



Newsletter

Summer 2019

St. Sebastian Parish School is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year. While the parish was established in July of 1928, with early Masses held at the Rankin School gym, the school did not open until the fall of 1929. For the first few months, the Sisters of the Humility of Mary operated the school in a Knights of Columbus building on West Market Street. Earlier in 1929 the parish began construction of a combined church and school building. The school portion of the building was completed first, with classes starting on Nov. 1. The church was completed soon after, with the first services held in what is now Zwisler Hall on Nov. 28, 1929.



Since its establishment 90 years ago, St. Sebastian Parish School has been home to more than 5,800 students and maintains a proud tradition of excellence in academics in a Christ-centered environment. Many activities are planned in honor of the school's 90th anniversary, including the Project Spruce Up effort to renovate the school hallways and stairwells, a new website for the school and parish, a classroom improvement initiative, a new statue of St. Sebastian for the school, and a Roaring '20s theme for the annual Spectacular fundraiser. The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is also hosting a "Come Home for the 90th" event Nov. 29. We invite everyone (alumni, parents, teachers and friends of St. Sebastian Parish School) to join in the anniversary celebrations at this event, where you can enjoy music, refreshments, school tours and reconnecting with the St. Sebastian community.

Come Home for the 90th!

Friday, November 29, 2019
7:00 p.m. Zwisler Hall
Tours from 7:30 - 8:00 p.m.

\$5.00 per person
Music, Light refreshments
All are welcome!

Please RSVP by November 15th
to Kathy Holaday at 330.836.2233 x113
or HoladayK@stsebastian.org



We Will Remember

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni. If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330.836.2233 x119 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

(February, 2019 through July, 2019)

✠ Please keep these friends in your prayers ✠

Mary Reiheld Gleisinger '41, May 2, 2019
Patricia Karg Champe '44, February 2, 2019
Joan Baumgardner Magrini '45, June 8, 2019
Mary Lou Salber Fritz '47, April 16, 2019
Mary Lou Newman Massey '47, March 11, 2019
Timothy J. Rauh, Sr. '47, July 4, 2019
Sandra Hollander Carpenter '49, June 15, 2019
Leo "Mike" Riegler '50, April 2, 2019
Rosemarie Krimmer Adamo '53, July 2, 2019
Patricia Ahern '55, July 17, 2019

Isabelle Reymann '56, June 6, 2019
Catherine Rooney Moone '57, May 20, 2019
Susan Dye Lavery '66, February 18, 2019
Robert A. Remmel '66, February 28, 2019
Justin M. Stuhldreher '66, March 29, 2019
Lois Reischman Brody '72, July 1, 2019
Mary Elizabeth Bachmann Frisbie '74, March 22, 2019
Karen Coyne Volpe '74, July 26, 2019
James L. Amer '75, May 17, 2019
Michael J. Abbott '98, May 11, 2019



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
FOR THE 2020
SPECTACULAR
ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND**

We invite all alumni to attend

the St. Sebastian Spectacular on February 22, 2020. Join us for this special evening where the Roaring '20s theme will take you back to 1929, our school's inaugural year. During the night you will enjoy appetizers, festive beverages, a sit-down dinner, the very popular dessert dash, and both a live and silent auction. We would really love for our alumni to come and celebrate with us! Gather your classmates or your siblings and parents and reserve a table of eight for a fun night of reminiscing while helping support the bright future of our school.

If you are unable to attend, we would still appreciate any support you can give:

- Become an event sponsor
- Donate an item to the live or silent auctions
- Make a monetary donation
- Place an ad in the auction program

Over the past 16 years, the Spectacular has raised nearly \$1.1 million for our school. These dollars are used to help keep tuition affordable for every student as well as pay for investments in school technology. Proceeds have also supported special projects, such as the school's innovation lab, computer lab, school garden, arts & culture program, classroom improvements, and most recently, an endowment to strengthen the future of our parish school.

If you are able to help or would like an invitation mailed to you, please send an email to the event committee (SpectacularS@stsebastian.org) or contact Michelle Traverse Huber '78 (330-836-2233 x135, huberm@stsebastian.org). You can also visit the Spectacular page on the school website (www.stsebastian.org/school) for forms and additional information. All gifts are tax deductible, and all gifts support every student and help ensure St. Sebastian Parish School's success in the future.

Alumni Updates

Class of 1960

Denis Foerst and his wife Barbara live in Jasper, GA. He has four kids: Benjamin (43), Stephanie (39), Renata (36) and Matthew (36). His career included jobs with The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, the U.S. EPA, and Hewlett-Packard/Agilent. Denis writes, "I'm now retired ... we have three grandchildren that need spoiling. We moved to the North Georgia Mountains, and I am having the time of my life." Denis remembers that when he graduated in 1960, the principal was Sister Mary Evangelist, and the pastor was of course Monsignor Hilary Zwisler.

Can you help us identify the students in this photo?

Denis Foerst also sent in this picture taken in the parking lot, but he could not identify the students. If you can help, please email the Alumni Association at alumni@stsebastian.org



Classes of 1963-1973

A walk down memory lane ... Three McGeehan siblings – pictured here in the current school library: **Dan McGeehan** (Class of 1970), **Nancy McGeehan** (Class of 1969) and **Beth McGeehan** (Class of 1973) – visited and toured St. Sebastian Parish during the 2019 Memorial Day weekend. They shared many fond memories and fun stories of their days on campus. Although these three siblings did not graduate from St. Sebastian, they attended the majority of their grade school years at our school. Their sisters, **Eileen McGeehan** (Class of 1965) and **Patricia McGeehan Meringo** (Class of 1963), did graduate before the family relocated.

Class of 1968

Sandra Pianalto was honored by the University of Akron's College of Business Administration as a 2019 recipient of the Dr. Frank Simonetti Distinguished Business Alumni Award. Sandy, who served as the 10th president and CEO of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland from 2003-2014, is an economist who currently serves on the board of directors of Eaton, FirstEnergy, Smucker's, Prudential, and University Hospitals Health System, and she is Executive-in-Residence in the College of Business at the University of Akron.

Class of 1970

Tim DelMedico and his wife Jennifer were the chairs for the 2019 Gala for Stan Hywet Hall & Gardens on June 21. The 24th annual event drew 550 guests who enjoyed this year's theme of "A Chef's Canvas." *Photo courtesy of Michael Weiss/St. Sebastian Parish School.*



Class of 1972

Anne Najeway Vainer wrote to say, "The Class of 1972 was sad to hear about the passing of our 4th-grade teacher, Mrs. Jean Marie Latham, who passed away February 7, 2019. Mrs. Latham taught 4th grade for 24 years. She and Mrs. Mary Pat McFee, another long-time St. Sebastian teacher who also regrettably passed away this year on July 15, 2019, were happy to attend many of our class reunions. They both joined us on our Friday night gatherings at the Barley House. There were many pictures, stories and laughs over a drink or two! On Saturdays, we looked forward to seeing them at church and Zwisler Hall with more stories and pictures! Mrs. Latham said we were her favorite class, and she was one of our favorites too! I am lucky enough to have known Mrs. McFee not only as my 8th-grade teacher, but also as a family friend my entire life: picnics, vacations and many birthdays and special occasions. We will miss them both at our next reunion."

Do you keep in touch with your former teachers or staff from St. Sebastian Parish School?

We would love to invite them to the "Come Home for the 90th" event on Nov. 29. Please send any contact information you have to alumni@stsebastian.org. Thank you!

Alumni Updates (continued)

Class of 1973

Marc Lee Shannon released a new single in May called “Friends Like You,” which was co-written with Ryan Humbert. It is the first of two songs scheduled for release in 2019. Marc is also a new columnist for The Devil Strip, Akron’s weekly newspaper for arts, music and culture. Marc’s column, Sober Chronicles, shares stories of living everyday life substance-free.



Class of 1977

Beth Buzzi Dupree currently lives in Wilmore, KY. She has a private counseling/psychotherapy practice in Lexington and also practices equine assisted therapy at Hooves of Hope in Lancaster, KY. Beth shared that her three kids and their spouses and six grandchildren live in Kentucky and Texas. She and her husband have lived in Wilmore since returning from being missionaries in Japan for many years.

Class of 1985

Kevin Kovalchik and his wife Elizabeth live in Suwanee, GA, where he works as an attorney. They have four children: Cole (21), Mary Kate (17), Ella (14), and Sophie (12). Kevin said he was looking forward to keeping in touch with St. Sebastian after he came across our website and sent in his updated contact information. Kevin says, “We moved from Akron before I graduated, but St. Sebastian’s was instrumental in preparing me for all education levels that have followed.”

Send Us Your Alumni Updates

We love to hear from our alumni! Please drop us a line and let us know what you are doing. Newly married? New baby? Get together with fellow alums? Email Anne Morgan Dennée '85 at alumni@stsebastian.org or fill out the online form at alumni.stsebastian.org/contact.html.

Reconnect With Classmates

Would you like to get in touch with your classmates? The Alumni Association is happy to help our alumni reconnect. Contact us at alumni@stsebastian.org.

Class of 2004

Jonathan Carbone completed his 10th year in the U.S. Coast Guard this past September. He is stationed in Alameda, California just outside of San Francisco. In his spare time, Jonathan coaches football at San Rafael High School. His wife of five years, Staci, is a middle school math teacher.



Classes of 2014-2018

Theresa Hagey '17 (bottom, 2nd from left), **Natalie Tobin '16** (middle, far right) and **Alex Phillip '15** (top, 3rd from left) competed for St. Vincent-St. Mary High School at the state Division II track and field meet in May. The STVM girls team took second place overall in Division II. Natalie and Theresa were members of the 4x800M relay team that placed 2nd, and Theresa took 6th place in the 1600M race. Alex Phillip earned an individual medal for placing 6th in the 3200M race.

Class of 2019

New alumni **Andy and Ella Thomas** are not only the third generation in their family to graduate from St. Sebastian Parish School, but they are also the third set of twins in the extended Thomas/Wright family to graduate from St. Sebastian! Andy and Ella are the twin children of **Joe Thomas** and his wife Monica. Joe and his twin Molly Thomas Sicking graduated in 1987. Joe’s aunts, twins **Jean Wright Buchannan** and **Joni Wright** (sisters of Joe’s mom **Marie Ann Wright Thomas '52**) graduated from St. Sebastian in 1956. That’s quite a long and unique legacy!





90th ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI & FRIENDS

PROJECT SPRUCE UP!



Alumni Lead Hallway Improvement Effort in Honor of the Parish School's 90th Anniversary

As the parish wrapped up its 90th anniversary celebrations in 2018, the Foundation began working with a group of alumni on a project honoring the 90th anniversary of St. Sebastian Parish School, which was established in 1929, one year after the parish.

Project Spruce Up aims to improve the condition and appearance of the hallways that our alumni once roamed. The hallways and stairwells are an important point of first impression of the school. As one of the few areas of the school building that is used by every student, teacher, staff person, and visitor, the hallway floors and stairwells have experienced significant wear and tear and are in need of a major "spruce up."

Phase 1: Floors (\$50,000): Install polymer epoxy coating on all 7,150 square feet of the hallway flooring in the school.

Phase 2: Stairwells and Walls (\$50,000-\$100,000): Repair/upgrade the stairwells and the painted portions of the hallway walls.

Any funds raised in excess will be used to strip and clean the brick portions of the walls. All alumni, alumni parents, parishioners and friends of St. Sebastian are invited to contribute to Project Spruce Up! **As of July, 2019, the Foundation has received 75 donations totaling over \$29,000! Thank you to everyone for supporting this anniversary project!** Donations are being accepted throughout 2019. We hope you can help us meet our goal!

How to Donate to Project Spruce Up

- For online donations, visit: foundation.stsebastian.org
- For donations by mail, please mail checks (made payable to the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation) to:
St. Sebastian Parish Foundation, Attn: Project Spruce Up
476 Mull Avenue, Akron, OH 44320

Please feel free to contact Director of Development Kathy Holaday if you have any questions at: holadayk@stsebastian.org or 330-836-2233 ext. 113.



Alumni Association Welcomes 45 Members of the Class of 2019

On May 30, 2019, forty-five new graduates from St. Sebastian Parish School joined the ranks of our more than 5,800 alumni. These students earned more than \$575,000 in scholarship dollars to continue their Catholic education in high school. High school choices included St. Vincent-St. Mary (28), Archbishop Hoban (7), Firestone (5), Walsh Jesuit (3), Our Lady of the Elms (1) and St. Ignatius (1). Congratulations to the Class of 2019, and welcome to the Alumni Association!

Several members of the graduating class are second or third generation graduates, including: Mary Hanlon (father Aron Hanlon '84), Kathryn Kastelic (father John Kastelic '82), Joey Latrashe (mother Mary Graves-Latrashe '80), Madison Najeway (father John Najeway '84 and grandmother Pat Long Najeway '44), Faith Sturm-Poth (father Adam Sturm '79), twins Ella & Andy Thomas (father Joe Thomas '87 and grandmother Marie Ann Wright Thomas '52), and Jason Walter (mother Theresa Seikel Walter '84 and grandparents Lewis Seikel '49 and Kathy McDonald Seikel '52).



Shane Adamczyk	Andrew Jewell	Elizabeth Saliga
David Armbrust	Isabella Jewell	Elizabeth Savitski
Joseph Beynon	Gavin Jones	Elizabeth Schlueter
Matthew Bobbitt	Kathryn Kastelic	Faith Sturm-Poth
Camille Ciarlariello	Olivia Kindbom	Andrew Thomas
Lucas Cody	Joseph Latrashe	Ella Thomas
Anna Cook	Noah Meyer	Francesca Vaccaro
Olivia DeKatch	Maya Mickey	Sophia Walker
Emma Doucet	Madison Najeway	Jason Walter
Zed Edgar	Olivia Ovall	Dillon Weems
Taylor Foster	Julia Pentasuglio	Ethan Wyszynski
Gabriella Goostree	Isabella Rinz	Fiona Yori
Jack Hanchin	Mara Rizopulos	Paul Younker
Mary Hanlon	Elaina Rooney	Zachary Zahoranski
Maxwell Haslinger	John Paul Rybka	Anna Zografakis

Congratulations 2019-2020 Scholarship Winners!

Congratulations to the 18 parish school students who earned scholarships worth \$11,000 for the 2019-20 school year. The winners were recognized at a March 28 Scholarship Mass sponsored by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. The awards will be applied to tuition for the next school year at St. Sebastian Parish School, or in the case of eighth-grade students, at a local Catholic high school. Also at the Mass, the students offered up the special intentions of parishioners and alumni.



St. Sebastian Parish and School 2019 scholarship winners are pictured here with Principal Anthony Rohr (top, far left) and Pastor Fr. John Valencheck (top, far right).

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Scholarships

Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship:

Shilo Davenport, Phoebe Marshall, Kofi Powers

The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Anna Zografakis

GOAL Scholarship (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders):

Peter de Boer, Isabelle Mastromatteo,

Clare Rothkopf, and Alexis Skovira

Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: Lola Hall, Grace Mahaney

The John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Sophia Walker

Additional St. Sebastian Parish Scholarships

HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship:

Taylor Foster, Jason Walter

The Knights of Columbus Council #14255

Reverend Terry Peacock Scholarship:

Andrew Thomas, Sophia Walker

The Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship:

Ethan Wyszynski

The St. Irene Principal's Scholarship:

David Armbrust, Mia Ross