



Angelus Letter
20 January 2022
LETTER #155
Saint Sebastian

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. Bede OSB

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22 DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE LEGAL PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

A message from Bishop Edward Malesic

Our Church designates Jan. 22, 2022 as a day of prayer and penance called the Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children. It is meant to be a day of prayer asking for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life. It is also a day of contrition for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Abortion directly attacks life itself, takes place within the sanctuary of the family and has resulted in millions of human lives destroyed. Those who have undergone abortions also suffer. Their wounds are deep and painful, too. We offer them our tender care and concern, mercy and love.

Each life is a gift from God and ultimately belongs to him. He has sole authority over life and death, and so we are called to reverence and love every person, loving our neighbors as ourselves. It is our responsibility to care for and protect human life, especially the lives of the most vulnerable among us.

I am so very grateful for those who peacefully save lives by witnessing to the gift of life, those who continually show the face of Christ to the world as they offer their presence and stand up for life. Archbishop Joseph Naumann, Chairman of the USCCB Pro-Life Committee reminds us that Pope Francis "has our backs" as he is in passionate support for the Church's pro-life efforts.

As our Supreme Court takes up a historic case this year, the decision of which could have significant implications on the laws governing abortion access in our country, I ask all people of good will to pray for the legal protection of the unborn today and throughout the course of our lives, so that hearts will be moved to respect all human life, from conception to natural death, to perform some act of reparation (e.g. fasting, almsgiving, some act of kindness toward a child) to show our sorrow for the lives lost and harmed by the intentional killing of the lives of our children.

May we always remember the exhortation of St. Pope John Paul II's encyclical *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) which reminds us to always "Respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life!"

Together, let us pray that through the intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, protector of the unborn, God may send his Holy Spirit into the heart of anyone contemplating abortion to receive his love and accept his Gospel of life.

GAS LINES ALONG MULL AVENUE

Work will begin on the gas line project along Mull Avenue by Schneider Park this coming Monday, January 24th weather permitting. The project will last thirty working days plus two additional weeks for restoration. We can expect minimal disruptions around St. Sebastian Square. There will be more

information in this weekend's bulletin and further notice will come from the parish and the school as work progresses closer to us. A scope of the work can be found in the back of the church if you are interested in the details of the project.

ELMDALE PARK

The official name of the park across the street from us is Elm Hill Park, not Forest Lodge Park. Forest Lodge is the name of the building in the park. Elmdale Park is the name of the triangle of grass right next to the parking lot of the church, on which people often park for weekend Masses. The city would like to fix up this rather neglected park by the planting of some trees and adding some benches. The proposal for this can be found in the back of the church near the bridal room.

We have asked that the improvements be postponed until all of the work along Mull Avenue is completed so that we do not lose out on too much parking. Since this is only a Phase One of the improvements to this park, it is foreseen that we may still use it as we have in the past if it is necessary. Other park improvements for the area include a crushed gravel circular walkway around Schneider Park, not unlike what exists at Hardesty Park, and a walking path through Elm Hill (Forest Lodge) Park.

MELANE FRANCIS

Many of you should be familiar with the name of Miss Francis. She faithfully taught first grade in our parish school for decades and after retiring from teaching, she stayed on as the school's Reading Specialist. She also served as our Parish School of Religion (PSR) Principal for many years! She was well loved by her students and parents and touched so many of their lives. It is with a heavy heart that I must inform you that Miss Francis passed away on January 13, 2022. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

SEMINARIAN NEWS

Charlie, Joe and Vince have returned to their studies at the seminary. We were very blessed to have them with us through the holidays to help make everything just a little more special. I would like to take this opportunity to thank them and ask you to keep them in your prayers.

SNOW DAY

Monday of this past week when we were all snowed in, five people and one altar server trudged their way through the worst of what winter wanted to throw at us to make it to Mass! The church was barely dug out from under its white blanket and the dog and I even had a difficult go of it trying to find a place for him to walk that wasn't up to his chin! As a result, there was nobody here to livestream the Mass. Apologies to those who tried to tune in and thanks to those of you who braved the snow to pray with me and an extra special pat on the back for our stalwart server.

FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

I opened the wrong drawer this morning and came across some old architectural photographs that I've never seen before. Most interesting was a picture of the school building. While looking at the blueprints, I assumed the extra flourishes on the chimney were just never built similar to the proposed extra arch on the rectory loggia that was never realized. In this old photo, however, it is evident that the flourish on top of the chimney was in fact built as shown in this original blueprint, but was probably removed at some point to save on cost when it needed repaired.

The yearly "Letters from the Diocese" folders begin to grow more anemic as we move forward. Many are just plain empty. In 1944 there was a letter reminding pastors that Forty Hours of Devotion (Eucharistic Devotions) should take place somewhere in the diocese every week. A list of assigned weeks was attached. St. Sebastian Parish's assigned date at the time was Sexagesima Sunday, February 4th.

The Diocese of Cleveland is well known for producing bishops. In 1945, a letter stated that, "Among the things which the clergy of a Diocese cannot do is the making of Bishops . . . This makes the repeated choice of the Cleveland priests for the hierarchy of America a clear indication of the predilection of the Holy See for the Diocese of Cleveland. The most recent manifestation of that favor was in the selection of Monsignor John P. Treacy to be the Coadjutor of La Crosse." It doesn't happen quite as often in our day, but priests from our diocese are still chosen now and then to be bishops of other dioceses.

In 1949, the tribunal (Church court) asked for the assistance of parish priests to make sure that they fully fill out applications for declarations of nullity (annulments) in order to save time once the case is received by them. "Within the last few years the case work has virtually trebled." There was also a general letter sent out asking parishes to improve their music programs that seemed to be generally lacking. A course of study was recommended and at the bottom of this typed letter was a handwritten note to Ellen Martucci, as many of you will remember as the long-time organist of the parish, "Ellen, please me know if you are interested. Fr. Zwisler"

Finally, in 1950, one of the parish priests of St. Sebastian, Fr. Tulley, was to act as an assistant to the Diocesan Director of Radio Activities in the Akron area. "This work will not take a great deal of time and I

am sure that it will not interfere with his parish duties. With all good wishes, I am, Sincerely yours in Christ, Bishop Edward Hoban.”

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, 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, Rita Buhalak Gossford, Robert Hickey, Phil Hochstetler, John and Terry Hogan, Ann Hubiak, Carolyn Jeske, Janet Kendrick, Jean Labate, 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.



**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.