



**Angelus Letter
9 March 2023
LETTER #214
St. Frances of Rome**

Dear Parish Family,

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND

Friday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck
Friday Stations of the Cross at 1:45 p.m.
Friday Confessions at 4 p.m.
Friday Stations of the Cross at 7 p.m.

Saturday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Bozek
Saturday Confessions from 9:30-10 a.m.
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. with Fr. Valencheck*

Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck*
Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. with Fr. Bozek*
Sunday Mass at 1 p.m. with Fr. Bede OSB*
Parish Mission at 7 p.m. with Fr. Michael Denk

*** Fr. Michael Denk, the presenter of our Parish Mission, will be preaching at all Masses this weekend.**

PARISH MISSION

This Sunday night begins our Parish Mission. The mission will run three days, Sunday through Tuesday night. Each evening begins at 7 p.m. Come for all three nights or as many as you can make. The Mission is free and open to the public.

The Rev. Michael Denk is a priest of the Diocese of Cleveland and also the founder of The Prodigal Father and author of the book, "Pray 40 Days." If you would like a preview of Fr. Denk or The Prodigal Father, go [HERE](#).

NO CONFESSION ON TUESDAY NIGHT

There will be adoration all day Tuesday, but it will end at 6 p.m. so that we may set up for our Lenten Mission. Please note that there will not be confessions nor benediction this night. I hope to see you just the same at our Mission.

MARY'S LENTEN JOURNEY

This Saturday before the Vigil Mass there will be a special event, A Lenten Journey with Mary. You are invited to experience the Passion of Our Lord through the eyes of His Mother.

It begins at 3:10 p.m. with the praying of the Seven Sorrows Rosary and concludes with Mary's Way of the Cross.

SEMINARY NEWS

Our seminary is celebrating its 175 years of service. As part of their celebration, the whole seminary traveled to Rome for a meeting with Pope Frances. See more on the story [HERE](#).

INTERN

I have been notified that the Parish of St. Sebastian will be home to an intern beginning this summer! Typically, a man who is preparing for ordination will, a couple of years before ordination, spend some time in a parish to get a better idea of how all the training and education being experienced is applied to the daily life to which he is aspiring. We have had a few interns over the past number of years and I look forward to working with a new seminarian especially because I know how welcoming, supportive and helpful all of you are to the seminarians who spend time with us.

LETTER TO THE PARISH

We received this letter to the parish by the organist who performed our last concert:

Just wanted to send my thanks to you, St. Sebastian, and the Akron AGO for inviting and hosting Sunday's recital. I'm honored to have been on your distinguished series, and I truly enjoyed bringing that music to life in such a stunning space and on a marvelous instrument. I was remarking afterwards in the greeting line that your Kegg-Schantz (organ) shows the mark of an excellent builder – complete in its tonal palette yet offering so many surprises (like the vox and that delightful flute on the positif!) Furthermore, the voicing of the pipework is so thoughtful and makes for an outstanding blend in the 'room'.

I was delighted by the audience turnout, but even more so by the audiences' responses afterwards - commenting on the organ's rich colors, their insight into the repertoire, and their adding St. Sebastian to their list of concert series to keep an eye on.

CONCERNING ST. PATRICK'S DAY

Our Bishop has issued a statement on abstaining on St. Patrick's Day which you may read [HERE](#).

No news yet on Good Friday and the Guardians opening game, but after speaking to the Bishop over dinner this past Friday, I wouldn't bet on the possibility of being granted a dispensation for this day any more than I would bet on the Guardians winning the World Series.

KUDOS TO OUR SCHOOL FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS

This past year, Mr. Rohr and a dedicated troupe of teachers applied for the Blue-Ribbon status for our parish school. "The coveted National Blue-Ribbon School award affirms the hard work of students, educators, families, and communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging and engaging content." For more information on this program, go [HERE](#).

The winners of this award for this year will not be known until September. What we do know at this point is that our school qualifies academically to have been able to apply in the first place and that we have since made it to the next level of consideration. Great job team!

On that note: **CONGRATULATIONS** to Elizabeth Schlueter and Elizabeth Saliga, alumni of our parish school and who regularly serve Mass, who have earned first and second highest cumulative grade point averages over seven semesters of high school at St. Vincent - St. Mary High School.

SENATE BILL NO. 11 - PARENT EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM ACT

Here is a brief overview of how this bill could affect you and our parish:

1. SB 11 calls for every Ohio student to be eligible for scholarships of \$5,500 for grades K-8, and \$7,000 for grades 9-12 to be used at any chartered non-public school that accepts the EdChoice scholarships.
2. This enables the state's education formula to support the education of students where their parents want them to attend.
3. All local taxes still stay with the local public district, even if they have fewer students to educate. The scholarship is funded only by the state's share of the funding formula, which is supported by all of our taxes.
4. The bill increases the homeschooling expenses that a taxpayer can claim income tax credit from \$250 to \$2,000 a year.

There are significant benefits to this bill both for our parish, school and for those of you who home school. It should greatly ease the subsidy the greater parish must give to the school while also allowing us to give our hard working, dedicated and talented teachers more competitive pay. Mr. Rohr is already putting into place stringent student application policies so that our school remains Catholic, community oriented and academically strong should this legislation pass.

Go [HERE](#) to read a summary of the bill, documents, status, votes and review committee activity on this bill.

Go [HERE](#) for an easy way to send a note to your senator to encourage passage of this bill.

MULL AVENUE CONSTRUCTION UPDATE IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

On Tuesday morning, a meeting was convened between The City of Akron, Kenmore Construction and St. Sebastian Parish to discuss changes to the calendar of the Mull Avenue construction project. This news is a bit more up to date than the bulletin information since that is written and sent to the printers on Monday.

Starting this Monday, March 13th, work will begin on the water main project along the north side (Forest Lodge side) of Mull. It will begin at the circle and progress to the east. This will require a trench, done in sections, that will take up about 4' of the north side of Mull Avenue. East bound traffic should be maintained throughout this part of the project. This means that there should be **no change for drop off or pick up for the school. Furthermore, parking and traffic for Sunday Masses should be maintained.** We have been asked to warn our school parents who pick up their students along Mull Avenue to be aware that, **although the road may look as though it is closed off**, you may still come that way to pick up your student. **Please drive slowly and attentively since it is a work zone.**

The big change will come with Easter Monday. The tear up of Mull Avenue was to begin immediately, but we were able to successfully negotiate having this part of the job held off until after Easter. Beginning the Monday after Easter, Mull Avenue will be ripped up for a period of about three months and be completely closed off to traffic. We are currently working on a plan to assist us through this difficult period. Please keep an eye out for access, parking and student drop off/pick up plans which will be coming soon.

We were told the delay in the beginning of the water line project and the speed up of the paving project was largely a result of labor issues. The upside is that with this new schedule, though the worst of it will take place during the school year, it is currently estimated to be completed earlier than originally anticipated and at the end, not only will we have a beautiful, new, brick road, but new sidewalks, lighting, signage and greenery.

The length of the project has also been expanded. Originally ending at the end of "Y" in the road at the far side of Schneider Park, the project will now extend to Clemmer Avenue.

For those who are interested, the project is largely being headed up by Kenmore Construction. The brick surface will be laid by Vizmeg Landscape. As of this writing, we are still anticipating our school brick drive to be replaced

the week after Easter.

FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

I locked myself out of the records room this week so there is no letter!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

TO GIVE TO THE PARISH: <https://www.stsebastian.org/donate>

TO GIVE TO THE FOUNDATION: <https://www.stsebastian.org/foundation/donate>

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Please keep all of our sick and distressed in your prayers:

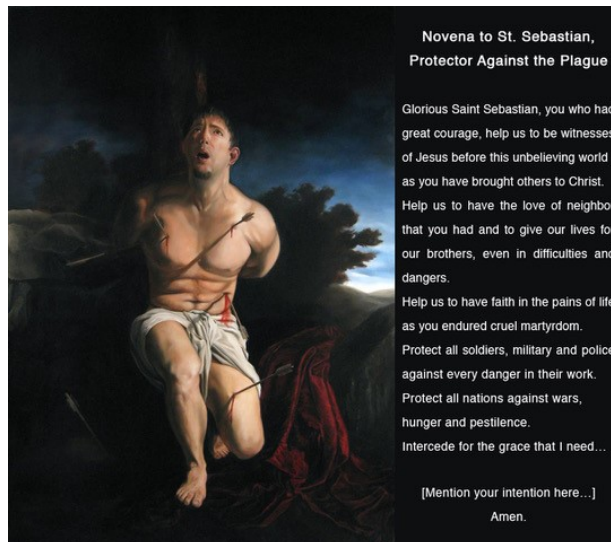
Annette Bailey, Jill Buffa, Regina Buhalak, Dan Canale, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Jo Cooney, Nancy Cotter, Anthony D'Attoma, Tammy Davis, Marjorie DeLuca, Mary Pat Doorley, Rosemarie George, Rita Buhalak Gossford, Bill Heising, Robert Hickey, John and Terry Hogan, Ann Hubiak, Carson Hutzell, James Hutzell, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Candace Kidd, Fred Kovacic, Jean Labate, Frank Livigni, John Marckel, Myrna Marple, Marlene McFadden, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, Keith Pecek, Julius Peters, Beverly & Mike Preston, Bob Rader, Mary Ricks, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Betty Sarich, Michael Schnetzer, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Keith Wisberger and Ann Zsembik.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck

St. Sebastian, pray for us.

St. Frances of Rome, Pray for us.



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