

Pulse of the Parish March

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ushers: No updates ● Collection Counters: No updates ● Socials: No updates ● Music Ministries: Heading toward Holy Week! Looking forward to Easter and the Chrism mass.
Symon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Young adult/youth ministries: Keith reported things to Carrie Rea as she reached out first. I was at Franciscan University to look for possible candidates for youth ministry. We're still searching. We may get an intern to help out this summer. Hopefully, we will know more by this time next month. There has been no progress that I know of on the Young Adult position. ● Evangelization and marriage prep: it's going through some major changes in our diocese, but we don't know exactly what that entails yet. ● Prepare and Enrich: We have five new preparing and enrich couples and we are looking for more. ● Bridge flights: no update yet
Brian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Cutting Gardens: Nothing to report ● Sacristans: Nothing to report ● Film Club: No update ● Boy Scouts: increased attendance +/1 5 close to life rank, 03/27 campout (hiking, fishing, advancement), 04/24 campout, 07/24 summer camp ● Cub Scouts : 03/27 Spring Campout
Katy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foundation: Annual Report – in process; 2024 #weGive “Creating Welcoming Spaces” Updates: New paintings on Bride’s Room wall; 2025 #weGive – Playground donations received \$11,331 from 140 donors; 2026-2027 Scholarship Season— Annual Foundation Scholarship Mass is March 26, 2026 at 8:05 a.m.; Foundation awarded 66 scholarships totaling \$57,900 to students. ● Marketing: No report. ● Finance Council: Church contributions doing well-up 1.5% YTD. Enrollment is going well for '26-'27 school year. The playground replacement project has secured a vendor. So far \$65k has been raised, \$35k more possible from a potential donor and the balance will hopefully be raised at Spectacular for this project. A new principal has been hired for the school. Announcement coming soon. Jazz Fest has been scheduled for June 25, 2026. ● Grounds Crew: No report. ● 100th Anniversary Committee: Group will be meeting on April 1 to begin planning for Summer Festival Weekend. Events planned for Thursday-Saturday. (July 30-August 1)
Tom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Garden: 8th graders will be cleaning up and seeds will be started in the greenhouse soon. ● Good Sam Hunger Center: No Updates ● Archives: No updates ● Athletics: No updates

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Booster Club: 1. Good basketball season – successful participation; some teams made playoffs; had more teams this year than in the past 5-7 years; many young players ● In addition to a plaque and recognition of our Athlete of Character at graduation, the Booster Club has decided to give the recipients a monetary award. This is not being advertised yet but will gain notoriety once it is awarded this year. The purpose is to give students who plan to continue their athletic careers in high school a "head start" to their HS seasons. ● 3. Plans to get new banners for championship seasons are in the works and will be presented to parish staff before the end of the year. Looking to get input from parish members to include past championships that have been lost to time. Also looking to fund a record board for our track team. ● 4. Spring season is underway. Although we haven't been able to field any volleyball teams, our DD and Stars soccer programs are thriving and our track team remains strong.
<p>Barb</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alpha- No activity since the February meeting. The group will next meet after Easter, date TBD. ● Bible Study- Due to work and other commitments, Lori Oakes has stepped away from the group after serving several years as leader. Steve Panzner will be her replacement going forward. They have completed a study of the Prophets and will resume meeting after Easter. ● Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion (EMOC)- Nothing new to report, and we are still seeking recommendations for this ministry. There is a need for additional EMOCs for the 9am Mass, and there are no cups in the cross aisle at the 4:30pm Mass. ● Visiting Extraordinary Ministers- no report ● Mother of Sorrows- Since last month's report, one Mass intention has been scheduled at Guardian Angels. Five more will be scheduled at St. Sebastian when the 2027 Intentions book opens on April 13th. ● Our Mother's Hands- hosted A Lenten Journey with Mary on Friday, March 6th; hosted 65 women at the March 21st Martha's Day Out Women's Retreat, which included Mass, breakfast and lunch, blessings by Fr. Valencheck and Fr. Marcelli, two great speakers, Adoration and Reconciliation, and raffle prizes. The next retreat will be held during Fall 2027 to avoid the competition with other area retreats during Lent. There may be a possible mini-event on that fifth Saturday of Lent. The Vocations Crucifix signups were a success, the next six months in the calendar are filled. Veneration of the Holy Face of Jesus Relic was held after last Sunday's 9am Mass. Plans are in the works to have this year's May Crowning after the 9am Mass on May 3rd (in connection with Donut Sunday), with crowning and procession at ZHall 10:25 to 10:50. It is hoped that this new time will encourage more parishioners from both Masses to participate. There will be a Divine Mercy Presentation & Prayer Service in the afternoon on April 12th. ● St. Vincent DePaul Society- The Diocese SVDP plans to begin financial and procedural audits of each individual SVDP Conference sometime in 2027. To prepare, each Conference is to conduct a self-audit during 2026. ● Sanctuary Society- they are wrapping up the Easter Memorials and will be meeting soon to discuss long term plans. ● West Side Catholic Couples- Plans are moving along for the April 11th Speakers Series featuring Bishop Milesic. The group will be searching for a new book to read during Fall 2027.
<p>Andrew</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Gratitude Letters: ● Rectory Volunteers: We are grateful to all the volunteers helping with the Chrism Mass. Thank you to the Parish Council members for their help. ● Peter Maurin Center: Nothing to report

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● HASA: No Report ● Pre-Cana: No report ● Secular Order of Carmelites: No report ● Faith and Light: No concerns
<p>Carrie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Choir: nothing to report ● JB: - Still looking for teaching staff. School just completed Kdg. screening -they still have openings, if there are students who need their services. Girls on the run has begun. There will be an Easter egg hunt this Saturday at 10 am. ● Band: Band performed in the Akron St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 14. Spring band and choir concert is May 19th. ● Academy: Offering Art classes for K-4 grades beginning in April after Spring Break. The class was filled within the first 3 days of the offering. Two spring recitals will be May 3rd for dance and May 17th for Instruments. ● Youth Groups: Keith went to Steubenville this Wednesday looking for good candidates for the youth minister position, which is also currently listed on the diocesan website. We will be getting 2 interns this summer that will serve from June 1st till August 9th, helping with youth and young adult ministry, marketing, and other jobs. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There will be new altar server training on Monday April 13 at 3 pm for students in 4th grade or older who are interested. ○ VBS will be July 20-24. Registration will be open Easter weekend. They will look for student volunteers. The theme is "The Great Journey with Jesus through the Church Year." ○ Alpha will return in the fall beginning Wednesday Sept. 9th and continuing thru Nov. 18th.Keith would like to invite council members to come and experience Alpha firsthand. ● SAC: nothing to report ● Principal Rohr: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Students will be participating in Keep Akron Beautiful to clean the campus on Friday March 27th to clean the grounds for the Chrism mass ○ The spectacular theme is "A Spectacular Evening in Bloom". Planning is going well, still looking for sponsorships. We have a \$1000 tuition assistance raffle eligible for day school and preschool and the annual bourban basket. ○ We received 150 responses to the winter Parent Pulse Survey. This data likely represents feedback from about half of our school families and provides a meaningful picture of parent perception across the community. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -On the Net Promoter Score question, "How likely are you to recommend us to a friend?", St. Sebastian earned a Net Promoter Score of 68. This score is calculated by subtracting the percentage of detractors from the percentage of promoters. In our survey, 72% of respondents were promoters and only 4% were detractors, resulting in a score of 68. Compared to the national benchmark of 58 for all Parent Pulse schools, this is an outstanding result and a strong indicator of family satisfaction and loyalty. -The highest-rated survey item was parents' satisfaction with the Catholic faith formation their children are receiving, which earned a score of 88. This is especially meaningful in light of another key finding from the survey: when parents were asked the primary reason they chose to enroll at St. Sebastian Parish School, the top response was faith-based environment at 37%, followed closely by academic standards at 33%. Together, these results affirm that families continue to see St. Sebastian as a school where Catholic identity and academic excellence go hand in hand.

	<p>-The lowest-rated item on the survey focused on parents' understanding of their family's financial obligations, including State Scholarships, tuition, and tuition agreements managed by the business office. This item received a score of 79. While still a favorable result overall, it does represent a slight decline from the 83 reported in spring 2025. Because this question was asked again following discussion at the fall Town Hall, the result suggests that continued communication and clarity in this area would be beneficial.</p> <p>-This year's survey also included several questions related to school security, and parent support was overwhelmingly positive. 94% of respondents said they support the presence of uniformed police or security during large school events such as school Masses, Living Rosaries, and Open Houses. 84% said they support the presence of uniformed police or security during playground and recess hours from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Even when asked whether they would still support this if it resulted in a fee or tuition increase, 79% said yes. In addition, although it is not directly a school matter, 89% of respondents said they support the presence of uniformed police or security during CYO events at Byrider, showing that this is an issue families feel strongly about across parish-related settings as well.</p> <p>Overall, the winter Parent Pulse Survey paints a very positive picture of parent perception at St. Sebastian Parish School. Families clearly value the school's Catholic faith formation, strong academic standards, and commitment to student safety. At the same time, the results provide a helpful reminder that continued efforts to communicate clearly about tuition, scholarships, and financial expectations remain important.</p>
<p>Shannon</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moms of Littles: They have attracted many new moms from other parishes who were looking for a Catholic moms group. One of the moms decided to join the preschool. ● Women of St. Sebastian: They are planning 3 popsicles on the playground days at Forest Lodge this summer on June 10th, July 8th and Aug 19th. They are working out the details for a welcoming event for ladies who recently came into the church. ● Lectors: nothing to report ● Rectory Cooks: nothing to report ● St. Sebastian Prayer Warriors: Nothing to report
<p>Chris</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Book Rack: Status quo ● Respect Life: Life Chain in October ● Altar Server Training: Nothing to report. ● Baptism Class: Nothing to report ● Catechist Formation: Nothing to report. ● Donut Sunday: On pause for lent. ● Gabriel Ministry: AV: Knight Sound fixed everything! Like the proverbial Scotsman's kilt, everything is in perfect working order. Great job Knight Sound team! ● Altar Server Scheduling: 30 servers signed up for Easter Triduum. ● Children's Liturgy of the Word: On pause.
<p>Tony</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ARCHE: Park days have begun, also will have students cleaning the church in preparation for the Chrism Mass. ● Homebound Contemplative Prayer Ministry: We have two Eucharistic ministers installed. Setting up a meeting with Father V to explore thoughtful and effective ways to serve the homebound and better respond to their desire for connection and access to the Eucharist. ● PSR: Always hoping for another sub teacher but otherwise all is well. We have been having periodic parent meetings during PSR to encourage faith and discipleship. I would love to see that group gain some new members (even outside of PSR) and continue to thrive in their ministry. A great opportunity before the 11:00 mass on Sundays.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Knights of Columbus: Working on volunteers for the Chrism mass, and planning the 2026 golf outing.
Terry	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <p style="text-align: center;">St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏</p>