



Angelus Letter
16 December 2021
LETTER #150

Dear Parish Family,

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND

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

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS WHICH YOU MIGHT WANT KEEP IN MIND:

21 December - Adoration and organ recital at noon. (Final one!)

19 December - St. Sebastian Parish Choir Christmas Concert - 7:30PM

WORK ON ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH

There have been a lot of tradesmen on our property as of late helping to keep our property in good shape. Work continues on the new chiller so that we should be cool and comfortable come next summer. It has been an adventure trying to find the leak in our lower church roof, by the bell tower and the repairs that implies. The six downspouts on the church have been redone. If you look along the roofline, you will see a small section of shiny, new copper pipes. The posts between the rectory garage doors have been repaired. These doors are quite narrow by modern standards and they have been hit a number of times, more than once by side view mirrors that have had to be replaced by their owners! In addition, it took a team of technicians to figure out what was wrong with the internet in the parish offices but that seems to be fixed. I discovered this one day, just before Mass, I went to print my homily and found that my computer would no longer connect to the printer! (One called the other a copycat or something and they started feuding.) A huge thank you to our teams for making all of these necessary improvements, maintenance and upkeep possible!

HOW CATHOLICS TITHE?

At the most recent Parish Pastoral Council, it came up a few times that fellow parishioners were asking, "What is the right amount to tithe to the parish?" And so, it was suggested that an article (which you are currently reading) should be written on the topic and placed in the Angelus Letter and then reprinted in the bulletin letter after the first of the year.

There is a joke that while Protestants tithe, Catholics tip. It became common for the tithe to be about 10% of one's income which, in the Old Testament, represented the amount for a tax or assessment. This has been adopted by many Protestant Churches. The Catholic Church does not hold to a tax or assessment but simply states that it is the responsibility of each Catholic to support the Church and her mission. Therefore, she has developed six guidelines by which an individual Catholic should judge their generosity to their parish.

1. It is to be voluntary.
2. It should be proportionate. (10% is way too much for some and way too little for others.)
3. One's giving should be budgeted, not simply spur of the moment.
4. Sacrificial means "making holy" the earnings and efforts of the week. (This is where the joke of tipping vs giving comes in.) It should be meaningful, not something that wouldn't be missed.
5. The act of giving should be liturgical. The collection at Mass is not just a convenient time to take up income for the parish. It is a liturgical act, a sacrifice, a prayer of the parish's members. I greatly appreciate the benefit of online giving both for the benefit of the parish and the convenience of her people, so might I recommend that if you do give online, at the offertory collection, simply put in a token amount (\$1) and/or make sure that you consciously offer to God through prayer the offering you made

online as a thank you for all you receive.

6. Finally, not all of your donations need to go to the parish collection. You might have other charities toward which you may wish to donate or there may be other special needs at the parish or from the diocese.

I hope that was helpful in assisting you in determining how generous you should be when considering your parish. Thank you Parish Council for this reminder.

CITY MEETING

The City of Akron and St. Sebastian Parish had one of our check-in meetings recently. Here are some updates on things going on around St. Sebastian Square:

MULL AVENUE: Work on Mull Avenue is being bid out at the moment and work is expected to begin this coming June (say a prayer) and completed sometime between the end of October through the beginning of December (say another prayer.)

PERKINS: Apparently, there was some difficulty finding the funding but work is still expected to move forward. The schedule right now is for infrastructure to begin in January or February. When there is construction, planned townhouses are to be built first along Mull Avenue with single family, detached homes, reportedly more expensive than originally reported, to be built as they move back toward the golf course.

GAS LINES: We are *still* expecting the gas lines along Mull Avenue to be replaced but have had no indication of when that will be besides “soon.” It did appear as though there were some workers surveying the other day.

TRIANGLE: Improvements plans for Elmdale Park, aka “The Triangle”, aka “overflow parking” have been submitted and we will have a meeting after the first of the year to see how they look. We did ask that this project be postponed until after Mull Avenue is finished. Having them occur at the same time would drastically cut down on our available parking spaces.

SCHNEIDER PARK: It seems that a crushed, limestone trail will be installed around the perimeter of the park this coming summer.

NORTH HAWKINS: As reported earlier, South Hawkins was repaved. It was expected that North Hawkins would be done also. We should expect it to be done some time after the ground thaws.

MISC.: The building of a new fire station that was to be built on North Hawkins is postponed in order to be reevaluated. The poor soil conditions made the cost of the original plans of the building too high. We also asked that the City to look into the possibility of a community effort to put something in the middle of the Mull/Hawkins Circle to mark this entrance in to Akron and this neighborhood. Finally, there were four lampposts needing attention on our property and a 311 email to the City had them fixed within 24 hours. Thanks!

ST. SEBASTIAN PUZZLE

Did you try the puzzle in the last addition of the Angelus Letter? Mr. Thomas Reiderman created a new one using one of the windows of the parish! Awesome! Thank you! Try it out here:

<https://www.jigidi.com/solve/wk4e67he/1-archangel-michael/>

FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

In 1943, there was a letter sent out stating that the Diocese of Cleveland would cooperate with the efforts of The Rev. Abbot Procopius Neural O.S.B. in asking each parish in the diocese to have a special Holy Hour for the purpose of praying for Church Unity in Russia. Apparently, the Bishop of Cleveland at the time, Archbishop Schrembs, was not well, for in the letter he also asked for “a special memento in your prayers for my complete recovery.”

Meanwhile, things were hopping at the seminary. This was a time of an excess of seminarians studying for the priesthood. Classes went on year round and ordinations took place twice a year. Because of this, the seminary was no longer available for the priests of the diocese to have their annual summer retreat and so they moved it to the St. Stanislaus Retreat House, now known as the Jesuit Retreat House, in Parma. Founded in 1898, it is “the first and longest running location in the United States providing retreats for lay persons as well as for priests and religious.” That year it would host all of the priests of the diocese though not in one fell swoop as the facilities were not large enough. Each priest was assigned a week over a two-month period.

This was also the period for an explosion of parish-based credit unions. Between 1939 and 1942, thirty-two were opened in the diocese thanks in large part to a Mr. Parks who gave lectures and organized them.

On the home front, this was the year that Scouting began at St. Sebastian Parish. **Happy 78th**

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, Dan and Svetlana Barber, Marilyn Bohling, Jill Buffa, Regina Buhalak, Dan Canale, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Rita Cummings, Anthony D'Attoma, Linda Davis, Marjorie DeLuca, Mary Pat Doorley, 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, Jeff Quick, Robert Rader, Mary Ricks, Nancy Ropchock, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Michael Schnetzer, John Schultz, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Victor Strelbicki and Steve Watral.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck.

St. Sebastian, pray for us.

St. Mary, 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.