

ALUMNI ARROW

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2024

ATHLETIC BOOSTER CLUB MARKS 25 YEAR MILESTONE

The St. Sebastian Athletic Booster Club is marking its 25th anniversary this year. One of the founders, Tom Freeman, shared some details about the origin of the Booster Club. Tom, a parishioner, school parent and St. Sebastian graduate (Class of 1974), got the ball rolling in June of 1999 by sending a letter to Fr. William Karg, the pastor at the time. Tom asked for his support to form an Athletic Booster Club to raise funds to support, and ultimately to fully-fund, the parish's athletic programs.

Tom, who had grown up in the parish, had recently moved back into town and was looking to re-engage with the programs that shaped his childhood. Tom remembered the days when St. Sebastian, under the leadership of long-time athletic director Charlie Zeno, "always" had the best uniforms, equipment, coaches, and athletic facilities. Over the years, Charlie moved on, things changed, and the athletic program needed freshening up.

With Fr. Karg's approval, Tom got things started. He hosted a happy hour at Rockne's Sports Bar. As Tom tells it, after a few drinks and some persuasion, the inaugural board was selected. The officers were Tom Freeman (President), Paul Harrel (VP), Sophia Veillette (Treasurer), and Michelle Freeman (Secretary). Board members were Jamie Cavileer, Bruce Clough, Marian Olsen, Rob Olsen, Dave Vassel, Al Graf, Jim Aitken, and Kathy Stump.

The first meeting was held on August 18, 1999. The group identified several needs, including funding for CYO team fees, new uniforms and equipment, and several capital improvements at Byrider Hall. The group decided to focus on the following fundraisers: 1) annual memberships, 2) team sponsorships, 3) a "Night at the Races" event, 4) a holiday basketball tournament, and 5) volunteering at the Akron Aero baseball games. The fundraisers were all a huge success, and in a short period of time, the Booster Club was funding all costs related to the athletic program. In addition, the Booster Club funded repairs to the locker rooms and bleachers along with a new scoreboard, safety mats at each end of the basketball court, and many other facility improvements.

The school's current Booster Club has maintained this tremendous tradition of support and even continues to host some of the same fundraisers! Thanks to Booster Club support, fees to participate in athletics have been kept low, and our facilities have remained top-notch. And as always, the Booster Club also fosters enduring connections and friendships among the parents. As Tom notes, although the leadership of the Booster Club has changed over the years, it remains an invaluable source of support for students and connectivity for parents.



2013 CYO Football Championship



2022 CYO Cross Country Championship

The Athletic Booster Club has been supporting our students, like those pictured here, for 25 years by providing uniforms and equipment, caring for facilities, and keeping fees low to help families and encourage participation. Thanks to the support of the Booster Club, the St. Sebastian Parish School athletic program boasts a tradition of both high participation and great success.

The 25th Annual Night at the Races will be held Nov. 23, 2024. If you would like to be a sponsor or program advertiser, please contact Tim Tober at terrierboosterclub@gmail.com. Of course, all proceeds benefit the athletic program!

ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASS OF 1944

Tom Burke and his wife Laurie established a scholarship at St. Sebastian Parish School five years ago. Recently, Tom offered this reflection, “I have always seen my years at St. Sebastian as the critical precursor to so many blessings that followed ... hence our interest in being of some assistance to current or future students/families.” Tom has written an autobiography that includes a section about his early years that he entitled, “St. Sebastian & Fr. Zwisler: A Priceless Underpinning.” He writes, “The first pastor, Father Hilary Zwisler, often chose me to serve his Mass ... He even assigned me to those tricky services, like Easter Week. (He’d also tap me for 8 a.m. Mass on Saturdays – wished I could sleep in). To my eternal disappointment, Father would not allow me to carry the Crucifix in a procession. I was one of the smallest kids in my class; a

candelabra was the most he would let me carry in Stations of the Cross. ‘But Father..’ I pleaded. To no avail. I didn’t realize it then, but Father Zwisler,

later elevated to Monsignor, was an early and powerful ‘beacon’ for me. Today, his name adorns the Reception Hall at this large St. Sebastian campus. What a privilege to be part of its history (even if I wasn’t allowed to carry the Crucifix).” However, a few pages later, Tom offers this post-script: “Remember Father Zwisler and the Crucifix? In San Antonio, Laurie and I often attended Mass at San Fernando Cathedral, among America’s oldest Cathedrals. Back in 2010, Laurie called to ask, ‘Could my 80-year-old altar boy be allowed to carry the Crucifix one Sunday?’ They readily agreed. And in the procession for a Sunday morning Mass, this Leprechaun’s unrequited wish was granted. More than 70 years later ... ‘See, Father: I knew I could do it!’ ”



PLEASE SEND US YOUR MEMORIES!

We love to hear from our alumni! Do you have a favorite story or memory?

Email us at alumni@stsebastian.org or contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 x113

CLASS OF 1949

Terry Coyle’s family contacted the St. Sebastian Alumni Association in July saying Terry wanted to share with all his old friends through the alumni newsletter that he had recently been diagnosed with bone cancer, but he wanted everyone to know he was very peaceful and excited to go meet Jesus. It is with sadness that we share that Terry passed away on July 28th. Terry was featured in the Fall 2021 Alumni Arrow in a story about how the school’s “Terriers” mascot was chosen in part to honor Terry’s legendary athletic achievements. Terry was a standout athlete at St. Sebastian and at the University of Arizona, and he was a high school teacher and coach for 27 years in Arizona. His family shared that Terry downplayed his athletic accomplishments because he hoped instead to have his life recognized as being one that “if any good thing existed, surely it was due to Christ in me,” and he said “if people remember me, I want them to remember me simply as an ambassador of Christ.” This photo, courtesy of the University of Arizona, shows Terry receiving the player of the year award from Arizona’s basketball coach Fred Enke in 1958.



CLASS OF 1964

Jim List and his wife, Helen, who live in South Carolina, raised three children: Amy (48), Katie (44), and Patrick (40). Jim writes that he graduated from Ohio State in 1972, entered the U.S. Navy in 1973, and retired in 1996 as a Commander. Jim then went to work at Edward Jones in 1996 as a Financial Advisor. He began his retirement transition in May of 2023 and will be fully retired in 2025.

CLASS OF 1974 - SEE ALSO PG. 6 FOR A STORY ABOUT THE CLASS OF 1974'S 50TH REUNION!

Peter Adams, who lives in Georgia, wrote in to say that, regretfully, he could not attend the Class of 1974's 50th reunion. He offered several wonderful memories to share in his absence: "It's unthinkable to miss a chance to once again bask in the glory of 'That Championship Season' with fellow players **Mitch Pierce**, **Tommy Freeman**, **Paul Rote**, **Charlie Crowley**, **Jamie Cavileer**, **Guy Poux**, **Craig Marshall**, **Pat Kelley**, and of course, player-manager **Bob Stepanek**. Some of the other memorable classmates include, but are not limited to **Julie Costanzo** [Archual], **Ruth Redle** [McGough], **Sally Henley** [Kurpil], **Marilynn Hohas** [McCoy], **Mona Wolfman** [Yasutake], **Ray Kloss**, **Pat Messmore**, **Ernie Degregario**, **John Martucci**, **Ed Yost**, **John Schorr**, **Steve Abdenour**, **Dennis Wheeler**, **Jay Traverse**, and my old neighbor **Steve Domchick**. My only regret was not giving **Tommy Freeman** any help on the football team. He was the best quarterback in the league by far. My class photo was destroyed in a flood in 2013. Notable teachers were superstar Mr. Cummins, of course, along with Mrs. McFee and Mr. Reed... My favorite story is when **Ray Kloss** turned the clock ahead in Mr. Cummins class by 20 minutes, and then, once discovered, made his escape out a second story window onto the overhang of a pathway that led to the church... I almost left off **David Trumphour**, who along with Ray and myself formed the 'Barbershop Quartet (minus one)'. Some notable hits included 'Baked Potato,' featuring David as the tenor; 'Strangers in My Soup,' with Ray on lead vocals, and 'Vatican Rag,' Ray had warned me that he had volunteered us to emcee the talent show - but neglected to mention we'd be performing in front of the entire school!"



Meg Witt Lee attended St. Sebastian Parish School's Back-to-School Open House with her daughters **Katie Lee '05** (right) and **Lauren Lee Kovarik '02** (left), along with Lauren's husband, Michael, and their three children. Two of Lauren and Michael's children are current St. Sebastian students. This marks the fourth generation of alumni from the Witt family, which began with Meg's father, **Ralph Witt**, who graduated from St. Sebastian in 1939. Ralph, who passed away in 2016, was a charter member of St. Sebastian Parish. He dedicated countless hours as an usher, historian, and volunteer — even volunteering in the school cafeteria through his 91st birthday!

Class of 1975: 50th Class Reunion Info.

SAVE THE DATE! The Class of 1975 50th Class Reunion will be on Saturday, July 5, 2025, at Fairlawn Country Club. There will also be other activities that weekend, including a "welcome" cocktail and firework watching party on Friday evening, July 4th. Stay tuned for more information! Please follow us on Facebook: St. Sebastian's Reunion, Class of '75, or contact Jackie Paparella at JPaparella@chez-del.com if you would like to help with the planning or to provide your updated contact information.

CLASS OF 1977

Joseph Walsh lives in Bellevue, OH and has two children, Andrew (37) and David (32). Joe reports that he is retired from The Ohio Mutual Insurance Group, and he married the former Julie Landoll on August 23, 2024.

Class of 2014: 10th Class Reunion Info.

Members of the Class of 2014 are working on a 10th Reunion get-together sometime around Christmas. Stay tuned for more information! Feel free to contact Sarah Minear at sminear00@gmail.com or Erin Wagner at erinwagner99@gmail.com to help plan or to provide your updated contact info.

CLASS OF 1981

Kristine Murphy Rosenfeld received the Fr. Thomas F. Mahar Outstanding Alumni Award from St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. Kris was honored for her work in the field of hospice care, as both a hospice and palliative care nurse and as the founder and director of Hospice of Wadsworth Rittman. When Kris stepped away from work to stay at home with her children, she jumped into volunteering, first at Old Trail School. Then, at STVM, Kris was co-founder of the Ambassador programs as well as a Women's Board member, Alumni Board member, Showcase volunteer, Academic Committee co-chair, search committee member, and Executive Board member. She is currently a member of the Ohio Living Home Care and Hospice Advisory Board. Kris is also currently working on publishing her first children's cookbook, "How to Be a Kitchen Superhero." She is pictured here with her parents, Susie and Mike Murphy (left), and her husband, Steve (right).



CLASS OF 1992

Veteran ESPN NBA reporter **Brian Windhorst** was in Akron this fall for a weekend of events in his hometown. On Sept. 13, Brian hosted a live recording of his ESPN basketball podcast, "Brian Windhorst & The Hoop Collective," at his high school alma mater, St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. A packed crowd joined Brian and his ESPN co-hosts, Tim Bontemps and Tim MacMahon, as well as special surprise guests NBA player Larry Nance, Jr. and Keith Dambrot, former basketball coach at Duquesne and St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. On Sept. 14, Brian visited his college alma mater, Kent State University, for a Q & A session for members of The Blue & Gold Collective, a group that supports KSU student athletes. Also on Sept. 14, the Akron RubberDucks baseball team honored Brian with a Brian Windhorst Bobblehead Giveaway night.



CLASSES OF 2020-2022

Dominick Calleri '20 was named a U.S. Lacrosse Academic All-American in July, becoming the fourth Walsh Jesuit High School player and one of only 25 students from Ohio to earn this honor. Dominick earned honors in three sports during his senior year at Walsh: golf (Honorable Mention, Ohio), hockey (Greater Akron-Canton Player of the Year, first team Great Lakes Hockey League, two-time award winner Great Lakes Hockey League Scholar Athlete of the Year), and lacrosse (Crown Conference Defensive Lacrosse Player of the Year, All-Region selection). Dominick also received The Grant Conzaman Scholarship Award from Walsh.

Sophia Burgoyne '22 was a member of the Mock Trial team from Archbishop Hoban High School that competed in an invitational tournament at Yale University in September. Hoban's team finished 12th overall, and Sophia was the only witness to win two awards, making her the highest rated student in this role in the entire competition. Congratulations, Sophia!



Fifteen alumni earned College Board honors for their scores on Advanced Placement exams taken in May of 2024.



Class of 2021 graduates Joshua Skovira, Payton Kidder, Jacob Dennée, Matthew Large and Gianna Pillitiere are among 15 alumni who earned AP Scholar honors.

AP Scholars with Distinction: (average score of at least 3.5 and scores of 3 or higher on five or more exams) **James Bordenkircher '20** (Hoban), **Jack Doucet '20** (Hoban), **Arabelle Loyed '20** (STVM), **Anne Rea '20** (STVM), **Mason Reiss '20** (STVM), **Clare Rothkopf '20** (STVM), and **Joshua Skovira '21** (STVM).

AP Scholar with Honor: (average score of at least 3.25 and scores of 3 or higher on four or more exams) are **Leo Bates '20** (Hoban), **Jacob Dennée '21** (STVM) and **Payton Kidder '21** (STVM).

AP Scholar: (scores of 3 or higher on three or more exams) **Victoria Dekatch '20** (STVM), **Abigail Monaghan '20** (STVM), **Matthew Large '21** (STVM), **Gianna Pillitiere '21** (STVM), and **Kofi Powers '20** (STVM).

ALUMNI RETURN FOR GRANDPARENTS DAY

Almost 400 grandparents attended St. Sebastian Parish School's annual Grandparents Day event on October 3, 2024. Amongst this proud crowd were at least 20 alumni who are grandparents of current students. What a beautiful testament to the long and strong history of our parish and school! Pictured below (L to R) are: Barb & Bill Costigan '63; Liz Wathen Clough '74, Meg Witt Lee '74, and Marjorie Reiheld Parrish '69; Mary & Dave Tschantz '66 and Michael Ochsenhirt '67; and Karen LeFevre Obraza '68.



ANNUAL ALUMNI MASS

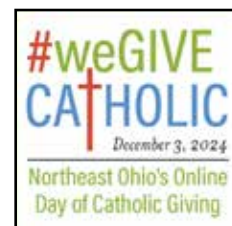
Saturday, November 30
4:30 p.m. Mass
Live stream available

All alumni and their families are invited to celebrate Mass at St. Sebastian Church on the Saturday after Thanksgiving. No RSVP required. If you want to join us virtually, the Mass will be live-streamed on the parish YouTube channel:
youtube.com/StSebastianParish

Questions? Please contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 ext. 113 or HoladayK@stsebastian.org.

#WEGIVECATHOLIC: DEC. 3, 2024

Save the Date! Tuesday, December 3, 2024 is #weGiveCatholic, Northeast Ohio's day of Catholic giving. We are excited to share that this year's effort, "Creating Welcoming Spaces," will support upgrades to both the bride's room and the family quiet room as well as the installation of a speaker in the church narthex. We hope you will join us in creating welcoming spaces in our church entrance! You can make a gift on Dec. 3 at www.wegivecatholic.org. For more details, please contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 x113 or HoladayK@stsebastian.org. Thank you!



A quick note thanks to all who supported the #weGiveCatholic effort last year, which raised money for a new greenhouse. Ninety donors contributed over \$11,400 through #weGiveCatholic, which was combined with other dollars raised for a total of \$170,000! The greenhouse is under construction, with an open house planned for May.

++ We Will Remember ... ++

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni (approx. July 2024 to Sept. 2024). If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330-836-2233 x113 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

Sarah Jane Witt Kelley '37, July 30, 2024
Marcella Horning Ruhman '43, September 21, 2024
James C. Censky '48, August 22, 2024
Charles W. Kormanik, Jr. '48, September 10, 2024
Terence M. Coyle '49, July 28, 2024
Sandra Fusco Williams '54, September 15, 2024

Carolyn Butler Crook '56, August 30, 2024
Virginia Peter Scanlon '57, July 23, 2024
Francis A. Cleary III '66, July 18, 2024
Anita M. Davis '70, September 30, 2024
Patricia Kirk Gorbach '72, December 15, 2023

CLASS OF 1974 CELEBRATES 50TH REUNION

The Class of 1974 celebrated their 50th reunion in Akron on June 28-30, 2024. The weekend got off to a great start with a “meet & greet” at Brighten Brewery on Friday with a turnout of about 35-40 people. The group chatted and laughed until closing time, and some even continued to other venues! The Friday group included some classmates who could not attend Saturday’s event but were happy to have this chance to catch up with old friends.

Despite a poor weather forecast, a lively group of five showed up for a Saturday morning golf outing. Luckily, the rain held off, they had a great time, and they each were rewarded with a fun prize provided by **Karel Kipp**! Saturday night’s activities began with a group of about 35 classmates and spouses attending 4:30 p.m. Mass. Saturday night’s reunion dinner at Zwisler Hall, which was attended by a sizeable crowd of 76 people, kicked off with a tour of the school. The group then shared a meal and spent the night telling stories, laughing at antics from their school days, and looking through old school newspapers and photos. Many classmates traveled from out of state, including five from Florida, three from North Carolina, two from Colorado, and one each from New Mexico, California, Texas, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Virginia. Classmates report that just about everyone stayed until the final minutes — and then some, with people laughing away in the parking lot until midnight.

Jill Lyons May, one of the planners, said classmates still felt like there was not enough time to catch up with everyone, so local pockets of people are trying to get together occasionally. Among the items on view during the evening were class photos from every grade, a First Holy Communion photo, a 20th reunion photo, copies of the original Green & Gold Gazettes, an 8th-grade graduation typed yearbook (these were originally mimeographed), and pictures of the 8th-grade picnic at Happy Days Park with Mrs. McFee, Mr. Reed and Mrs. Lotze.

Many thanks to the reunion committee, which included **Jill Lyons May, Helen Graf, Patti Tschantz, Karel Kipp, Lisa Perry Showalter, and Charlie Crowley**. On behalf of the planners, Jill offers special thanks to several classmates who made donations “to make everything just a little extra special” and “super big thanks” to **Vern Calhoun** (NYC), who could not attend but sent many great items to share, including the Green & Gold Gazettes and class pictures. Thanks also to **Charlie Crowley** and **Cindi Williams Amer** for the 7th grade yearbook photos and to **Marilynn Hohas McCoy** for the Communion photo. Jill added, “There is something very special about the St. Sebastian Class of 1974. There is a bond that is there that just can’t be broken no matter how many years have passed since the last time we have seen each other, almost as if time stood still so we could catch up and remember all the times we shared together in those buildings. We have our parents to thank for sending each of us there.”



First row: Marlene Szeles Gaino, Darlene Khoury, Beth Munka Vass, Kathy Barnes Conrad, Meg Witt Lee, Lisa Paris, Karel Kipp; Second row: Betsi Watterson Tynan, Joe Mosher, Jill Lyons May, Beth Mariani Rodgers, Kathy Foley Foster, Carolyn Melody Sutter, Marilynn Hohas McCoy, Margaret Vogt Pimm; Third row: Ann Payerle Ancona, Mona Wolfman Yasutake, Susie Seikel Ahbe, Laurie Fisher Pearce, Charlie Crowley, Ruth Redle McGough, Dayna Pesko Hughes, Lisa Perry Showalter, Judy Ulrich Miller, Mike Brunenmeister; Fourth row: Joan Wozniak, Patti Tschantz, Jim LaRose, Bruce Baumgardner, Laura Beatty Haramis, Eddie Jost, Jay Traverse, Elizabeth Reece Coombs, Jeff Sain; Fifth row & tucked in the back: David Bray, John Schorr, Mary Stampfli Foster, Helen Graf, Chuck Barresi, Patrick Messmore, Guy Poux, Mike Zsembik, Steve Zsembik, Rose Dannemiller Smoral, Jamie Cavileer, Paul Rote; Not pictured but in attendance that weekend: Lisa Boles Balough, Judy O’Neil Hamilton, Steve Domchick, Lisa LaMonica Sporich, Sharie Altier Fournier, Chip Peterson, Mitch Pierce.