

Pulse of the Parish September 2024

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collection counters: Looking for a laptop or tablet to use for keeping track of the collection using Excel ● Ushers: Still looking for new members as noted last month; no other updates ● Socials: No updates received from email; may try for phone numbers next month; this ministry has an established busy schedule so may not have any current needs...
Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bridge Flights: According to Ann Traverse, Bridge Flights started and that all is well. There will probably be no news until May. ● Grounded in Grace: Their first meeting was on Sept. 11th. Activities for the coming months are as follows; 10/09 a tour of St. Sebastian’s stained glass windows, 11/13 is a lunch and learn with Cathy Sivec, and 12/11th is their Christmas party lunch. ● St. Sebastian Band: The band is now 72 members strong! Consists of students from 4th grade to the 8th. Fun Fact from Mr. Mason, almost all kids in the 7th and 8th grade (except 3) are involved in either Band or the Choir. Dates to keep in mind: 10/31st is the Halloween Parade, 12/19th is the Band and Choir Christmas Concert, Christmas Eve, lastly the band is slated to perform on Christmas Eve during the Children’s Mass at 4pm. ● The Academy of Culture and Arts: Fall Session is in full swing. All offerings are available on the Academy website. The Christmas Recital will be on 12/01 at 2pm. ● St. Sebastian School: Student-led Mass are coming back starting this Sunday, September 29th during the 9am mass. The 8th graders will be starting the take over. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We have earned the Ohio Governor’s Thomas Edison Award for Excellence in STEM Education for the 6th year a row! 2. The School is starting a new program called, Empowering God’s Children. It’s VIRTUS for children. This program covers a range of topics including physical boundaries and it’s importance, identifying safe adults, being a safe friend and recognizing and responding to unsafe situations. 3. The Spectacular is on March 1st, 2025. Co-Chairs are Megan Azar and Jennifer Toth. The Arts will be the main beneficiary of this year’s event. 4. The School hired a Gifted Intervention Specialist, Kate Ellis, through the special education funds of Akron Public Schools. She will work with students in grades 2-8 identified by the state of Ohio’s approved assessments. The school uses the CogAt and NWEA Map growth to determine these students. 5. Grandparents Day is October 3rd. 6. The School will be hosting a High School Regional Night on October 3rd. Students and families are invited to come and meet representatives from Hoban, STVM, the Elms, Walsh and Chesterton.
Will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boosters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Season continues for all sports. No major issues reported. ○ CYO Mass held Sun, Sep 22 with ~70 athletes participating in the service

<p>Katy</p>	<p>Parish Foundation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alumni Arrow Newsletter article (in the September 2024 issue) featured the new Archive Team, created interest & archive items have been sent to us! ● Hosted a “thank you” lunch for our parish facility and maintenance teams. ● Attended and presented at the August teacher meeting. ● Attended and staffed the Information table at Open House ● Attended and staffed the Information table at Parent Prep ● Scholarship Season begins and applications have been updated on the website ● Attended and presented “Terriers on the Move” to the 8th grade parents – encouraging them to have their student’s fill out scholarship applications. ● #weGiveCatholic 2024 update will be provided at the October Parish Council Meeting <p>Marketing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● New Parish Social Media has launched. We are participating in a pilot program from the diocese where we tap into a Catholic Social Media platform. As of 9/23 we have 157 followers on the Parish Instagram and 142 followers on Facebook. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Old Parish Facebook page will be “turned off” as of October and we’ll only be posting updates to the New Parish Facebook page. ● Help is needed from Parish Council to get word out to the respective groups and ministries if they have events, updates, or need inclusion on social media to please email me the information. Ideally, having information a week out is best but the further out the better so I can include it in my content planning for social media/website. ● Tours are already starting for the 2025-26 school year. Interest in our Parish school is very high, and our reputation is that we are competitive and have high admission and academic standards. Explorer Day Open House for incoming Kindergarteners is set for Friday November 22, 2024. ● Spectacular 2025 is set for March 1, 2025 and we have begun planning. All are invited to attend and participate in the School’s largest fundraiser. This year we’ll be raising funds for our Arts & Culture Fund with a focus on upgrades to the band, art, and music rooms. This year’s theme is “One, Spectacular Sensation” with tie-in to Broadway. <p>Grounds Crew:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Last meeting of the year will be October 19. They will be winterizing the grounds–pulling up dead flowers and putting away all the hoses. <p>Finance Council:</p>
<p>Tom</p>	
<p>Barb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● WSCC- a new year begins in October with group discussion of Fr. George Rutler’s, <u>Calm in Chaos; Catholic Wisdom for Anxious Times.</u> ● Sanctuary Society - group is seeking new officers. ● Bible Study - a study of the Book of Matthew (Ascension Press) began September 9th. The group may be adding two new members. ● Our Mother of Sorrows - nothing new to report; members attended four funerals since the August Parish Council meeting. ● St. Vincent DePaul Society - current funds are stable. Higher food prices have resulted in somewhat higher food requests, perhaps a ‘new normal’ in this area. Utility disconnection help is declining at this time of year. A long term concern is the ongoing rent increases, which have drained available Section 8 funds. Section 8 vouchers are harder to get, and this could result in increased requests for rental assistance from those paying rent to private landlords.
<p>Linda</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rectory - Cathy Sivec will be away on a Pilgrimage from Sept 30-Oct 9. The office will close M-F at 3 pm during this time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Archives - continuing the physical inventory of items.
<p>Shannon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moms of Littles- Love their new location in Byrider. They would like to make it their permanent meeting place, because it's much easier for moms with strollers. Mary Jo would like to personally call and invite all moms who have their child baptized at Sebastian's to their 'Moms of Littles' group. She suggested a line on the baptismal form be added to give permission (if they desired) to be contacted. Right now their phone numbers are not allowed to be given out. ● Rectory Cooks- nothing to report ● Prayer Warriors- nothing to report ● Alpha-They have had 3 sessions so far, with approximately 50 each evening in attendance. The feedback has been positive. ● Lectors- ● Our Mother's Hands- ● Votive Lights-nothing to report ● Women of Sebastian's- nothing to report
<p>Chris</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Book Rack: Nothing to report ● Respect Life Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sunday October 20th showing of "Unplanned." Scheduled for 3pm in Z Hall. Looking to get in bulletin both at St. Sebastian and other parishes. ○ Field of White Crosses for Respect Life month. Display banner approved. Location; to be in green space fronting Mull Ave. Middle school students to help with installing crosses. ○ LifeChain Sunday October 6th. Getting signs from NEORTL. In bulletin. ○ Need to follow up with KofC regarding fill the crib during Respect Life month. ● Donut Sunday: Nothing to report ● Children's Liturgy of the Word: Nothing to report ● Baptism Preparation Team: Nothing to report ● Altar Server training: Offering a new altar server training on Monday, October 7, from 3-5 pm. This will be open for students in grades 5-12
<p>Terry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Music Ministries - Parish Choir, Praise and Worship, Cantors and Handbell Choir - David U - Praise and Worship Director position still not filled. Rethinking the position to possibly be an Assistant Director/Organist position to entice a different talent and then have that person lead the 11:00 a.m. group amongst other responsibilities. <p>Next Concert is on Sunday, October 13, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. Pianist Julia Russ and Violinist James Thompson will present a program of works for piano and violin by Brahms, Kreisler, Ponce-Heifetz and Mozart. Concert is open to the public. Freewill offering will be taken to support Musical Arts.</p> <p>Musical Arts patronage program is off to a good start. Combined with the freewill offering from the first concert, Musical Arts has brought in a little over \$1200 thus far. Optimistic on the patronage program growing as time passes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Choir - No report ● Sacristans - Nothing to report ● Little Garden Club/Cutting Garden - The hot, dry weather has shut down the cutting garden, despite daily watering. Clean up will be done as needed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arts and Environment - As the Cutting Garden winds down, we will have lots of hydrangeas on the altars. ● Secular Carmelites - Initiate ceremony will be October 12 and they will not be meeting at St. Sebastian in October ● Chesterton Academy of Akron - Celebrating our 5th birthday with a Wine & Cheese event at the Winery at Wolf Creek on 9/30 at 6:00 - all are welcome!
Tony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faith and Light- They are just up and running with their first meeting taking place on 09/20. They have some families from other parishes and they are trying to gather more families from neighboring parishes with announcements in their bulletins which they feel can benefit from the fellowship of this community. ● PSR- ● Cub Scouts- ● Boy Scouts- ● Young Adults- Continuing with Theology on Tap on the first Tuesday of every month, with the next save the date for October 1. Would love having help getting this advertised better to our parish and neighboring parishes. ● Knights of Columbus- Knights ran the St. Bernard soup kitchen on 9/22. They have Metro park hikes scheduled for anyone in the parish that wants to join them to get some fresh air, the first one is on 09/29 at Goodyear Hts. Metro Park at 1:00. They have announcements in the bulletin for these hikes and could use any help to get the word out. ● Akron Roman Catholic Home Educators ("ARCHE")- Had an opening mass with about 10 families in attendance followed by ice cream and fellowship. Unfortunately, the following week, when they gathered with 15 families at Portage Lake Beach, the tragic drowning of Sebastian Johnson occurred. Along with the Saint Sebastian community, around \$46,000 has been raised for the family's expenses, and meals are planned for them for several weeks. The group is currently holding weekly hikes for families to participate in the fall hiking spree on Fridays through November. The group asks for the parish to continue to keep the Johnson family, as well as all who were in attendance during the tragedy, in their prayers.
Hannah	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <p style="text-align: center;">St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏</p>