

**Pulse of the Parish
December 2024**

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collection counters: No updates - computer? ● Ushers: No updates ● Socials: No updates (have never heard from this group at all)
Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●
Will	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boosters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Terrier Madness held Dec-6 to kick off Winter Sports season. 14 teams competing for Saint Sebastian and 1 cheer team ○ Successful Night at the Races fundraiser. Money was made despite Father V hitting on every horse he bet on ○ In discussion with CYO to host end of year basketball tournament for Grades 3-4-5-6 (no CYO Championship for these grades)
Katy	<p><u>Foundation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Annual Appeal mailed for Parishioner and Alumni - over 5,200 mailed ● #weGiveCatholic 2024 - held on Dec. 3rd- thanks to all who supported <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$14,765 raised by 74 donors in the 24 hour online giving period ○ Additional donations received from mail-ins, as well as offertory and pew envelopes. ○ Final donation dollar amount to be reported in January. ● Scholarship applications due January 24, 2025. ● Recent parish projects in 2024 funded by the Foundation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Greenhouse - purchased and installed ○ Rectory paint and plaster repairs ○ New flooring and carpeting in the Rectory ○ Replace remainder of sandstone walkways ○ New tools purchased and stored in the boiler room ○ Shared in the cost for the new carpet in the Forest Lodge office area <p><u>Marketing/Admissions:</u></p> <p><u>Admissions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Had 40 families sign up for the Kindergarten Explorer Day, which is a great turnout. Really great feedback on the school and programs from the families attending. Had 26 student ambassadors conducting tours and 12 parent ambassadors helping in various roles. ● Next Open House is January 26 from 10-12. This is also the day registration will open to all and kicks off Catholic Schools Week. <p><u>Marketing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advent Art Contest was a great success, and artwork has been running on the bulletin along with social media and a poster in the back of church. The goal of this program is to help demonstrate

	<p>not only our PSR and Parish School students' talent, but how a child understands the beauty of the Advent season.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Angel Scholarship marketing is ramping up. We will have tables in the back of church this weekend 12/14-15 and letters will go home to parishioners with their donation information for taxes in January. State now allows you to donate until April 15. It's important that parishioners understand this tax benefit and how our overall Parish benefits since this along with other scholarships, helps reduce the overall financial burden of the Parish. If anyone has any questions about this program, they can either email me, Mr. Rohr, or Milissa Smith or contact the Community Foundation directly. <p><u>Finance Council:</u></p> <p>Primary focus of their last meeting was school tuition. They have voted to raise tuition to \$7k for the 2025-26 school year.</p> <p><u>Grounds Crew:</u> No update.</p>
Tom	Nothing to report
Barb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● West Side Catholic Couples- nothing new to report ● GIVING TREE- people have been very generous with their donations. All donations must be in by this weekend, Dec 14th and 15th. ● BIBLE STUDY- on break until January 2025. ● OUR MOTHER OF SORROWS - members attended four funerals since the last Parish Council meeting; otherwise, nothing new to report. ● SANCTUARY SOCIETY- still seeking those who are interested in officer positions. There will be no children's games at the International Festival due to a lack of volunteers to run them. There will be food booths only. ● ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY- have received some holiday donations; looking forward to additional holiday funding that will add to our second quarter funds.
Linda	No Report
Shannon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lectors: no update ● Peter Maurin: no update ● Rectory Cooks: no update ● Our Mother's Hands: ● St. Sebastian Prayer Warriors: no update ● Moms of Littles: Will be having their Christmas party on Friday, December 13th. ● Women of Faith: Heard rumblings that Donut Sunday was not getting enough donations to continue. Jill is not sure if this is true, but suggested having a QR code or Venmo so people can donate. She said young families usually do not carry cash. ● Alpha: Had its last session on Nov 20th. It hopes to start up again in the fall.
Chris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Book Rack: Several Seasonal Periodicals available <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Advent publications ○ The Word Among Us ○ National Catholic Register

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Catholic Answers (now delivered free) ● Respect Life Committee: Last items were LifeChain and Unplanned. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o January parish donation request weekend of 11th/12th (information emailed to Father Valencheck and Father Marcelli) ● Donut Sunday: ● Children's Liturgy of the Word: Nothing to report ● Baptism Preparation Team: Nothing to report ● Altar Server training: Nothing to report
<p>Terry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Music Ministries - Parish Choir, Praise and Worship, Cantors and Handbell Choir - David U - The search for the Assistant Director of Music/Organist is complete and Andrew Bebesi, who currently serves St. Andrew the Apostle in Norton, has been offered and accepted the position. Mr. Bebesi will be covering one Mass on New Years day and officially begins on January 6, 2025. Choir will present Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 15 and a Prelude of Carols before Midnight Mass on December 24. ● School Choir - No report ● Sacristans -Bill Wellemeyer reworked shelving that was removed due to new HVAC several years ago. ● Little Garden Club/Cutting Garden -Thanks to Tim Sullivan for his work on the surround of the fountain in the garden. ● Arts and Environment - Mark your calendars for Christmas decorating which will happen on Sunday, December 22nd. Tear down is Sunday, Jan 12th. Outdoor nativity will be in a new location this year. Hoping to visit the nativity museum and Nativity of our Lord Parish to see if we might want to borrow a nativity scene to use in our parish for Christmas next year. ● Secular Carmelites - No report ● Chesterton Academy of Akron - Advent Concert tonight. Next Come & See is January 9th. Vision Gala is February 15, 2025 at the DoubleTree by Hilton.
<p>Tony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faith and Light- ● PSR- It's been business as usual at this point of the school year. Our Pre/K kindergarten class is quite small this year and is the smallest in many years. They have placed a bulletin encouraging parents who might be new to PSR to consider sending their children for religious education if they are not currently enrolled. ● Cub Scouts- They went camping in November and they are currently working to be re-chartered and get everyone signed up for the following year. Boy Scouts- Timothy finished up his Eagle project, he has one more badge left. Isaac has been working on his Eagle Project with Steve Pazner installing wood duck boxes on his wetland preserve. He is nearly finished! The Boy Scouts went camping in November and will be going out again this weekend. ● Young Adults- ● Knights of Columbus- ● Akron Roman Catholic Home Educators ("ARCHE")- Is hosting an informational program at Forest Lodge about the College Credit Plus program. This program allows homeschool students to begin taking college level classes as early as 7th grade. Members of the group will share their experiences and insights with families in the area, promoting ARCHE and fostering connections within the homeschool community.
<p>Hannah</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <p style="text-align: center;">St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏</p>