



**Angelus Letter  
21 September 2023  
LETTER #241  
St. Matthew**

Dear Parish Family,

**WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW FOR THIS WEEKEND**

**Friday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck  
Friday Confessions at 4 p.m.**

**Saturday Mass at 8 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck  
Saturday Confessions at 9:30 a.m.  
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30 p.m. with Fr. Bozek**

**Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. with Fr. Bozek  
Sunday Mass at 11 a.m. with Fr. Valencheck  
Sunday Mass (Latin) at 1 p.m. with Fr. Bede OSB**

**THE U. S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
RECOGNIZES ST. SEBASTIAN PARISH SCHOOL  
AS ONE OF THE BEST IN THE NATION!**

On Tuesday, the school day started off with Mass and my homily was about how, not only do we have a great school academically where we can prepare our students well for this life, but we also give thanks that we can prepare them well for the life to come by worshipping God and learning from Him the best way to live. The school then stayed for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament since we were still in the midst of our Forty Hours of Devotion.

At one o'clock, the entire school was invited down to Zwisler Hall for a surprise assembly. As the students left the classrooms, a team of Sebastianites hung blue banners and flags, put treat bags in the each of the classrooms, and chalked the sidewalk blue. "Do you have *any* idea what this is all about," I asked the students, and they didn't have a clue even though Mr. Rohr had on all blue and I was wearing a blue blazer and blue socks, which is unusual for me. I think the teachers were suspicious, however.

Mr. Rohr took command of the room and reminded us that our Center for Early Learning had been voted the "Best of the Best" last year in an Akron Beacon Journal pole. Then he announced that we had just been awarded the Governor's Thomas Edison Award for Stem Excellence for the fifth year in a row and that nineteen of our teachers were specifically named.

But then came the big announcement: St. Sebastian Parish School was one of the few from across our country to be named by the U. S. Department of Education as a National Blue-Ribbon School! The crowd went wild. The band played our fight song, and all yelled out, "SAINT SE-BAST-IAN!" I've been to many stadiums and many games, but no sound level could match the joyful shout that came out from those students unless one happened to be standing directly behind a jet revving its engines.

Then we watched the national broadcast as we received congratulations from the Secretary of Education and then they started listing awarded schools. Of course, it was in alphabetical order beginning by states. "Alabama . . ." I never consider being from Ohio an ordeal, but by alphabetical standards it was a trial that day. And then, when we got to Ohio, they went alphabetically through the schools that won in her borders. Having "Saint" as the first part of your title put us, again, way at the end of the list.

As we got closer and closer to the "S"s, the tensions and excitement in the room grew. Of course, we were not the only "Saint . . ." on the list so we agonizingly had to wait through all of the saints who had names in the alphabet before Sebastian. But then, finally, the picture of "St. Sebastian Parish School" finally came up and the student body went wild.

The celebration continued with blue donuts. When everyone was back in the classroom, the kids received some blue treats and mementos including whistles which, only in retrospect, did I realize may have been a mistake. (My apologies parents) The teachers were instructed to head to the teacher's lounge after school to pick up a little memento for themselves: blue cookies in the form of a blue-ribbon award baked by Marcy Smith and tiny bottles of champagne to have a toast with at home over dinner.

It was a great (and exhausting) day. There are more celebrations to come. Notably, there will be a Mass with our Bishop, the mayor will be on hand to issue a proclamation, and the diocesan school administration will be here on hand to help us celebrate on Monday, October 2 at 10:00am.

Congratulations to Mr. Rohr, our faculty, support staff, parents and community that came together to make this possible. God bless you!

**EUCCHARISTIC DEVOTIONS!**

Thank you to everybody who helped make our Eucharistic Devotions a truly special event. Thank you to those who

adopted hours, especially those difficult to cover hours, and everyone who stopped by to pray. Whenever I popped over, be it the morning, afternoon, evening or night, there were always great souls busy at prayer and adoration. What an honor to be your pastor.

## CONCERT

There will be a Violin Concert this Sunday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30 p.m. in the church featuring Andrew Sords.

## ISSUE 1 – WHAT’S IT ALL ABOUT?

Here are two meetings you can attend to find out more information.

**Wednesday, September 27 at 6:30 PM**  
**St. Francis de Sales Parish**  
**4019 Manchester Road, Akron 44319**  
**In the school gymnasium.**

Representatives from **Susan B. Anthony** and **Protect Women Ohio** will speak.

It has been suggested to arrive early, if possible, to pray before the Blessed Sacrament prior to the meeting. The church will be open.

**Information Night on Ohio Issue 1 and Parental Rights.** Issue 1, “The Right to Make Reproductive Decisions including Abortion” may be interpreted by courts to nullify parental notification and consent laws regarding certain medical procedures. **St. Hilary Parish** will hold an information night to explain what Issue 1 really means for Ohioans, especially in regard to minor children. Bernard Smith, attorney and retired federal prosecutor, will give an expanded analysis of the amendment and its myriad consequences. Parents are especially encouraged to attend. Two identical sessions will be held: **Wed. Oct. 11, 7:00-8:15 pm and Tues, Oct 17, 7:00-8:15 pm**, both in the parish Gathering Area. To RSVP or for more information, please contact Randy Malick [rmalick@sthilarychurch.org](mailto:rmalick@sthilarychurch.org) or (330) 867-1055 ext. 209.

## KEEP AKRON BEAUTIFUL

I am happy to report that St. Sebastian Parish church, rectory and school have all received Beautification Awards from Keep Akron Beautiful. Congratulations to our grounds and gardens crews!

## GROUNDS CREW AND CUTTING GARDEN

We are getting close to the end of the season! If you’ve not walked our grounds lately, do so soon before fall weather begins to chase the flowers and leaves away. Thank you to all of our volunteers who made this summer so beautiful!

## MISC.

**WOMEN’S RETREAT:** There will be a Women’s Retreat on Saturday, October 21 in Zwislser Hall. Reservations required. Please see bulletin for details.

**NOVEMBER ELECTION:** [HERE](#) is a link to a new video to help become more informed about Issue One this coming November.

**ISSUE ONE:** Mr. Bernie Smith of St. Hilary Parish made a ten-minute video about the legal ramifications of the Issue One on which we will be voting this coming November. See it [HERE](#).

**BACK TO NORMAL?** St. Sebastian Parish participated in a survey about the post pandemic state of religion. You may view the results [HERE](#).

## PICTURES



#### FROM THE FORGOTTEN CABINET

The arts have always been important at St. Sebastian Parish. It was Monsignor Zwisler's belief that, especially being in plays, assisted children in becoming comfortable and confident speaking before crowds of people. In 1958, our school performed "St. Patrick's Breastplate," a night of music, dancing and fun.

"We meet a distressed St. Patrick tonight as he searches high and low, near and far for his beloved breastplate, which he, somehow or another, seems to have been misplaced in his rush to present for our program," said Tim McGuckin, the announcer. Mike Baughman played St. Patrick and Jim Urbanic Mr. Gallagher. Richard Hummel did some soft shoe, "Peg O My Heart" was sung by Mary Jane Bartlett, Toni Bascetta and Mary Jo Merzweiler. Tom Ryan sang "O Danny Boy", and Robert Scharf was in charge of tickets, publicity and programs. Many, many more names were listed, but I hope you enjoyed these few.

#### 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:

Gary Arman, Annette Bailey, Jill Buffa, John Buhalak, Regina Buhalak, Christopher Casey, Emilio Cheuy, Jo Cooney, Nancy Cotter, Peggy Jo Cybulski, Anthony D'Attoma, Marjorie DeLuca, Deanna Ferris, Rosemarie George, Kenneth Gessford, Rita Buhalak Gessford, Robert Hickey, John and Terry Hogan, Ann Hubiak, Carson Hutzell, James Hutzell, Carolyn Jeske, Charise Kasper, Janet Kendrick, Candace Kidd, Fred Kovacic, Jean Labate, Frank Livigni, Mary Loftus, Myrna Marple, Don Matis, Ken Minrovic, Betty O'Hara, John Perry, Beverly & Mike Preston, Bob Rader, Monica and Thad Ricker, Mary Ricks, Aaron Salisbury, Ann Sandvick, Betty Sarich, Kim Sarich, Denise Schmidt, Michael Schnetzer, Cory Schulz, Tom Smith, Keith Wisberger and Ann Zsembik.

God bless you,

Fr. Valencheck

St. Sebastian, pray for us.

St. Matthew, pray for us.

St. Sebastian Parish | 476 Mull Ave, Akron, OH 44320

[Unsubscribe smithm@stsebastian.org](#)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [huberm@stsebastian.org](#) powered by



Try email marketing for free today!