

Pulse of the Parish

August 2026

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	• Ushers: No update • Collection Counters: No update • Music Ministry: Looking for feature in bulletin re: contact listing with Bernadette • Socials: Approx \$20k intake from Parish-wide, School-wide and Grade level socials in 2025/26 and approx \$20k given out to teachers (Christmas cash bonus, stocking teachers lounge, quarterly breakfasts, catered meals, gifts and treats, personalized gifts and team building) ◦ Looking for feature in bulletin re: contact listing with Bernadette • Lectors: No update • EMHCs: No update
Tony	•
Katy	• Grounds Crew: No report. • Marketing: Bernadette would like to thank the Parish Council for their help coordinating the Ministry Contact list for the bulletin. She also wanted to remind everyone to continue to ask their ministries to email all bulletin updates to church@stsebastian.org. • Foundation: Alumni - Class of 2001 – 25th Reunion– September 12, 2026 - Tour at 5 p.m; Alumni Arrow Newsletter – Fall 2026 in process (Summer 2026 – handout?); August 23rd Open House – Information table; Endowment Funds and Scholarships (EFS) -Now over 90 EFS (handout?) - New scholarship for 8th graders going to Walsh: Timothy Andrew Beringer, Sr. Memorial Scholarship; Scholarship Season 2027 - 2028 - Letter to parents to be mailed soon, Deadline for applications: January 25, 2027, Foundation Scholarship Mass: April 8, 2027 at 8:05 • Finance Council: School opened with 360 students in the day school and 50 in the pre-school. The school still has 3 teacher aide positions to fill. The playground was completed and opened on 8/25. Collections are up 5% compared to this time last year. The two new flat roofs are completed on the church. Boilers have been replaced at no cost. (under warranty) • 100th Committee: Summer Festival events were held July 30-August 1. Events were well attended and early reports look like we may have raised a little more than the Festival in 2025.
Brian	•
Symon	• Burning Hearts Young Adult Group Updates: 8/27/26 • The Core team has taken over from the seminarians and set regular Tuesday meetings after adoration for planning. • Slowly building – 40 young adults on our active GroupMe where we share events • Hosting weekly events on Sunday nights from 7-9

	- Joan – the marketing contact is working with Bernadette to market events - The first 6 weeks are community building focus – we have hosted a game night, ice cream social with volleyball, and a movie night. This week hosting a “Holy Hike” - The goal is to start adding in faith formation and service projects starting in the fall. - Working on acquiring a St Sebastian email and setting up a Google Calendar for easier access to the schedule of events. - Also working on cards to hand out to young adults with the QR code for the group me and the google calendar.
Andrew	- Pre-Cana. - Gratitude Letters will be sent to Youth Ministry - Mallory Palagyi, Altar Server Scheduling - Wayne & Maria Johnson, Ushers - Rob Olsen/Rob Klamert HASA - Hosted back to school open house with great turnout and majority of student body and families in attendance - First meeting on 9/15 - Next event is back to school bonfire, s’mores and prayer on 9/11 Peter Maurin Center - Served a meal to 96 hungry guests on 8/16
Carrie	School Choir: nothing to report JB: - nothing to report Band: nothing to report Academy: nothing to report Youth Groups: SAC: nothing to report Principal Redovian: The school welcomed almost 400 kids this year. - All classes are full with waitlists (few spots in 3rd but that is it). - Still looking for aides in the schools (Early Learning Center and Main). - The playground opened up on the first day of school. - All of the staff participated in CPR, First Aid, and safety measures to start the year off. 8th grade will head to Pennsylvania next week for the Flight 93 trip (Friday the 4th) - Welcome back coffee is Sept 8th at 7:30 am. - Back to school Bonfire Sept 11th at 6:30 pm - Class of 2001 reunion on Sept 12th at 5pm ELCD Cathy Sivec: nothing to report Catechetical Director Keith Johnson: - The young adult ministry was revitalized over the summer by our interns, John Scantling, Johannes Benninghoff and Mary Sboray. The ministry is called Burning Hearts and is meeting weekly on Sunday evenings. It is now being led by a core team of young adults. - Alpha will begin in September. - OCIA also kicks off in September. Inquiries are still being received so no solid number, but it does not appear we will have as many as last year. People have been added to our team and I think we will have an excellent team for the coming year.

	○ Sacramental prep and PSR will also begin in the fall. The 8th grade confirmandi will be attending Damascus September 18-20 for the Confirmation retreat. Mallory and Keith will be the chaperones. PSR begins September 13.
Jake	Video Ministry: Wayne Johnson ● Turnover recently with college kids going back to school. ● 4 new technicians being trained over the summer and 4 experienced techs who are sticking around. There are 3 adult (senior) techs running the morning Masses. ● The only hiccup is the sound system. The sound in church is challenging. All the same sounds are going over the livestream because the source is the same. Alter Servers: Wayne and Maria Johnson ● Just graduated 11 trainees to full Sunday and Holy Day privileges. They will be starting at weekend Masses in Sept. They are an enthusiastic group and can't wait to start serving at weddings and other special Masses. ● There is a great sign up response from the servers. Funerals and weddings generally get filled within a day or two, sometimes within 10 minutes. ● Including recently graduated trainees there are ○ 52 fully-trained servers available for weekday serving, exactly split M/F at 26 each. ○ We have 71 servers fully trained for weekends, plus two who sub in occasionally. ● The greatest availability is for 9 AM Sunday, with 34 who prefer to serve that Mass. Lightest availability is the 11 AM with 12 who preferentially sign up for that one. There are 19 who preferentially pick the 4:30 vigil. Book Rack: Pat Clark-Varga ● School flyers and info going up ● She is keeping track of sales and cutting back orders as necessary ● Should be ordering Advent devotionals soon Respect Life Ministry: Pat Clark-Varga ● The next big thing is Respect Life Month in October. ● Will likely plan a life chain as in previous years where they stand out on the roundabout on Mull with signs. ● Other events are the signature campaign in January and occasional bulletin posts. ● Not really much of a committee. They do not have recurring meetings. They used to, but attendance has dropped. Now it is pretty much just Pat organizing a few things a year. She is open to expanding if she sees more interest. Prayers of the Faithful: Pat Varga and Margo Bohm ● Pat indicated it was going well and they did not have any issues Visiting Eucharistic Ministers: Laura Franceschi – No update at this time
Kelly	St. Sebastian Prayer Warriors (SSPW) ● Purpose & Structure: Prayer-activated ministry with no meetings; members pray to support the priests and, through them, support the world -- currently 33 email members ● Monthly Prayer Calendar

- Monthly calendar includes petitions, prayers, sacrifices, the Church calendar, and reminders of relevant parish events.
- Printed copies are placed in the book rack in the narthex at the beginning of each month; interested parishioners can join by emailing Kathy Mungo.

Women of St. Sebastian

- **Communication & Ministry Offerings**
 - Regular email communication/listserv promotes women's ministry opportunities and parish programs, constant contact
 - Offerings have included, Young Adult Rosary Tea, Flower Bar Social, Book club, Meal sign-ups for Alpha, Meal trains, Women's Night Out, Parish Ministries for Young Families (Play & Pray, Popsicles on the Playground)
- **Successful Summer Outreach**
 - **Pray & Play:** Tuesday mornings, 10:00 a.m. Adoration/prayer with children, 10:30 a.m. play at Forest Lodge + picnic lunch, ~13 families participating regularly, ~50 people attending each week
 - **Popsicles on the Playground:** Three summer events, ~135+ children total, plus parents
 - Particular focus on families with children **age 5 and under** and recently baptized families; Several families specifically said they attended because of the parish postcard
- **Evangelization & Volunteer Engagement**
 - Hope to continue reaching out to **newly baptized families** as an opportunity for evangelization and connection
 - Continued need for more women to become **Virtus-trained volunteers**
 - Goal: strengthen Women of St. Sebastian and participation in other parish and family ministry opportunities

Athletic Program

- **Participation**
 - ~190 athletes / 13 teams, 4 fall sports, overall participation: healthy/average
 - Soccer: up; Football: down; Volleyball: solid; could have supported one more team; Cross-country: consistently strong
- **Volunteers & Leadership**
 - Biggest need: more parent involvement, especially from younger grades. Needs include: Coaches, Site directors, Booster Club volunteers/leaders
 - Several current leaders have children aging out; Tim wants to begin succession planning and transfer of institutional knowledge now
 - Direct outreach already sent to ~15 families
- **CYO Game Hosting**
 - No volleyball hosting this fall due to volunteer availability. Hosting requires: 1 adult site director, 1 scorekeeper, 1 scoreboard operator
 - Benefits: More home games, Revenue for athletics, Site director is compensated
 - Winter basketball hosting will be an opportunity to recruit volunteers
- **Finances & Team Support**
 - Strong financial position. No immediate need to spend reserve
 - Funds available for: Equipment, Uniforms, Coaches' needs, First-aid supplies/ice packs, Other team needs
- **Facilities & Sponsorships**

	○ Potential projects for local business sponsorship: New gym banners, Track record board, Cross-country record board, Volleyball/basketball scoring table, eventually, new scoreboard ○ Need coordination with Foundation, Father to avoid fundraising overlap ● Events/Fundraising ○ Terrier Madness: successful ○ Night at the Races: November 21 ● Spirit Wear ○ New spirit-wear provider this year, available at Open House, website...? ● Team Masses: Fall: September 17; Winter: January 17; Spring: April 25 ● Questions for Father: ○ Former equipment/weight-room space used by Father Marcelli -- Is that use continuing? ■ Could the space potentially be reallocated for CYO needs? ○ Should Tim need to reach out to Angela regarding this? ● Question from Parishoner: American Heritage Girls
Lori	●
John	● Faith and Light: They had their “end of summer, start of a new year” picnic Sunday the 23rd. The meeting room at Byrider has been reserved for the next meeting year. ● Archivist: Moving along, currently reviewing slides. They will look for a professional scanning service soon. They do ask for us to remind our ministries to date and identify all materials going forward. It will make archiving easier. ● Good Samaritan Hunger Center: Nothing to report and there are no concerns. New calendar will be posted after the first of the month. ● St. Sebastian Garden: Nothing to report. ● Votive Lights: Nothing to report. I will meet with Kris after Labor Day.
Shannon	● St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏