

**-Pulse of the Parish
September 2026**

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	● Ushers: No update ● Collection Counters: No update ● Music Ministry: Fall music schedule ramping up! ● Socials: No update ● Lectors: No update ● EMHCs: Looking for new EMs but prefer word of mouth recruiting
Tony	● Parish cooks: No report ● ARCHE: Fall hiking season has begun with an opening Mass in Barberton. Families now gather every Friday for hikes. ● Homebound Ministry: With the help of Seminarian John Scantling the ministry has become more organized and efficient. The ministry takes communion to the homebound and leaves a simple letter with the parish prayer intentions, and a bulletin. There was also an announcement made about this ministry during the livestream of the mass. ● Arts and Environment: A couple of more weeks left of flowers from the cutting garden then we will be using dried flowers and an occasional memorial until Advent. Looking for a temporary spot for the Nativity scene because St. Christina will be staying with us a little longer. For many years it used to reside on Mary's altar and that is likely where it will go. We may not have a spot for the tomb scene, unless we find a good spot.
Katy	●
Brian	●
Symon	● Continuing to build - We have added 6 new young adults for a total of 46, and see new people almost every week ● Still Hosting weekly core team meetings ● Weekly events on Sundays from 7-9pm and have a few dates where this is switched due to the specific activity planned. For example we are going on another Holy Hike with Father Joseph this October but we are having it from 4-6 because of the earlier sunset. Also have one event planned for a Saturday from 1-5 at mapleside farms. ● We have gone through our building period and have begun to do our faith formation nights. We had our 1st night this last Sunday where our very own Symon Graham gave a talk on "relationships" with Christ, family, friends, and significant others. Symon spoke for about 45 minutes followed by Q & A and group discussion

	● We also had a game night filled by Eucharistic Adoration during our Eucharistic devotion at St. Sebastian ● We are working on getting a Seminarian to come and speak at one of our nights coming up in October ● Service Project planned for October 25th ● All Saints day costume party November 1st ● Two weeks off Nov. 8-15th most of core team will be in France for pilgrimage
Andrew	● Carmelites: No report ● Gratitude Letters: No report ● Rectory Volunteers: No report ● Pre-Cana: Scheduled for 02/27/2027 ● Peter Maurin Center: Next meal is 10/18/26. All is well ● HASA: 1) ByLaws have been updated and released as a result of Diocesan review and approved by Father Valencheck. 2) Prior year financials and current year budget were presented at the last meeting on 9/15. 3) Next event is Monster Mash on 10/22, monthly teacher lunches resume in October.
Carrie	● School Choir: nothing to report ● JB: - nothing to report ● Band: In 7/8 Band we have 23 members, in Cadet Band we have 26 members, and in Beginner Band we have 14 members. All bands will be performing in the Halloween parade on 10/30. ● Academy: nothing to report ● Youth Groups: Both high school and middle school ministries have been launched, meeting on Sunday and Tuesday nights respectively. The high school students will be assisting with the hot meal at St. Bernard this Sunday evening. Mallory is also getting things in place for our group to attend the CLE youth conference for the first time. ● SAC: nothing to report ● Principal Redovian: -8th graders just returned from Damascus and 6th and 7th grade will be going in the next few weeks -Early Dismissal Thursday. Teachers will have a PD focused on IXL -Our first student led mass is Sunday Oct 4th -Grandparents day is Oct 8th -Still looking for an Aide in the Preschool and additional help during lunch/recess. ● ELCD Cathy Sivec: Preschool is off to a great start and the children are settling in well! -Still looking for a full-time aide and an afternoon aide to complete our team. -October 2nd - Kindergarten field trip at Rufener Farms -October 5th - 9:30am in Zwisler Hall parking lot, we have the Akron Fire Department bringing a firetruck for the "Touch a Truck" program for preschoolers -October 12th - 9:30am in Zwisler Hall parking lot, we have Akron Fire Department bring a firetruck for the "Touch a Truck" program for Kindergarteners -October 21st - Preschool students field trip at Luther's Farm -October 30th - Halloween parade at 1:15pm - The 4/5 preschoolers will join the parade this year. The 3 years old will do a little walk on October 29th

	● JB Becky Busey: nothing to report ● Catechetical Director Keith Johnson: OCIA numbers are down from last year, but there are currently 8 adults. In addition, we will have one 4th grade student and one 8th grade student from the school going through the process. It's not too late for people to join if anyone knows of someone who is interested. -Alpha has around 16 attending in addition to our team. Conversations have been lively and it appears to be going well. We also have some non-Catholics in the mix. Four teachers and one aide are attending from the school. Registration is closed for this Alpha. Any interested parties will be directed to other nearby Alphas or to our next offering in the fall. ● ○
Jake	●
Kelly	Athletics/Booster Club - Fall Sports Update ● Fall sports are nearing the end of their seasons, with strong performances and continued improvement: football is at mid-season with a 2–2 record, and cross country continues to have some impressive finishes; volleyball and soccer are also having successful seasons, with several volleyball teams showing great momentum heading toward playoffs. ● Last weekend was the CYO Sports Mass for fall athletes. Athletes served as hospitality and sat together as teams. ● Each week, fall coaches are encouraged to lead their teams in prayer and present a game cross to an athlete who demonstrates exemplary sportsmanship and Christian virtue. - Winter Sports Registration ● Sports offered: Basketball for 3rd–8th grade and cheerleading for 1st–8th grade, contingent on having volunteer coaches. ● Registration: Regular registration is open through October 12; late registration is October 13–18 with an additional \$25 fee. Registration closes October 19 and teams will then be set. ● Coaches: New CYO coaches always encouraged ● Season: Practices begin October 19, games begin December 5, and the regular season ends February 13, with playoffs for 6th–8th grade beginning at that time. ● Upcoming events: Terrier Madness is December 4, and the CYO Championship is March 7. Night at the Races on November 21. Women of St. Sebastian ● Looking Ahead: Promoting continued need for women to join Sanctuary Society/serve on event committees -- Jill met with Sanctuary Society to discuss ● Ongoing gatherings: Open Gym, Rosary Tea, and Pray and Play continue to provide regular opportunities for women and families to connect. ● Fall activities: hike, book discussion, and Women's Night Out, ● Grounded in Grace: The retired women's group discussing ideas for future activities, including service projects and outings. ● Community support: The ministry continues to share prayer intentions, coordinate meal trains, and provide a way for women to stay connected through the parish email list. St. Sebastian Prayer Warriors (SSPW)

	● Prayer focus for the month: September focused on Our Lady of Sorrows, trusting in God, and praying for the Church and the world; weekly intentions included conversion, Church renewal, prayers for leaders, and an end to abortion and attacks on human life. ● Parish opportunities: The group highlighted Theology on the Rocks, the Blessed Mother's birthday celebration, OCIA, and Alpha.
Lori	●
John	Good Samaritan Hunger Center: ● Distributions continue twice a week ● Monday prior to Thanksgiving they will distribute 600 turkeys. They will provide a flyer St. Sebastian Garden: ● Over 700 lbs of food has been harvested and distributed to date Votive Candles: ● All blue 3-day glass candle holders have been replaced. Root Candles changed the size of the 3-day candle sleeve/insert necessitating this change ● Since increasing the contributions of the 3-day candle from \$2 to \$3, the contributions fund this ministry totally ● All side alters have the blue kneeling pads (although this may have been done for some time) ● They also clean the outside statues and have finished half of the statues to date ● Candles are tended to on Mon, Weds, and Friday ● Discussing the possibility to "advertise" Saint's days to increase activity on their altar Faith and Light: ● The first formal meeting of the year is tomorrow (9/25). ● Reminder - All core members must have a responsible care-giver or responsible person to remain for the entire gathering. Archivist: ● Nothing to report
Shannon	● St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! 🙏