

ALUMNI ARROW

NEWSLETTER

FALL 2025

FROM THE ARCHIVES: BOY SCOUT TROOP 96 1943 INVESTITURE, 1944 CHARTER

St. Sebastian's Boy Scout Troop 96 is still going strong more than 80 years after it was established in 1943. Among the many treasured items in the parish archives are the pictures included here from the troop's establishment. The caption to the photo at right reads: "FIRST INVESTITURE CEREMONY, TROOP #96, 11-28-1943. Patrol Leader Bob Humphrey leads Thomas Hamlin to Altar to take Scout Oath." Both of these Boy Scouts graduated from St. Sebastian School: Bob Humphrey in 1944 and Thomas Hamlin in 1945. Below is a group picture, labeled "Presentation of Charter to Troop 96 – May 14, 1944." We have added graduation years for those in the alumni database. Please see the Alumni Updates page to view a third Boy Scout photo from the archives.



Contributions to the parish archives are welcome! Please contact the Archive Team at archives@stsebastian.org.



First Row: Thomas Savalan '45, John Seitz '45, Larry Coyle '45, Robert Knapp '44, Leo Fouche '46, Stephen Berry '45, Joseph Griggs '46, Thomas Hamlin '45

Second Row: Thomas Giffels '46, Robert Conway '44, Larry Humphrey '45, Charles Albert '45, Michael Leahy '46, Robert Fetzer, George DeLuca '45, David Blank '46, John Griffin '46, Edwin Reymann '45

Third Row: W.A. Seib, ASM, David Schreiner '46, James Hamlin '43, John Hogan '45, James Gillen '43, Rev. B.F. Flynn, Chaplain, Michael Stiller '47, Jack Henry, SM, William Seib '45, Thomas Kraus '43, Richard Goehler '44, William Stiller '44, M.V. Griffin.

ALUMNI UPDATES

CLASSES OF 1940s AND 1950s



This picture of Boy Scout Troop 96 lists only the photographer: Charles Mayer Studios, Akron, Ohio. The parish archives team dates it as sometime in the 1940s. If you can identify anyone, and/or if you would like a digital copy (you can zoom in on the faces to help with identification), please email us at alumni@stsebastian.org.

CLASS OF 1973

Bill Burke and his wife Julie live in Key Largo, FL. They have two children, Lauren (35) and Taylor (32). Bill works in management for Fire Dex, which recently celebrated 40 years in business. Fire Dex is based in Medina, OH, with factories in two other states and Mexico, and the gearwash division has 15 locations coast to coast. Bill says, "I joined the company as a salesperson in 1984 when the company was one year old with less than a million in sales and 12 associates. Today with 750 associates and over \$150 million in revenue, it has been an awesome ride."

CLASS OF 1976

Steven Pinkerton lives in Akron and works in the field of engineering. He has a three-year-old Samoyed dog and enjoys spending time in the local Metro Parks.

CLASS OF 1976 - 50TH REUNION - SEPT. 2026

SAVE THE DATE for Class of 1976 50th reunion for Saturday 9/26/26 in Zwisler Hall. The current planning team is Jim Pianalto (jimpianalto@gmail.com), Jim Meadows (jmeadows@lakemetroparks.com) and Kathy Madigan Hager (khager911@hotmail.com). We welcome anyone who would like to help.

CLASS OF 1986 - 40TH REUNION - JUNE 19-20, 2026

Save the date for our 40th Reunion June 19-20! Plans include a casual meet-and-greet on Friday night, and then Mass, a school tour, and an evening event on Saturday. Please make sure to update your contact information with the Alumni Association (stsebastian.org/school/alumni/update-info) and keep an eye out for details. If you would like to help with planning, please contact Susie Beringer Dix (susiedix@me.com) or Julie Bachmann Vesco (vesco@neo.rr.com).

CLASS OF 1995 CELEBRATES 30TH REUNION

The Class of 1995 celebrated their 30th reunion on September 20, 2025. More than twenty Terriers and their families gathered for the day-long event, which included a 5k fun run, a picnic at Forest Lodge, and a tour of the school provided by Kathy Holaday of the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. In the evening, classmates held a get-together at Brighten Brewery (thank you to brewery owner, Tom Robbins, St. Sebastian Class of 1997, for his hospitality!). Good times were had by all, and plans are already in the works for the 40th! Pictured at right, re-living the good old days of playing on the tire during recess, are (front) Chris Mingle, Emmet Leahy, Joe Pierson, Tona Boyd, Nicole Malyj Daone; (back) Chris Baker, Paul Kilian.



The Class of 1995 spent the evening catching up with each other and telling old stories. Pictured above (L to R) are Ted Olsen, Jake Ochsenhirt, Chris Baker, Mike Byrne, Nicole Malyj Daone, Tricia Bedell Rothkopf, Paul Kilian, Nick McDermott, David Durant, Tona Boyd, Adam Francesconi, Lauren Hamad Petz, Katie Redle Peter, Emmet Leahy, Brad Jett, Joe Pierson, Chris Barnes, and Nate Davis.

CLASS OF 1996

Annie Ochsenhirt McFadden was promoted to president and CEO of United Way of Summit and Medina in June after serving in this role as an interim appointment. Annie is the first woman to lead this organization.

CLASS OF 2001

Max Bedell is now working as an attorney in Akron at Champion & Co. LPA, located in Wallhaven. The firm specializes in estate planning, probate, and property law.

SEND US YOUR MEMORIES & UPDATES!

We love to hear from our alumni! Do you have a story about:
Performing in Z-Hall? Playing on the tire at recess?

Do you know the history of how/why the tire was installed?

Do you have a new job, spouse, child
or a new address or phone number?

Share your updates/memories by

Email: alumni@stsebastian.org

Phone: Kathy Holaday, 330-836-2233 x113

Online form: stsebastian.org/school/alumni/contact

CLASS OF 2019

Elizabeth Schlueter recently spent six weeks in Poland with the John Paul II International Fellowship program. She studied psychology and philosophy through the lens of Saint John Paul II. Elizabeth is pictured here (2nd from left) in Warsaw with friends from Hillsdale College. Upon her return, Fr. Valencheck asked Elizabeth to write a short article. Here are some excerpts:

Our group went to Sunday Mass in [a] small wooden church in the heart of Zakopane, a mountain town in southern Poland that JP II often frequented on his hiking excursions. We were all struck by the infusion of culture and faith: The locals wore their age-old colorful mountain garb and incorporated their traditional music into one of the most reverent liturgies I have participated in. After Mass, this priest addressed the congregation. Switching into English, he beamed at our group and exclaimed, “And to our visitors, welcome!” before proceeding to profusely thank us for coming, repeating over and over, “You are always welcome here.” He told us that American pilgrims filled him with hope for the future of our Church because the Americans boldly lived their faith with a profound sense of wonder and reverence ... Now that I am back home, I feel secure in the truth that American Catholicism is thriving. We have our challenges, but our passion, reverence, and revival movements – especially among the youth – are noticed and admired around the world. The world is looking to us, and even more so now with our American pope. When Saint John Paul II became the first Polish pope, he brought his beloved Poland along the path of sanctity with him. Perhaps now Pope Leo and America will follow suit. We are in the Jubilee Year of Hope with the first-ever American pope: who knows what God has in store for our nation.



CLASSES OF 2021-2023

Jacob Dennée '21 was featured in the St. Vincent-St. Mary High School alumni newsletter for his role in hosting a popular faith-based podcast. The “Finding Focus Talks” podcast grew out of conversations about faith among STVM students – conversations they found gratifying and helpful, so they decided to start filming and sharing them online so others could benefit as well. The podcast features these young hosts speaking on difficult topics as well as guests who offer a wide variety of perspectives. Since its founding, the podcast has reached over 6 million



views across various social media platforms. Jacob comments, “No number [of views] can compete with a conversation with a friend who decides that they want to begin or renew their walk with Jesus ... Every interaction is a blessing, and we love to be a part of the way the Lord works in our generation.” Pictured here is recent podcast guest Parris Campbell (OSU football captain and Super Bowl champion, center) with Jacob (far left), and his co-hosts, STVM classmates Nick Wierzbicki, Braden Dunlap, and Noah Angle.

Jude Rothkopf '22 and **Owen Schlueter '22** participated in the St. Vincent-St. Mary High School mission trip to El Salvador in June. They volunteered with Love & Hope Children's Home, assisting at an orphanage, providing food to the local community, and running the Vacation Bible School program at a daycare that provides love, care, and support to children and families affected by poverty. The trip also included memorable outings to attend Masses at Iglesia El Rosario and the Basílica de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Julia Rea '23 has been a student leader/volunteer for The HALO (Hope Always Lives On) Foundation for several years. In June, she joined a small group of high school students and adult volunteers who flew to Asheville, NC to provide support to communities devastated by recent disasters. The HALO Foundation, which had already sent two semi-trucks of medical supplies and food to the area, sent a third shipment of bicycles and cribs, which Julia's group helped deliver in person. Julia is pictured here with Fr. Marcelli (Parochial Vicar at St. Sebastian Parish), who also participated in the trip.



ANNUAL ALUMNI MASS

Saturday, November 29
4:30 p.m. Mass
Live stream available

All alumni and their families are
invited to celebrate Mass at
St. Sebastian Parish Church on the
Saturday after Thanksgiving.

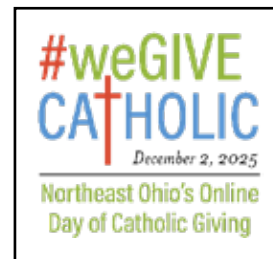
No RSVP required. If you want
to join us virtually, the Mass will be
live-streamed on the parish
YouTube channel:

youtube.com/StSebastianParish

Questions? Please contact Kathy
Holaday at 330-836-2233 x113 or
HoladayK@stsebastian.org.

#WEGIVECATHOLIC: DEC. 2, 2025

St. Sebastian Parish will once again participate in Northeast Ohio's day of Catholic giving, #weGiveCatholic, which falls on Tuesday, December 2, 2025. We are excited to share that this year's effort will support the installation of new playground equipment. You can make a difference with your gift on December 2 at www.wegivecatholic.org. For more details, watch your social media feed and email inbox, or contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 x113 or HoladayK@stsebastian.org.



Thank you to everyone who supported last year's effort, "Creating Welcoming Spaces." More than 130 people donated \$27,047, which was used to: 1) upgrade both the bride's room and the family quiet room and 2) install speakers in the church narthex, bride's room, and usher's room. All of these spaces in our church are now indeed more welcoming, bright, and functional, and we are so grateful for the generosity of the St. Sebastian community!

GRANDPARENTS DAY 2025

St. Sebastian Parish School welcomed hundreds of loved ones on Grandparents Day in October, including several alumni grandparents! They attended Mass, enjoyed refreshments, and completed fun activities in the classrooms. Pictured here (L to R) with their grandchildren are Meg Witt Lee '74 and her husband Larry; Jim and Karen LeFevre Obraza '68; and Dave Tschantz '66 and his wife Mary.



Stay Connected Online

SCHOOL Facebook: St. Sebastian Parish School; Instagram: @st.sebastianschool

PARISH Facebook: St. Sebastian Parish; Instagram: @st.sebastianparish,

YouTube: youtube.com/@StSebastianParish/videos

++ We Will Remember ... ++

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni (approx. mid-June. to Oct. 1, 2025). 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.

Rita Reymann Czarnecki '53, July 31, 2025

Barbara Singleton Alesch '60, July 25, 2025

Thomas J. Frey '60, July 19, 2025

Michael F. Magyary '66, July 18, 2025

Charles P. Luby '67, September 5, 2025

Michael D. Starinki '68 May 16, 2025

Joseph P. Horvath '75, May 28, 2025

Michael J. Maloy '76, August 30, 2025

Andrew J. Burge '06, September 4, 2025

CLASS OF 1975 CELEBRATES 50TH REUNION

The Class of 1975 enjoyed a full weekend of festivities to celebrate its 50th reunion over the Fourth of July weekend. The events were pulled together over many months by a planning committee of Todd Adams, Ray Boshara, Rob McCarty, Jackie DelMedico Paparella, Teresa Kloss Thompson, and Mike Waters.

On Friday, July 4, a small group gathered for an icebreaker social over drinks at Towne Tavern in Copley. Some classmates stayed well into the evening and watched the fireworks from the parking lot. On Saturday morning, thirteen classmates along with some of their family members gathered at St. Sebastian for a tour of the school provided by Anne Morgan Dennée '85, who works for the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation. After the tour, the group caught up with each other at a long lunch at Akron Family Restaurant.

The main reunion event on Saturday night at Fairlawn Country Club drew a wonderful crowd of 46 people. Alumni and their guests enjoyed appetizers, drinks and desserts. But mostly, said Jackie DelMedico Paparella, the night was spent exchanging hugs and stories with one familiar face after the next. Jackie added that the whole weekend was incredible, and she received many emails and text messages from classmates about how wonderful it was to see everyone after 50 years.

Women's photo (front L-R): Marion Kraemer Treece, Josie Majdanik Whisler, Teresa Kloss Thompson, Tracey Fisher Gilbride, Anne St. John-Kodish; (back): Jackie DelMedico Paparella, Terri Stitz Herman, Lisa Comeriato Vetter, Kathy Murphy Saxon, Terese Buehrle Booth, Denise Labut, Ginny Miller McKelvey, Mary Cay Marks Pelot, Katie O'Neil Sutter, Tracey Pier Wathen. Men's photo (front L-R): Todd Adams, Rob McCarty, Jerry Thomas, Dennis O'Connell, Jim Seikel; (back): Ray Boshara, Greg Getzinger, Mike Waters, Pat Conley, Mike Demeter, James Segedy, Joe Taggart, Brian Davis, Greg O'Brien, Tom Wathen (spouse of Tracey), Paul "Pepper" Sullivan.



INTERESTED IN PLANNING A REUNION?

Reunions for individual classes are organized by volunteers from the class.

The Alumni Association is ready to assist you by providing class lists and by promoting the event in our publications. Please contact the Alumni Association at alumni@stsebastian.org.

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation is happy to provide informal tours for reunion groups or alumni at any time! Please contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 x113 or foundation@stsebastian.org.

For more information on reunion planning, visit www.stsebastian.org/school/alumni/events.