



Angelus Letter
28 October 2021
LETTER #143
Saints Simon & Jude

Dear Parish Family,

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND

Friday Mass at 8AM with Fr. Morris
Friday Confessions at 4PM

Saturday Mass at 8AM with Fr. Valencheck
Saturday Confessions at 9:30AM
Saturday Mass at 4:30PM with Fr. Morris

Sunday Mass* at 9AM* with Fr. Morris*
Sunday Mass at 11AM with Fr. Valencheck
Sunday Mass at 1PM with Fr. Paschal OSB

***FATHER MORRIS' LAST MASS AT ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH AS OUR PAROCHIAL VICAR**

Starting Monday, November 1st, Fr. Peter Morris begins his duties at Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Doylestown. There will be a simple reception for Fr. Morris following the 9AM Sunday Mass this weekend. Pastries, coffee and juice will be served in Zwisler Hall. (This has to be thrown together rather quickly as you might imagine.)

This truly is a whirlwind move from our perspective, coming unannounced and so quickly, although the people of Sts. Peter and Paul have been waiting for a pastor since August. A lot of what is expected for a pastor to know is not so much taught at the seminary (they would have to add a few more years to the schooling) but passed on from pastor to pastor and so in this week and a half, I tried to dump as much as I could on poor, unsuspecting Fr. Morris.

I went back through my journals to read about my time of transition from being a parochial vicar at St. Clare to becoming pastor at St. Sebastian Parish and the supportive words my pastor then passed on to me. When I told him that I was being transferred to Akron, he leaned back in his chair and in his most fatherly tone said, "It's not your time yet. Those idiots!"

I am certainly sad that Fr. Morris is leaving, but that sadness is more tolerable with the knowledge, not only by the great need of the people of Doylestown, but also that I believe this to be a great fit both for Fr. Morris and the parish of Sts. Peter and Paul. He will do well and he has a great support structure including all of us at St. Sebastian Parish. Please keep Fr. Morris in your prayers.

WHAT CHANGES CAN BE EXPECTED AT ST. SEBASTIAN

If you remember, when I came here in 2008, St. Sebastian Parish was a one priest parish with Fr. Karg at the helm. In the rectory it was just me, Sebastian (my dog) and an ailing fern. A few months into this assignment, a phone call came in from the diocese asking if we could take on a "baby priest" by the name of Fr. Matthew Pfeiffer. "Don't get used to him," they said, "He is the only priest you will ever have!" That began a long line of priests who have been here: Fr. Swirski, Fr. Leonard, Fr. Kovacina, Fr. Simone and most recently, Fr. Morris.

So, the question is, "Will there be another parochial vicar assigned to St. Sebastian Parish?" It is difficult to say. The parochial vicar who was assigned to St. Francis de Sales moved in last spring, fixed up his room and then was assigned to a Loudonville parish all within three weeks and so far, has not been replaced. The powers that be have stated that, although they keep saying not to expect another priest, they have been assigning one here over the years because you are such a good and supportive parish for these men.

That being said, over the next three years, approximately 37 priests are going to retire. This is good news

and bad news. The bad news is obviously, there will be fewer active priests to assign to parishes. That will significantly cut our chances of receiving a parochial vicar. The good news is that there will be 37 retiring priests who just might like to find a parish at which to celebrate Mass and hear confessions. We shall see. There will also be a good crop of priests ordained this coming spring, so there is a chance that one might be assigned to our parish.

Over the next few months, we will find a few people staying at the rectory. Fortunately, this was all planned before the announcement of Fr. Morris' upcoming move. Fr. Joseph Robinson is coming to stay for a week and will take my Saturday Masses and confessions on November 13th - thank goodness since I was scheduled to do an out of town wedding that day! (God is so good.) During the seminary's Christmas break, we will look forward to welcoming Joe Ho and Charlie Bulger back to St. Sebastian Parish. So, the rectory will continue to be a busy place.

As I write this to you, I am on a short retreat (getting out of Dodge while I still can!) and working on a plan on how we will move forward in the coming months. I do not foresee an interruption to the Mass or confession schedule. I will be informing some places we assist that I will no longer be able to help on certain days due to canonical restrictions on how many Masses a priest may say in one day. There will be duty adjustments for some staff and possibly a new hire or two. There will be new opportunities for you for leadership involvement and to participate in parish happenings and my personal schedule will change to meet new demands. More on that will come out later, as a result from the fruit of this retreat.

As Bishop Lennon said to me when he sent me to St. Sebastian Parish and I now pass on both to you and to Fr. Morris, "It will be tough! But it could be fun!" And Fr. Morris, as it was said to me when I became a first-time pastor, "Stay close to Jesus, prayer and the sacraments and they will in turn assist you in the role He sets out for you of leading, teaching and sanctifying." God bless you Fr. Morris.

CONCERT NOVEMBER 5th

Mr. Scott Montgomery is coming to town to give an **Organ Concert on Friday, November 5th at 7PM** in the parish church. The concert is free and open to the public. This is an especially great opportunity not only to introduce young folks to the instrument and to great music, but to take the opportunity to teach them how to behave at a formal concert.

LETTERS FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

In 1932, a letter came out to pastors informing them that there was a new magazine coming out that would serve the people of the diocese and the bishop wrote that, "I therefore direct that every parish and every parish society subscribe at once to this magazine." This is not unlike our current directives with the Northeast Ohio Catholic Magazine that you should be receiving today.

As the Feast of St. Joseph approached, the Bishop urged prayers be offered to God through his intercession to assist those suffering from the Depression. "Since by Redemption we have become the brothers and sisters of Jesus and the children of Mary, we are today, in truth, members of that Holy Family over which St. Joseph has been placed as guardian and protector."

Today we are still within the "Year of St. Joseph." We still implore him to intercede on our behalf and for our own difficulties that we face today. There is an icon of St. Joseph, painted by Carly (Smith) Politano in one of the shrines on the east side of the church. Maybe consider visiting this icon, especially with your family and offer a prayer for him.

It was reported that in 1932, that over 3,000 children from age 6 to 16 years of age, who attended our Catholic schools, were in urgent need of clothing. The Saint Vincent de Paul Society and the Christ Child Society were both praised in their response to this great need. Both of these organizations continue in our parish and need your involvement! Please consider joining or donating to these worthy and greatly needed organizations.

Interestingly enough, there was also a call to pray for young folks to consider a Church vocation as we are being urged this weekend. There was concern of our youth joining gangs, their growing discontentment in our culture and the progress of "numerous groups . . . trying to win over children to their false philosophy . . . and other destructive propaganda."

As Mark Twain once said, "History doesn't repeat itself, but it often rhymes."

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

Annette Bailey, Marilyn Bohling, Karen Brugmann, Megan Brugmann, Jill Buffa, Regina Buhalak, Dan Canale, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Rita Cummings, Anthony D'Attoma, Marjorie DeLuca, Melane Francis, Rita Buhalak Gossford, Robert Hickey, Phil Hochstetler, John and Terry Hogan, Rich Huber, Ann Hubiak, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Jean Labate, Myrna Marple, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, Keith Pecek, Robert Rader, Mary Ricks, Nancy Ropchock, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Michael Schnetzer, John Schultz, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith and Steve Watral.

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

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck.

St. Sebastian, pray for us.

St. Mary, pray for us.

Saints Simon and Jude, pray for us.



**Novena to St. Sebastian,
Protector Against the Plague**

Glorious Saint Sebastian, you who had great courage, help us to be witnesses of Jesus before this unbelieving world as you have brought others to Christ.

Help us to have the love of neighbor that you had and to give our lives for our brothers, even in difficulties and dangers.

Help us to have faith in the pains of life as you endured cruel martyrdom.

Protect all soldiers, military and police against every danger in their work.

Protect all nations against wars, hunger and pestilence.

Intercede for the grace that I need...

[Mention your intention here...]
Amen.