

**Pulse of the Parish
December**

Parish Council Member	Summary
Mark	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collection counters: THOROUGHLY enjoying the speed and convenience of the new HP Laptop they have now! No other concerns for the Council ● Music Ministry: Formally invites ALL of the Parish Council members to attend the Christmas Concert this Sunday (12/14) at 4:00 PM featuring the combined choirs of St. Mary Hudson and St. Sebastian along with soloists and orchestra! Please attend as many of the musical offerings throughout the year as possible. (I can personally vouch that they are indeed something special and unique to our parish!) ● The socials committee continues to support the teachers at the day school with the Teacher Appreciation Fund which continues to be a vibrant and active part of parish life. The Celebrity Night, Trunk or Treat, Ladies Luncheon and Christmas Boutique continue to be very successful. Teachers have been provided with a stocked beverage refrigerator, a special snack during first quarter and dinner during parent-teacher conferences. Increased teacher and staff bonuses will be handed out on December 19th.
Symon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bridge flights: All is well with our bridge. Groups. We have taken. Short break in Dec. but will continue in January. we meet 4 times a month and another group meets once. ● Adoration/Eucharistic: seems to be better attended during hours. ● Prepare and Enrich: more couples which is great. ● seminarians will be home soon. Other than that all is well (Christian faith formation/evangelization, sacramental preparation, vocations promotion.) ● Young adult ministries: We do not have a youth minister yet and Keith has been overseeing the ministry to the middle school youth. High school youth has been on hiatus and will continue to be so until we have a youth minister in place.
Brian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Boy Scouts: Dec 12-14 Campout. Jan 16-18 Klondike Derby Campout. January pet show – date TBD. One boy filing Eagle Scout paperwork, others coming soon. ● Cub Scouts: Jan 24 Pinewood Derby & crossover 2nd WEBELOS to Boy Scouts. ● Cutting Garden: No Report. ● Film Club: No report. ● Sacristans: No report.
Katy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Foundation: Alumni Mass was held on Nov. 29th. 2025 Annual Appeal Christmas Card mailed-supports unrestricted. 2025 #weGive - It's not too late! The 24-hour give raised a little over \$7500 for the Playground Project. Final updates will be given in January. 2026-27 scholarship season is underway. Annual Foundation Scholarship Mass is 3/26/27. ● Finance Committee: The committee is currently working on setting the tuition for the

	<p>2026-2027 school year. Both tuition and the registration fee will be reviewed and new tuition and fees will be set after the first of the year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Marketing Committee: ● 100th Anniversary Committee: The new Casino Night event will be a part of the Feast Day Celebration weekend. Tickets are now available online for both the Casino Night event and the Parish Pasta Dinner.
Tom	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Archives: Continue to investigate and identify items. Encourage ministries to date and identify anything worthy of saving. Electronic items are accepted. ● Garden: No updates. ● Good Samaritan Hunger Center: Hoping for a built-in heat source for office. Added a vent but doesn't help much. Using portable heater and have been given permission to keep running. Would like Ring-type camera to record when someone enters garden or shed. ● Booster Club: ● CYO Athletics:
Barb	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Alpha- October's one day retreat at Guardian Angels went very well. Alpha's last session was Nov 12th, and the team met a week later to discuss the evaluation sheets from both the attendees and team members. The team felt that things went very well in spite of a smaller turnout than the year prior. The Alpha team plans to meet in mid-Jan 2026 to discuss the Fall 2026 Alpha. ● Bible Study- on break until January 2026 ● Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion- there is still a need for EMs at all masses. If we know of anyone who would be a good fit for this ministry (attends weekly Mass and Holy Days, lives out their faith during the week, please submit names to Karen Bader on the St. Sebastian liturgical ministries webpage. Would like to have a list of names before the next training dates come out. ● Visiting Extraordinary Ministers- nothing new to report; still seeking individuals who are available to bring Communion to the homebound. ● Mother of Sorrows- we are inviting others to consider joining MOS, both men and women. It's an opportunity to attend an extra Mass as one's schedule will allow. Since our last Parish Council meeting in October, four Masses have been scheduled for those whose funeral or memorial masses were held at St. Sebastian. ● Our Mother's Hands- Bambinelli Sunday is this weekend; mini figurines will be provided. The 2026 and Lent 2027 calendars have been given to the parish office for approval and should be available at all exits on January 1st, as will tickets for the March 21st Martha's Day Out women's retreat. Things should be up and running for the Vocations Crucifix (first opening in March 2026) and the Pilgrim Virgin Statue (first opening in July 2026). Presentations on the Holy Face have been given to over 700 people this year and are being scheduled through Divine Mercy Sunday now. ● Giving Tree- December 14th is the last day for the tree, and gifts will be distributed to respective agencies next week. ● St. Vincent DePaul Society- we had an increase in requests for help with food just ahead of the recent Federal government shut down in November. Had a fake landlord/rent scam with an unsuspecting SVDP client that fortunately did not result in any loss of funds on our end. As a result, protocol has been developed to vet landlords and properties that are new to our group. ● Sanctuary Society- the society hosted its annual Christmas Tea on Dec 10th. It was very well attended. The society honored Terry Tolson with its annual St. Irene award. Currently planning

	<p>for the February 7th International Festival; a few volunteers have committed to the event, but more are needed, especially from prior booth sponsors. The cost to host a booth has increased substantially due to inflation. Christmas Memorials have been submitted for placement in the parish bulletin, which has been a popular way for parishioners to honor their deceased loved ones.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● West Side Catholic Couples- no report.
<p>Andrew</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Faith and Light: Looking forward to celebrating an Advent Mass with Fr. Simone, our chaplain. ● Pre-Cana: Nothing to report ● Secular Order of Carmelites: Bishop Woost is joining us in August and has requested we invite your parish to come. ● Rectory Volunteers: Katy Karg has been hired to help in the office, she is experienced and just what we were looking for. Cathay even managed to take a day off!! ● Gratitude Letters: 1. Giving tree-Lori Oakes 2.Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion-Karen Bader 3.Sanctuary Society-Erin Ereth 4.Collection Counters-Rob Olsen 5.Prayer Warriors-Cathy Mungo 6.Good Samaritan Hunger Center-Michele Smith 7. St. Vincent de Paul Society-Bernard Smith ● Peter Maurin Center: Meal is being served a week earlier than usual this month due to the Christmas Holiday. Meal is 12/14 ● HASA: By-Laws recently updated, Large donation planned for the school playground.
<p>Carrie</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● School Choir: nothing to report ● JB: -Participated in Shop w/ Cop yesterday- 5 students had the opportunity to go to the station, and then go shopping with the police department -Canned food drive and donation for the Hunger Center- Our student council students will be going to Forest Lodge next Wednesday 12/17 from 1:30-3:30 to help. flier: https://goodsamaritanhungercenter.harnessgiving.org/campaigns/20079 -Nativity Play- Dec. 19th at 9:30 am -Enrichment Program is taking students to Home Depot and Target next week to purchase items for the garden and for families in need (giving tree) ● Band: The band participated in the Welcome Santa Parade in Downtown Akron on Friday, Nov 28. There were approx. 50 kids there to march and play--it was cold, but it was fun! The kids did a great job. -The Academy of Culture and Arts is presenting their annual Christmas Recital on Sunday, December 14 at 7PM in Zwisler Hall. Performances on Guitar, Violin and Piano will be offered as well as 3 scenes from our Ballet Department dancing on the stage. -The St. Sebastian Parish School Band and Choir Christmas Concert will take place on Tuesday, December 16 at 7PM in Zwisler Hall. There will be close to 130 students from 4th- through 8th-Grade participating at this concert. ● Academy: no report ● Youth Groups: no report ● SAC: no report; next meeting in January ● Principal Rohr: School Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Student Council Toy Drive currently underway to benefit Akron Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House ● Band/Choir Concert - December 16 at 7pm ● Christmas Break 12/20/25 to 1/4/26, school resumes Monday, January 5

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Theatrical Terriers in full swing. The plan is to start rehearsing in Z-Hall on Tuesday, February 17 through Thursday, February 26. The play dates are Feb. 27 at 7pm and Feb. 28 at 2pm and 7pm.
Shannon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moms of Littles: Will be showing “The Star” in Zhall for advent on Dec 21st from 3-5 pm. ● Women of St. Sebastian’s: Mackenzie Revesz would like to organize a family dance in Zhall after Lent. ● Lectors: no updates ● Rectory cooks: no new updates ● St. Sebastian Prayer Warriors: See December calendar
Chris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Book Rack: Advent material going well. ● Respect Life: Right to Life signature and email campaign. Ohio Legislature is looking at ways to protect life, protect pregnancy centers, include high school education on fetal development. Funds raised would assist in prolife messaging/advertisement online/YouTube. ● Altar Server Training: Nothing to report ● Baptism Class: Nothing to report ● Catechist Formation: Nothing to report ● Donut Sunday: Nothing to report ● Gabriel Ministry: Nothing to report ● Altar Server Scheduling: Nothing to report ● Children's Liturgy of the Word: N/A
Tony	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● ARCHE: Preparing for the February family dance and currently exploring location options for the weekly cabin fever family game days. ● Homebound Ministry: Michelle and I completed our EM training based on the information that was gathered over the summer that most individuals wanted the Euchurist brought to them. Moving to organize with the current EM ministry. ● PSR: ● Knights of Columbus:
Terry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Arts & Environment - Christmas decorating on Sunday, 12/21 1:00 - All are welcome. Many hands make light work! ● Chesterton Academy of Akron - With great joy and gratitude, we announce that the Chesterton Academy of Akron has been formally recognized by the Most Reverend Edward C. Malesic, Bishop of Cleveland, as a Catholic school! This exciting news allows us to pursue the chartering process with the state of Ohio with the assistance of OCSAA (Ohio Catholic School Accrediting Association). After becoming a non-public chartered school, we can apply for EdChoice assistance, helping us to be competitive with the local high schools. “A Christmas Carol” performance was well attended last Saturday. Marian Apparition Concert tonight. <p style="text-align: center;">St. Sebastian, Pray for Us! </p>