



Angelus Letter
3 February 2022
LETTER #157
St. Blaise & St. Ansgar

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 Vigil 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. Justin OSB

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK!

This week is Catholic Schools Week! Please keep Catholic education in your prayers, especially our Parish School and the Julie Billiart, Akron School!

OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER

Now that things seem to be loosening up from the grip of COVID, many areas of parish life could use some volunteers to help fill out their ranks:

The **Saint Gabriel Ministry** has about eleven members and could use a few more reliable individuals to work our cameras for our live-streaming.

St. Vincent de Paul could use a couple of more dedicated souls to take care of those most in need in our parish boundaries.

Our **Altar Server** corps are seventy strong, but could use a few more interested youths especially for particular Mass times. (Thank you especially to our high school students who help out! You are invaluable!)

For any of the above, please contact Cathy Sivec in the rectory office at 330-836-2233 and she will pass your name on to the appropriate person.

We could also use some people to be in church on **Tuesdays for Adoration** particularly between the hours of 4PM through 7PM when numbers are light, especially during poor weather. It would be good to have more people dedicated to coming during this time. No need to sign up, just come! Here is a resource for assisting you: How To Make A Holy Hour: <https://www.wordonfire.org/articles/how-to-make-a-holy-hour/>. There are also apps out there to assist you.

Another opportunity is **Steadfast Fathers**. It is a group of men who volunteer at Embrace Clinic to help struggling fathers be the best dads they can be. They need men who act as teachers/mentors and also help out behind the scenes. If interested, please contact Ed Pfeiffer at epfeiffer02@yahoo.com

EXTRAORDINARY FORM QUESTIONNAIRE

During the month of February, the diocese is looking for input from Catholics concerning the Extraordinary Form Mass. A questionnaire has been created that will be active for the entire month of February. It is not only for those who attend the Extraordinary Form, but for all Catholics who live in the diocese of Cleveland as well as those who live outside the diocese but who happen to attend an Extraordinary Form Mass within the boundaries of the Diocese of Cleveland.

You can find the questionnaire

here: <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdXIDJVAccENE37GuflyRpVg9Q4o1GwJsEHM3ybKd>

SYMBOLISM OF THE NEW BAPTISMAL FONT

The new platform on which the baptismal font now sits was not chosen randomly. The first thing to notice is that the platform has eight sides. If you visit the former baptistery in which the font originally resided (in the back of the church by the bell tower, now known as the St. Padre Pio Chapel) you will notice that this room too has eight sides. This is rather common especially in older church buildings. The former baptistery of our cathedral also has this configuration. The number eight is symbolically associated with baptism since Christ resurrects eight days after His triumphal entry into Jerusalem just as we rise from the waters of new birth. Also, Jewish boys (as was Christ Himself) were named and circumcised (dedicated to God) eight days after their birth.

The materials are also significant. The font, the altar rail, the predella and our altars are all made out of the same marble, tying them together as they are all interdependent on each other. The altar rail is made of the same material as the altars suggesting that it is an extension of the altar itself, meaning that when a person kneels at the rail to receive the Eucharist, it is as if they are, in a sense, gathered around the altar. As Baptism is required before receiving Communion, it too was created using the same materials quarried from the same pits of our original marble from 1960.

Also, the font is now in a more traditional placement being outside and before the sanctuary. This is because a person must pass through the waters of baptism before being admitted to the Lord's Table.

ROOF

I almost don't want to tell you this because if you haven't noticed it, it may become the only thing you notice! On the west side of the church we have some plaster damage. We brought in our roof specialists again and they said that it is caused by ice dams and that it is likely to get worse before it gets better. We have heaters in our gutters but they are not strong enough to overcome this amount of ice which, according to the roofers, we have not seen in years.

The plan is to ride it out and then, with an insurance check in hand, have it repaired when the threat of further damage has passed and then apply all that has been learned to keep from experiencing this in the future. This summer we will be assessing the roof to determine how much longer this 60+ year old roof is expected to last.

FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

This week we move on to other interesting discoveries from the forgotten cabinet. In one file there were invitations that were sent to the priests during the first years of the parish including 40 Hours of Devotion at other parishes, Weddings, First Communions, dinners and even the first graduation of Borromeo Seminary High School in Wickliffe (since closed) in 1950.

The next file is marked, "Altar Boys" and largely concerns itself with end of the year dinners to show gratitude to various groups of children who volunteer at the parish. Granted, in those days, altar servers were limited to boys, but I thought it rather remarkable to compare the number of servers that we have compared to 1957. There were 71 servers that year. We have about the same number today!

The names of the servers and from other groups are listed and written next to their names is their response to the RSVP with a check mark, if it was a telephone call and if they made any particular remark such as, "Thank you very much."

There was also a list of "Choir Girls" who would be invited to the catered dinner in the hall. Food was ordered from Akron Standard Market (standard ground beef, Grand Duchess steaks and wieners), Elite Baking, Sealtest Dairy Ohio (milk) and T. B. Vernon ice cream.

In this packet was also a letter marked to be filed that read:

Dear Father Zwisler,

I am writing this note to apologize for missing the dinner you had for the choir, servers and traffic boys. I appreciate your invitation and I am sorry I missed it after looking forward all week to going. I know you all had a good time and I am sorry to have missed it.

Sincerely yours,

Edward Karol
1591 Delia Avenue
July 4, 1957

It is fun reading the long list of names, many of whom are still present in the parish. Maybe one day we will put them out for you to see if you or your parents or grandparents are listed!

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, Marilyn Bohling, Jill Buffa, Regina Buhalak, Dan Canale, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Rita Cummings, Anthony D'Attoma, Linda Davis, Marjorie DeLuca, Mary Pat Doorley, Rita Buhalak Gossford, Robert Hickey, Phil Hochstetler, John and Terry Hogan, Ann Hubiak, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Jean Labate, Dr. Dan Lehnoff, John Marckel, Myrna Marple, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, Keith Pecek, Beverly & Mike Preston, Mary Ricks, Nancy Ropchock, Beatrice Laura Ryan, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Michael Schnetzer, John Schultz, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Victor Strelbicki, Steve Watral and Dona Wolff.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck.

St. Sebastian, pray for us.

St. Blaise, pray for us.

St. Ansgar, 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.