sickness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, this holy anointing strengthens the weakened individual and encourages them in faith. Typically, candidates for the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick are those who are seriously ill or preparing for surgery. Also, those who are advanced in years and are feeling the burdens of old age are encouraged to receive this strengthening.

## **Sacrament of Marriage**

In the Sacrament of Marriage, the love of Christ for his Church is witnessed in the commitment between a man and a woman to live in holy matrimony. Modeled after the love of Christ on the cross, married love is freely given, totally given, faithfully given, and bears great fruit through openness to their children. Couples should register with parish at least six months before the wedding.

## **Sacrament of Holy Orders**

Before Christ ascended into heaven, he commissioned the apostles to preach the good news of God's love to the whole world and to baptize them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. As the Church continued to grow, three ranks developed within the one Sacrament of Holy Orders: bishop, priest, and deacon. Bishops receive the fullness of the sacrament and lead the local Church or diocese. Priests are co-workers with the bishop and help him in his ministry to preach the Gospel. Deacons are called to serve the corporal and spiritual needs of the Church.

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### **RCIA**

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is the process through which a non-Catholic is welcomed into the Catholic Church. He or she will receive or complete the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist). During this process, the individual will learn the basics about the Catholic faith, experience the importance of Christian service, and most importantly, develop a true, real, and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Supported by the Church, these individuals will experience this joy at the upcoming Easter Vigil.

If you know someone who is interested in becoming Catholic, please contact Fr. Leonard at (330) 836-2233 Ext. 104.

### **Preparing for Baptism**

For Catholic parents, their child's baptism is an important moment of their life because their child becomes a child of God and shares in God's life. Having received this great gift of faith, Catholic parents desire to share this treasure with their children. For first time parents, the parish offers a baptism preparation session prior to the baptism on the second Monday of every other month at 7:00 p.m. at Byrider Hall. This class briefly reflects on the importance of the sacrament and on the role parents play in their child's faith. Baptisms may be scheduled on available Sundays at 12:15 p.m. Baptism scheduling is on a first come first serve basis with the likelihood that other baptisms may be taking place as well. The parish encourages all parents, godparents, and families to attend the 11:00 a.m. Mass, otherwise, the parish asks that you please arrive promptly at 12:00 p.m. in the Church.

### **Preparing for First Penance and First Communion**

For baptized Catholics, the age for receiving the Sacraments of Penance and Holy Eucharist for the first time is the age of reason (about seven years old). The second grade classes at the parish day school and at the parish school of religion (PSR) prepare the children to receive the sacraments. In addition to the work of the schools, there are evening sessions during the year for parents and children. If a child is not registered with the parish day school or parish school of religion, please contact the rectory at the beginning of the child's second grade year. If a child passed the second grade and has not received the sacraments, please contact the rectory to begin the process of preparation.

### **Preparing for Confirmation**

In accordance with the practice of the Diocese of Cleveland, St. Sebastian Parish celebrates the Sacrament of Confirmation in the eighth grade. The eighth grade classes at the parish day school and at the parish school of religion (PSR) prepare the children to receive the sacrament. In addition to the work of the schools, there are evening sessions during the year for those to be confirmed and their sponsors. Those to be confirmed will also participate in service opportunities and a retreat. If one is not registered with the parish day school or parish school of religion, please contact the rectory at the beginning of the eighth grade school year. If one is in high school or older and needs to receive this sacrament, please contact the rectory to begin process the of preparation.



# HOW TO...

## **Schedule a Funeral**

As Christians we believe that death is a part of life. At the Funeral Mass we recognize that life is changed, not ended. We are created to be with God in eternal life. Still, the Church recognizes the need to grieve and to help the deceased with our prayers. The Funeral Rites of the Church help us to view death through Christian eyes. Jesus Himself had to die so that He could rise again to welcome us into eternal life. We are called to follow Him even unto death, so we may rise with Him on the last day. The Funeral Rites actually begin with the Funeral Vigil Service at the funeral home during the calling hours. There is then the Funeral Mass which concludes with the committal at the cemetery. It is important to celebrate the fullness of these rites not only for the one who has died, but also for the consolation of those who remain. If a loved one has passed away, contact the funeral home and they will contact the parish to schedule times for the services and Mass.

## **Schedule and Prepare for the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony**

A great deal of preparation is required for a wedding (reception, dress, cakes, etc.), but even more is needed to prepare for Marriage. The spiritual preparation is extremely important. One needs to first contact the parish and schedule a meeting with a priest at least six months before your desired marriage date. Only after this meeting can a date be set and the church scheduled (so do not schedule the reception hall yet!). The preparation will include ongoing meetings with the priest, a Pre-Cana day retreat, meetings with a mentor couple, and meeting with the Parish Music Director. A resource with more general information about marriage may be picked up at the rectory office.

## **Be a Sponsor or Godparent**

Being asked to fulfill this role is a great honor and a great responsibility. It is to be taken very seriously. A sponsor or godparent is to mentor and be an example of faith for the one he or she is sponsoring. If someone has asked you to be a sponsor for Confirmation or a godparent for Baptism, there are a few requirements. You must be a fully initiated Roman Catholic (received the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist), must be at least 16 years of age, must be a practicing Catholic by participating at Mass weekly and living your faith, and not be in an irregular marriage (married outside the Church or divorced and remarried outside the Church). You will also need to stop at the rectory and receive a sponsor certificate. You must be an active and registered parishioner to receive a sponsor certificate.

## **Scheduling a Mass Intention**

Celebrating a Mass for a particular intention is a longstanding tradition in the Church. The graces of the Mass are infinite because it is Christ who offers Himself, but we participate by offering ourselves and our prayers with Him. A person may offer a stipend for a particular Mass intention (for one who has died, or an anniversary, or other special intention) thus contributing to the good of the Church. In no way is the Church "selling Masses." The donation is a sign of the donor's sacrificial offering. A donation of \$10.00 is requested.

Contact: Jennifer Jones, (330) 836-2233

## **Submit a Write-Up for the Bulletin and Verbal Announcements**

Requests for bulletin articles must be submitted no later than 1:00 p.m. Friday. You can email the information to Jennifer Jones at [jonesj@stsebastian.org](mailto:jonesj@stsebastian.org), fax the information to (330) 835-2235 or drop the information at the Rectory Office. Requests for full page inserts must be submitted at least 2 weeks in advance using Microsoft Word or Publisher software.

Verbal announcements to be read at the weekend masses are to be submitted by 9:00 a.m. Thursday. Drop off at the Rectory, fax to (330) 836-2235 or e-mail [jonesj@stsebastian.org](mailto:jonesj@stsebastian.org).

## **Schedule an Event/Fundraiser and Business Solicitations:**

If your group or ministry is planning a parish fundraiser or if you are planning on soliciting funds from local businesses to support your ministry, approval of the fundraiser or solicitation must be obtained from the Pastor, Principal or Business Manager. Depending upon the nature of the activity, contact the appropriate individual to gain general concurrence regarding the appropriateness of the event and its timing.

If there is a consensus to proceed, please follow the steps below:

1. Check the available dates with the Parish Office Manager.  
Please note that if a date appears to be available this does not guarantee the availability and reservation of the event/fundraiser.
2. Once a possible date has been established, final approval should be obtained from the Pastor, Principal or Business Manager.
3. Once approved, contact the Parish Office Manager confirming event, date, timing and who on staff approved the activity.  
The Parish Office Manager will book the event on the Parish calendar.

## **Make A Deposit**

If you have funds from a parish event or activity and need to make a deposit to the parish then a Deposit Form (DF) needs to be completed. This form is required documentation used for auditing purposes and will also ensure that the funds are posted to the group or budget account properly. The Deposit Form can be found at the rectory.

## **Purchase & Reimbursement Requests**

There occasionally comes a time during parish activities that minor purchases are needed. If you are a leader of a specific ministry and are organizing a parish event or activity and a purchase is necessary, the following steps must be taken.

1. Please complete a Purchase Request Form (PRF) which is available in the rectory or school office. The Purchase Request Form must be signed by the Pastor, Principal or Business Manager and returned PRIOR to any purchases being made. If a form is not completed, you as the organizer may be held personally responsible for the financial liability.
2. Once the Purchase Request Form (PRF) is completed and signed, you are permitted to make the purchase. Payment for the item needs to be arranged with the Business Manager prior to purchase.
3. When making the purchase, please keep in mind that as a religious organization, we are not subject to paying sales tax. Please take a Sales Tax Exemption Form with you when making the purchase. These forms are available in the rectory.
4. If you, as the requestor, are making the payment for the approved purchase and need to be reimbursed, please submit a Check Request Form (CRF) to the business office. This form should include all receipts and explanations as to why the purchase was made and to what group or activity it was purchased for. Reimbursements will be processed as quickly as possible and can take up to two weeks from the time the business office received the request.

**Questions** – Any questions should be directed to the Parish Business Manager, Kevin Audin, at (330) 836-2233, Ext. 106 or [audink@stsebastian.org](mailto:audink@stsebastian.org)

# ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH FOUNDATION



## St. Sebastian Parish Foundation

476 Mull Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44320  
330-836-2233

[foundation@stsebastian.org](mailto:foundation@stsebastian.org)  
[www.foundation.stsebastian.org](http://www.foundation.stsebastian.org)

## Mission

To help bring Christ to the world by acting as faithful stewards to build and manage funds for long term growth to provide financial support for the religious, educational and capital activities of St. Sebastian Parish for current and future generations.

## PARISH FOUNDATION BOARD

Patrick O'Neill, President  
Tricia Gerak, Treasurer  
Rev. John Valencheck, Secretary  
Timothy Beringer, Sr.  
Lois Gerstenmaier

John Kelley  
Tim Del Medico  
Heidi Heinle  
Orville Reed, III  
Steve D. Wilt

### Director of Development

Jennifer Knapp Ciarlariello . . . . . [jenniferc@stsebastian.org](mailto:jenniferc@stsebastian.org) . . . . . (330) 836-2233 x113

## How to Donate

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is very grateful for any support you can give. No gift is too big or too small. All your gifts are tax deductible and stay here with the Parish.

You can make a donation by mail, phone or online at:

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation • 476 Mull Avenue • Akron, OH 44320  
(330) 836.2233 x113  
[www.foundation.stsebastian.org](http://www.foundation.stsebastian.org)

## Named Opportunities

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is privileged to help you make a lasting memorial for a loved one. Please consider the named opportunities available below:

Commemorative Bricks	Commemorative Benches	Byrider Lockers
Music Anthem Tribute	Permanent Named Scholarship or Endowment	

## Planned Giving

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation relies on the generosity of our community and can help you shape a legacy of hope for future generations. Planned gifts are becoming an increasingly critical source of income for our parish and are your final act of stewardship. You secure your legacy of giving for generations to come and when you make a planned gift to the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. In addition to benefitting your church and school, estate gifts will often provide both income and tax benefits to you. Please allow our Director of Development, Jennifer Knapp Ciarlariello, to assist you in achieving these goals. We are dedicated to helping donors achieve their long-term charitable goals.

## Matching Gifts

Many employers match charitable contributions and most programs will allow you to direct your gifts to the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation; you just have to ask. Please check with your employer in regards to its matching gifts program. Many companies offer this type of program to their employees and sometimes retirees, as a way to encourage charitable giving. You could possibly double, or even triple, your contribution by taking advantage of your employer's generosity.

## Foundation Funds and Endowments

St. Sebastian Development Fund  
Unrestricted Gifts for the Greatest Needs of the Parish

### Church Funds and Endowments

#### Adult Education

Foley Family Adult Religious Education Endowment  
Fr. William D. Karg Faith Formation Fund

#### Bereavement

Paul A. & Patricia A. Hummel  
Bereavement Endowment

#### Capital

Adoration Chapel Fund  
Brick Fund  
Church Terrazzo Restoration Fund  
John L. Tormey Rectory Restoration Fund

#### Clergy

Fickes Clergy Enrichment Fund  
Vocational Health & Wellness Fund

#### Grounds

Grounds Crew Flower Fund  
Zwisler Hall Plaza Grounds Fund  
St. Sebastian Greenhouse Fund

#### McDonough Library

Fr. John McDonough Resource Center Endowment

#### Music

Music Endowment  
Organ Project Fund  
Piano Fund

#### Other

Sanctuary Society Fund

### School Funds and Endowments

Athletics  
Athletic Booster Club Fund  
Locker Fund

#### Capital

St. Sebastian School Endowment

#### Education

Art Fund  
Victor E. Buehrle, Jr. Science Lab Fund  
Computer Fund  
Helen Barry Hamlin Library Fund  
iPad Fund  
Principal's Fund  
Mary Jane Hudak Roberts Math Fund  
September Spectacular Arts & Cultural  
Enrichment Fund  
September Spectacular Garden Fund  
September Spectacular Technology Fund

### Tuition Assistance

Alumni Scholarship Endowment  
Fr. Charles Byrider Education Endowment  
Hugh Colopy Scholarship Endowment  
Meyo Clarke Comunale Scholarship Endowment  
Alberta Hensley Scholarship Endowment  
Hank and Eileen Hudson Scholarship Endowment  
John and Joan Kelley Scholarship Endowment  
Mr. and Mrs. James M Lyons, Sr. Family Endowment  
M.G. O'Neil Scholarship Endowment  
Wm. J. O'Neil Scholarship Endowment  
Basil J. & Anne L. Scafidi Scholarship Endowment  
Lewis & Kathleen Seikel Scholarship Endowment  
Sheeks Family Scholarship Endowment  
Mary Theresa Schorr Stanley Memorial Scholarship  
Endowment  
September Spectacular Tuition Reduction Fund  
Stiller Family Scholarship Endowment  
Tuition Assistance Fund  
Victor Yanko Scholarship Endowment

### Tuition Assistance and Teacher / Staff Support

Dr. H. Thomas and Mary Rita Baumgardner  
Scholarship Endowment  
Cleary Family Scholarship Endowment  
Eugene D. & Marie T. Graham Scholarship Endowment  
Dr. Carl E. Krill, Sr. Family Endowment  
McFarland Education Scholarship Endowment  
Esther Simonetti Owen Scholarship Endowment  
James M. Pier, Sr. Scholarship Endowment  
William and Mildred Walzer Education Endowment  
Richard & Carroll Weber Scholarship Endowment

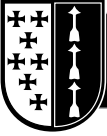
### Teacher / Staff Support

Louis H. Amer Education Endowment  
Mary Jo Costigan Teacher's Salary Endowment  
Social Ministry Fund

### Scholarships

AOH Scholarship  
Boy Scout Troop #96 Scholarship Endowment  
Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship Fund  
Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship Endowment  
GOAL (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders) Endowment  
Frances L. Sharp Scholarship Endowment  
Seminarian Scholarship Fund  
St. Anthony Scholarship Fund

**To read more about what each Endowment and  
Fund supports, please visit our website at  
[www.foundation.stsebastian.org](http://www.foundation.stsebastian.org)**



# PARISH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS

Becky Adamczyk . . . . .	.beckmark4@yahoo.com . . . . .	576-2014
Dr. Andrea Bologna . . . . .	.rbologna@neo.rr.com	
Raymond Casey . . . . .	.raymondcasey5@outlook.com . . . . .	322-5199
Ken Contrera . . . . .	.kcontrera@myersind.com . . . . .	285-9806
Jerry D'Antonio . . . . .	.jerry.dantonio@gmail.com	
Jennifer Doucet . . . . .	.jennifer.b.doucet@gmail.com . . . . .	283-6583
Ed Hillmuth . . . . .	.ed.hillmuth@53.com . . . . .	697-1437
Mary Jo Kormushoff . . . . .	.maryjokormushoff@gmail.com . . . . .	351-3051
John Najeway . . . . .	.john@thirstydog.com . . . . .	352-6679
Dan Rudary . . . . .	.djrudary@bmdllc.com . . . . .	(216) 210-7726
Joe Ruscak . . . . .	.jruscak@ralaw.com . . . . .	864-8792
Tom Van Auker . . . . .	.tvanauker@oneillinsurance.com . . . . .	592-7025
Rev. John Valencheck . . . . .	.frvalencheck@stsebastian.org . . . . .	836-2233

### 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. If you have a question or concern, please contact Finance Council at [financecouncil@stsebastian.org](mailto:financecouncil@stsebastian.org).

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Candace Bates . . . . .	.cmdeming@hotmail.com . . . . .	618-6160
Pat Clark-Varga . . . . .	.patcv1984@yahoo.com . . . . .	873-1475
Cynthia Cook . . . . .	.cynccook@yahoo.com . . . . .	869-2403
Todd DeKatch . . . . .	.todd.dekatch@ic.fbi.gov . . . . .	351-1474
Jim Dietrich . . . . .	.jamesdietrich@aol.com . . . . .	867-4526
Brandon Foster . . . . .	.bukfan116@yahoo.com . . . . .	608-4619
Chris Montana . . . . .	.cmontana123@gmail.com . . . . .	836-6657
Rob Sveda . . . . .	.rmsveda2@hotmail.com . . . . .	208-5991
Rev. John Valencheck . . . . .	.frvalencheck@stsebastian.org . . . . .	836-2233

### Parish Council

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

Each St. Sebastian Parish Ministry is assigned a representative on Parish Council. If you have any suggestions, proposals or concerns about the parish, please contact Parish Council Chairperson at [parishcouncil@stsebastian.org](mailto:parishcouncil@stsebastian.org)



# PARISH VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## ADMINISTRATIVE MINISTRIES

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

### **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 x101 or [jonesj@stsebastian.org](mailto: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 financial assistance to foreign countries in need and promoting true development in poorer countries. Operation Rice Bowl is a major fundraiser for them and St. Sebastian Parish participates by praying, collecting loose change to give, 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 prepare dinner once a month for the center.

## **Rockynol Communion Service Ministry**

St. Sebastian volunteers along with Deacon Terry conduct a Communion Service at 4 p.m. every Monday, except the first Monday, in the Rockynol Chapel. On the first Monday, a priest from St. Sebastian's says Mass at 4 p.m. Volunteers who don't conduct the Service are needed to help transport the residents to and from the various living areas at Rockynol to the Communion Service. The time commitment is from about 3:15 p.m. until about 4:45 p.m. on alternating Mondays.

## **DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES**

For All Development Ministries please contact  
Jennifer Knapp Ciarliariello, (330) 836-2233 Ext. 113, [jenniferc@stsebastian.org](mailto:jenniferc@stsebastian.org)

### **Alumni Committee**

This is a fun 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?

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## DEVELOPMENT MINISTRIES continued

### **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 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 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](mailto:sivecc@stsebastian.org)

### **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.

### **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 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 in the center aisle and be escorted to their class.

## **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**

This gathering is 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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

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## FAITH FORMATION MINISTRIES continued

### **Peer Music Ministry Group**

This music group practices during Senior High Youth Ministry meetings. Plays music for Confirmation, Youth Masses and retreats.

### **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.

### **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 February 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 every Sunday from 10:15-10:45 in the church basement..

### **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 several annual retreats.

### **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. This ministry is offered every other year.

### **Young Adults Group (Ages 20s - 30s)**

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.

### **West Side Catholic Couples**

This group of adult couples from our cluster parishes meet to discuss and share their faith on current and relevant topics.

## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES

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

### **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?

### **Sacristans**

The sacristan ministry is in charge of the overall preparation of Liturgical celebrations including Easter and Christmas as well as weddings and funerals. Some responsibilities include preparing the sacred vessels, fresh hosts, wine and candles, light cleaning, watering plants, arranging flowers, sewing when necessary and any other tasks needed.

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## LITURGICAL MINISTRIES continued

### 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](mailto: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, Academy, 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 (330) 836-2233 Ext. 111, [freyl@stsebastian.org](mailto:freyl@stsebastian.org) or [lfrey001@att.net](mailto: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.

### 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.

## **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](mailto:jonesj@stsebastian.org)

## **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.

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## PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES continued

### **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](http://akronchesterton.blogspot.com)

### **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.

### **Gratitude Ministry**

As a parish, there are many people for whom we are thankful. This ministry gives us the opportunity to express our appreciation to these groups and individuals. This is accomplished through the "Gratitude Corner" in the bulletin, personal notes of appreciation and various other ways.

### **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.

## **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](mailto:jonesj@stsebastian.org)

## **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.

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## SOCIAL ISSUES MINISTRIES continued

### **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...and Justice for All**

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](mailto: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.

### **Book Rack**

The parish bookrack in the church vestibule provides a means of adult faith formation by offering Catholic periodicals for sale. Pamphlets from Christian social service organizations and prayer cards are available free of charge. The parish office oversees the suitability of materials placed.

### **Disciples for the Dying**

This ministry prays for those living throughout the world every day, but die due to illness, wars, tornadoes and other forms of violence. On the first Friday of each month, a mass is said for those dying daily and is rotated within our cluster Parishes.

### **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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## SPIRITUAL MINISTRIES continued

### **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](http://ocdsakroncleveland.catholicweb.com).

### **Vocations Promotion**

This group fosters vocations to the priesthood and religious life by providing material for the bulletin, arranging speakers to share inspirational testimony and providing prayers and the Traveling Vocation Cross.

### **Votive Lights**

Volunteers are needed daily after the 8:00 a.m. Mass to maintain the votive candles in the church and collect the donations.

# GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION



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## St. Sebastian Parish School

500 Mull Avenue, Akron, Ohio 44320

330-836-9107

[www.stsebastian.org/school](http://www.stsebastian.org/school)

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## School Hours

8:00 a.m. - 2:35 p.m.

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## Mission

St. Sebastian Parish School is dedicated to Christ and committed to excellence in education. We honor the Catholic Christian traditions of the past, work to develop our talents today, and prepare for Christian service in the future.

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## Philosophy

A quality Catholic education is the priority at St. Sebastian Parish School. Parents, as primary educators of the children, and teachers, as professional educators, respect the teachings of the Catholic Church, demonstrate Christian living, and are committed to faith formation.

# Telephone Numbers

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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

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### **Principal**

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

### **Director of Curriculum Development**

Dr. Ed Savitski . . . . . savitskie@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 137

### **Administrative Assistants**

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

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

### **Preschool Director/Instructor**

Patty Smith . . . . . smithp@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 127

### **Guidance Counselor**

Janet Hanna . . . . . hannaj@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 124

### **Director of Marketing and Public Relations**

Michelle Huber . . . . . huberm@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 135

### **School Psychologist**

Lynn Burger . . . . . burgerl@stsebastian.org . . . . . 836-9107

### **Speech Therapist**

Kara Pietrowski . . . . . pietrowskik@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 122

### **Enrichment Teacher**

Stephanie Gostkowski . . . . . gostkowskis@stsebastian.org . . . . . 836-9107

### **Auxiliary Services**

Teresa Schleier . . . . . schleiert@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 122

### **Reading Specialist**

Melane Francis . . . . . francism@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 233

### **Director of Aftercare**

Nicole Pillitiere . . . . . pillitieren@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 240

### **Cafeteria Manager**

Kathie Brooks . . . . . Ext. 128

### **Athletic Director**

James Lucas . . . . . stsebastianathletics@gmail.com . . . . . VM Box 232

### **Facilities Manager**

Aaron Salisbury . . . . . salisburya@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 126

### **Maintenance/ Head Custodian**

Ed Goodrum . . . . . goodrume@stsebastian.org . . . . . Ext. 126

# SCHOOL VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Please visit our website for more information on school programs at  
[www.stsebastian.org/school](http://www.stsebastian.org/school)

For all School Volunteer Opportunities please contact  
Diana McGee 836-9107 Ext: 116 or [mcgeed@stsebastian.org](mailto:mcgeed@stsebastian.org) or  
Amy Sboray 836-9107 Ext: 117 or [sboray@stsebastian.org](mailto: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.

continued on next page >



## Home and School Association (HASA) continued

### 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 is held in February. 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](http://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.
- **Market Day** – This fundraiser offers a unique selection of food and products. Order forms are sent home with the students.
- **Mother/Son Monster Mash** – Yearly event held in October.
- **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.
- **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.

## **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.

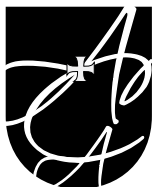
## **September Spectacular**

The September Spectacular is our Parish School's largest fundraiser. Now in its twelfth year, we have raised a total of more than \$564,000. 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 September in Zwisler Hall. September Spectacular is organized by a committee of dedicated volunteers 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](http://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!

# THE ACADEMY OF CULTURE & ARTS AT ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH



## Academy of Culture & Arts at St. Sebastian Parish

This new academy, which will offer courses in arts, languages, and other cultural subjects, is for persons of all ages interested in learning about, experiencing, and/or influencing arts and culture in our society.

More than just a school enrichment program, the academy is designed to help young people as well as adults climb to the next level of cultural engagement so as not to merely be spectators or instruments of culture, but to be the instruments of influence; to use arts and culture to lift the human spirit, build up human dignity, give glory to God, and use truth and beauty to bring about the Good in the shaping of our world.

~ Father John Valencheck

For more information on the Academy of Culture and Arts at St. Sebastian Parish please visit [www.stsebastian.org/academy](http://www.stsebastian.org/academy).

# ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH MAP

