



**Angelus Letter  
21 March 2024  
LETTER #267**

Dear Parish Family,

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND**

**Friday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Bozek**  
**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. Valencheck**  
**Saturday Final Confessions before Easter at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. with Fr. Bozek**

**Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. with Fr. Bozek**  
**Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck**

**PASSIONTIDE AND HOLY WEEK**

Please keep an eye on our liturgical schedule as services and times may vary from our typical schedule.

**Saturday, March 23rd:**  
Final confessions before Easter at 9:30 a.m.

**Tuesday, March 26th:**  
No confessions due to the Chrism Mass

**Maundy Thursday, 28th:**  
No morning Mass  
Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7 p.m.  
Adoration until 11 p.m.

**Good Friday, March 29th:**  
No morning Mass  
No confessions  
Family Stations of the Cross at Noon  
Good Friday Service at 3 p.m.

**Holy Saturday, March 30th:**  
No morning Mass  
No confessions  
Blessing of Foods at 1 p.m.  
Easter Vigil at 9 p.m.

**Easter Sunday, March 31st:**  
Mass at 9 a.m.  
Mass at 11 a.m.

**HOLY FACE RELIC**

Veneration of the Holy Face Relic will take place after Masses on Palm/Passion Sunday, March 24th. A special one-hour presentation on the Holy Face will begin at 12:15 p.m. "The original Holy Face of Jesus engraved images which include a papal seal and certificate of authenticity, are in a relic class of their very own. The certificate verifies that the image has been touched to Veronica's Veil, the True Wood of the Cross, and the Lance that pierced Christ's side. Since these images were touched to the instruments of Our Lord's Passion, which were drenched in His Blood, they have therefore been touched to the Blood of Christ, and so are considered to be 'Living Images of Jesus Christ'."

**YOU ARE INVITED TO THE CHRISM MASS**

On Tuesday, March 26th at 7 p.m. at our Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist in downtown Cleveland on the corner of East 9th Street and Superior, there will be the annual celebration of the **Chrism Mass by Bishop Edward Malesic** along with most of the priests and deacons of the Diocese. At this Mass, all the holy oils that are used for baptism, confirmation, ordination, anointing of the sick and consecrating churches and altars will be blessed for use throughout the diocese over the next year. Also at this Mass, the priests renew their priestly vows and promises. You are invited to this two-hour Mass. I recommend showing up early to get a seat! It may also be viewed on our diocesan website [HERE](#).

**HOLY OILS**

In preparation for the Chrism Mass, the remaining holy oils at our parish, (oil of the sick, oil of the catechumens and holy Chrism) must be properly disposed. Our chief sacristan, Karen Spangler, will collect all of the oils out of the ambry (the place where the oil stocks are kept) and burn them. Then the stocks will be carefully cleaned and shined up to receive the new oils that will be blessed by the Bishop at the Chrism Mass.

### BLESSING OF FOODS

It may have started as a Slavic tradition, but it has spread throughout much of the Church, and you are invited to take part in it at **St. Sebastian Parish on Holy Saturday at 1 p.m.** For more information on this tradition, go [HERE](#).

### RICE BOWLS

Time to turn in your Rice Bowls! Boxes will be at the doors beginning this weekend. You can also drop them off at the Parish Office.

### ST. SEBASTIAN SPECTACULAR

Our parish school's largest fundraiser is fast approaching on Saturday, April 20th. A fun evening with live entertainment, delicious food, festive cocktails, and a live and silent auction. If you would like to attend the event, click here to purchase tickets <https://one.bidpal.net/sebastianspectacular/welcome>

### WORK AROUND ST. SEBASTIAN SQUARE

Work on the rectory should be finished on Wednesday, March 20th. Over the past month, workers have repaired plaster and painted in the church, Monsignor Zwisler Hall and the rectory. Decades of damage have been repaired and made to look like new.

Weather has slowed down progress on the repair of our slate walkways between the rectory and school. Wet conditions have put a halt to their labors for the past week. Hopefully that will pick up again soon. Please pray for all our workers!

### PICTURES

The first picture is of all of our Foundation Scholarship winners. There were over 60 scholarships awarded this year! Way to go Terriers! The other two pictures are of the seminary pre-theology class that came to St. Sebastian Parish this past Monday for a class on Art and Spirituality followed by a fine dinner prepared by Marcy Smith!





#### FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

With the current opportunities coming from funding from the state for families to send their children to Catholic schools, there is a concern in some circles that we will try to stuff as many students as we can into the school in order to take advantage of the financial opportunity. That is not the intension. In fact, we have considered our school "full" though not at capacity. Our first priority is to give families of parishioners of St. Sebastian Parish a superior and Catholic education and after that, extending this opportunity to others who would make a good fit at the school up to the number of students we believe is our optimum number which, as stated above, we are already pretty much hitting.

That being said, in 1952 there was a concern with overcrowding in the Diocese of Cleveland Schools. 88,244 students were enrolled in Catholic schools. A November 4th, 1952 letter from the Superintendent of Catholic Schools declared that the "reports of enrollment reveal serious, indeed harmful overcrowding." This was placing "an insupportable and even inhuman burden on too many of our Sisters."

"When the number of pupils exceeds 50 per room, provisions should be made to divide the class. Under no circumstances is a teacher to have over 60 pupils." In that same year, St. Sebastian Parish School reported having 547 students without a class lower than first grade. There were 12 teachers, 9 religious and 3 lay, making a reported ratio of 46 to 1! This was not even the all-time top enrollment at the school. All schools, including public schools, were being stretched to the limit under the load. Teachers and space were limited. Fortunately, we are much better equipped today for the educating of our youth.

Attached to the above statistics, there was a list of 31 students who didn't show up on the first day of school. Brennan, Firestone, Iacomini were among the family names listed along with "last known addresses." It became apparent that many had moved, and some had changed schools to the Elms, Holy Family, St. Peter or Copley.

## 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:

Julie Acus, Gary Arman, Annette Bailey, Irene Berger, Jill Buffa, John Buhalak, Regina Buhalak, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Jo Cooney, Nancy Cotter, Peggy Jo Cybulski, Anthony D'Attoma, Marjorie DeLuca, Mary Katherine Dennis, Deanna Ferris, Kaylee Gains, Rosemarie George, Kenneth Gessford, Rita Buhalak Gessford, John and Terry Hogan, Ann Hubiak, Carson Hutzell, James Hutzell, Carolyn Jeske, Charise Kasper, Janet Kendrick, Candace Kidd, Fred Kovacic, Jean Labate, Frank Livigni, Mary Loftus, Myrna Marple, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Toni Morlan, Betty O'Hara, Ronald O'Hearn, Beverly & Mike Preston, Bob Rader, Mabel Randall, Mary Ricks, Jeanne Sabet, Aaron Salisbury, Betty Sarich, Kim Sarich, Denise Schmidt, Michael Schnetzer, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Oscar Teves, Brian Walsh, Keith Wisberger and Ann Zsembik.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck

St. Sebastian, pray for us.

St. Sebastian Parish | 476 Mull Ave, Akron, OH 44320

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