

Pulse of the Parish January 2025

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collection counters: Rob Olsen met with Fr V and the laptop he had proposed to be used was an Apple product not compatible with the needs of the counters. Will need a Windows laptop to run their software. I propose moving forward with this request and am happy to work with Rob and our tech gurus to meet the needs of the counters and the Parish.. ● Ushers: No updates ● Socials: Radio silence
Ana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bridge Flights: no updates ● Gratitude Ministry: no updates ● Grounded in Grace: no concerns. They decided to participate in the diocese Jubilee of Hope Pilgrimage and visit the 11 designated sites. ● JB: no updates or concerns according to Mrs. Redovian ● Academy & St. Sebebastian Band: no new updates, except that the new semesters in activities are up and running. All events for the month of December went well, from the Christmas Eve concert to all the school band concerts. Mr. Mason is now looking forward to the next event, which is the St. Patrick's Day parade in Akron on March 8th. ● St. Sebastian School: we are currently in the middle of Catholic School's Week. Today was the school spelling bee, tomorrow is the Religion Bee (Terrier Trivia). The week started off with the Open House and school blessing last sunday, January 26th. Mrs. Gibson reports giving about 35-40 tour packets during open house, so many tours that we ran short on student ambassadors. Some of the other activities included the Living Rosary, Camp Damascus missionaries, grade buddy activities, and our 4th graders partnered with St. Hilary's 4th grade class to attend the CSW Mass with the Bishop. There were also treats from the Principal to the teachers and from HASA a wonderful and thoughtful lunch also for the teachers. As part of the CSW, the school is running a Cereal Drive that will benefit the Good Samaritan Hunger Center, everyone is welcome to donate. On top of CSW we are also in the process of re-registration of current families for the coming year. We are also asking that parents, parishioner alike to donate to the Angel Scholarship Fund, which last year was about to support our families with scholarships of about \$117,000.00 and it would be great if we can continue the support. Lastly, the 7th and 8th Grade Power of the Pen team competed on January 18th. 1 student in the 8th grade will be moving on to regional, meanwhile all members of the 7th grade team will be moving on since they received 1 place as a team and 1 student in 7th grade placed 2nd.
Will	<p>Boosters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● St. Sebastian offered to host Basketball (Winter) and Volleyball (Spring) playoff games for CYO. ● St Sebastian will host 4th grade boys basketball tournament at the end of season. These grades do not typically have CYO tournament. Initial intention was all grades 3-5 boys and girls but ran out of time ● Boosters Club to have Athlete of Character Award + Scholarship starting in 2025/26

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Spring Track will have trial run partnership with the University of Akron Sports Sciences Department. As part of their graduation requirements, aspiring coaches and sports professionals have to complete a capstone project that involves coaching
<p>Katy</p>	<p>Marketing & Admissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terrier Band was featured in the January issue of Akron Life Magazine. Great feature on the wonderful work Mr. Scott Mason is doing with our band program, which now encompasses over 70 kids in grades 4-8. Article is both in print and online: https://www.akronlife.com/education/marching-on/ ● Spectacular invites are in the mail, we hope all members from Parish Council can join us for a fun night celebrating our school while raising funds for our Art & Culture Fund. This year, the paddle raise funds will be focused on making much needed improvements to band room, art room, and music rooms including new storage, tables and chairs, and purchasing new choral risers. ● Strong showing at Open House this past weekend! Several prospective families have applied, and the Admissions Team and Business Office will be reviewing numbers, applications, and billing fees over the next few weeks. Interest in our Blue Ribbon School remains at a high and we do expect to have waiting lists again. Feedback on tours is that we are strong academically and preparing our students well, but they're looking to us for a morally sound, structured, Catholic education. <p>Parish Foundation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● #weGiveCatholic 2024 raised over \$24,800 ● Scholarship applications were due 1/24. Selection will take place in February and Scholarship Mass will be held on March 27 at the 8:05am school Mass. ● Summary of Foundation Funded Projects in 2024 - Greenhouse project; rectory painting and plastering repairs; new flooring & carpeting in rectory; replace remainder of sandstone walkways; purchased new tools; shared cost of new carpet for Forest Lodge office area. ● Foundation Projects 2025 - Sponsor "Pastries with Parents" event during Catholic Schools Week; Greenhouse Open House 5/25; Exterior cleaning of front of church and bell tower; refresh Bride's Room, Quiet Room and Narthex speaker <p>Finance Council</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Encouraging people to still consider participating in the Angel Scholarship Program. We are down from last year. ● School numbers are looking strong for 2025-2026. Forty-five families attended Open House and we already have applications for next year from 21 students that are currently attending other Catholic schools. ● Tuition for the 2025-2026 school year is set at \$7500. ● Church revenue is currently up due to an estate settlement. Church collections are also up. We are doing well financially. ● The Diocesan Parish Assessment is going from the previous flat 12% rate to now 11.5% for the first \$575k to 16.5% for any contributions over \$575k. ● The Finance Council is donating a Weber grill package to Spectacular. Retail value \$2000.

Tom	
Barb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● West Side Catholic Couples - The group will sideline the current book, <u>Calm in Chaos</u>, to discuss Bishop Malesic's pastoral letter, "A Flourishing Apostolic Church," during February and March. ● Sanctuary Society- preparing for the Feb 1st International Festival. ● Our Mother of Sorrows- attended four funerals since the last report; lost two members (moved out of area; time commitments) and gained two new members. ● Bible Study- nothing new to report. ● St. Vincent DePaul Society- financially stable at present.
Linda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rectory Volunteers: Cathy can always use more help. Two of her three volunteers are out for a while. ● Pre-Cana: Fifteen couples are signed up for February 8th. ● Archives: The physical inventory is just about complete. A general vision has been the creation of a digital repository to house all retained items, or a facsimile thereof. A digitized repository would aid in access, retrieval, and use of archived materials. Since inception, several members have used home scanners to scan a number of items. Many more remain unscanned. An impending task will be to identify the volume of unscanned items and determine the feasibility of utilizing outside services to digitize such items. Later this year, we hope to have a clearer idea of the volume of unscanned items, whether scanning is appropriate, and costs.
Shannon	
Chris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Book Rack: ● Respect Life Committee: ● Donut Sunday: ● Children's Liturgy of the Word: Nothing to report ● Baptism Preparation Team: Nothing to report ● Altar Server training: Nothing to report
Terry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Music Ministries - Parish Choir, Praise and Worship, Cantors and Handbell Choir - David U - This Sunday, February 2 @ 4 pm, Musical Arts will present organists Kelsey Berg and Davis Badaszewski in concert ● School Choir - May need to move March programs to February as Mr. Beshore may need surgery soon ● Sacristans -No report ● Little Garden Club/Cutting Garden -a few Amaryllis are trying to bloom ● Arts and Environment - Thank you to all who helped take us back to ordinary time after Christmas ● Secular Carmelites - No report ● Chesterton Academy of Akron - January open house was very successful. Next one is March 13. Vision Gala is February 15, 2025 at the DoubleTree by Hilton; only a few spots left—register soon. Tentative dates for "Man for All Seasons" at St. Paul is April 4th or 5th.
Tony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faith and Light- They have had nice turnouts at their Faith and Light meetings. They have not really had any new members, but their long-time participants come for a meeting when they are able.They had to cancel our December meeting sadly due to illnesses ● Young Adults- Getting 20 people for regular, weekly events and 20-30 for special events. Attendance

	<p>increased over Christmas break. Upcoming events; potluck 01/21 & 02/18, Theology on Tap 02/04. Needs a bigger space for meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Akron Roman Catholic Home Educators ("ARCHE")- Had a big turn out for their college credit plus informational meeting. Will be having a family dance on 02/02.
Hannah	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● <p style="text-align: center;">St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏</p>