

ALUMNI ARROW

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 2023

UPDATED “ALUMNI ALLEY” WELCOMES VISITORS

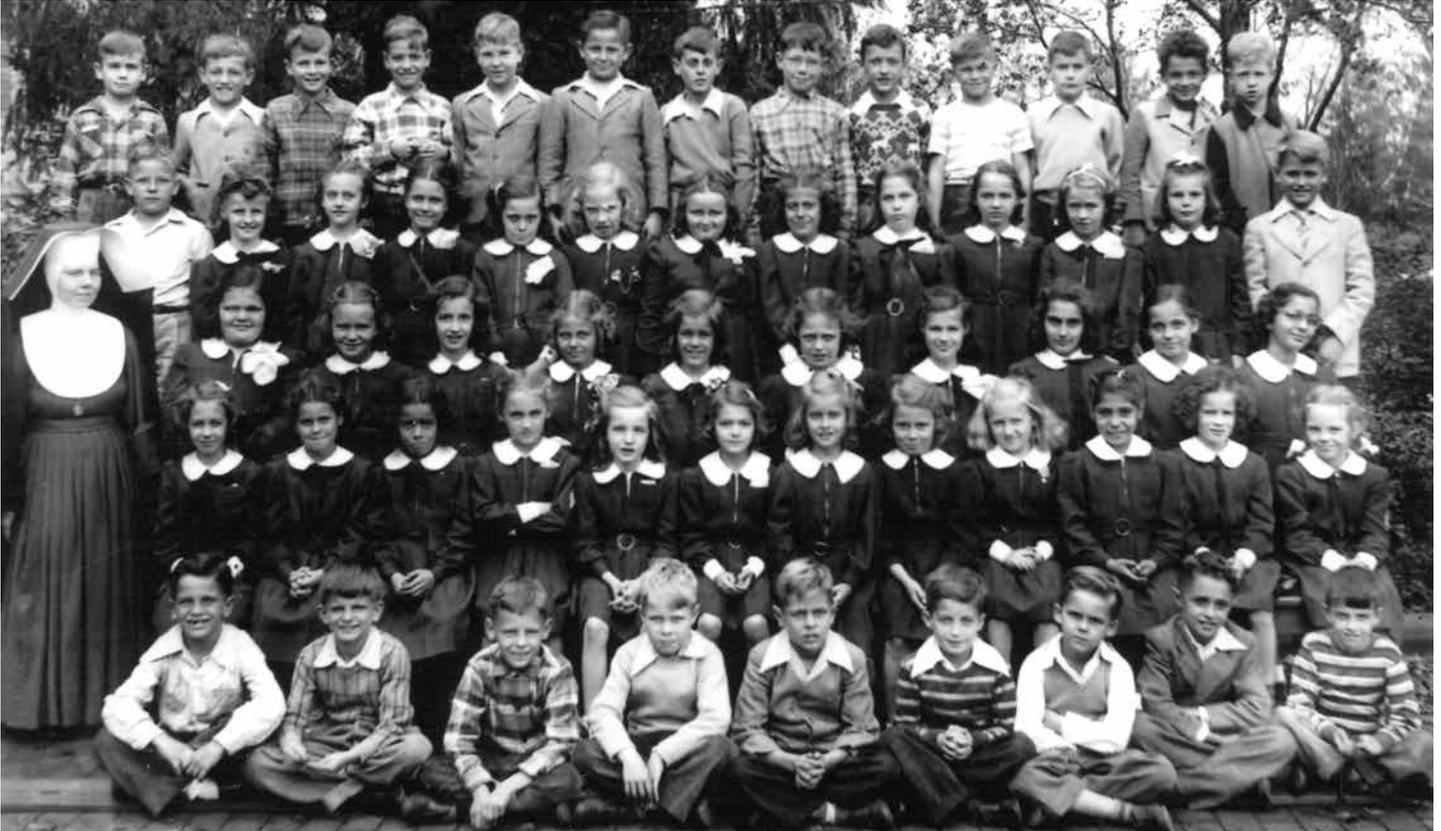
In 2021-22, St. Sebastian Parish School renovated the easternmost school entrance along Mull Avenue to create a new main entrance. Inside the exterior doors, there is now a lobby area created by adding a second set of glass interior doors and walls. Visitors may now enter the lobby and wait there to be granted access to the school instead of waiting outside in the elements. The main office is able to monitor both the lobby and the exterior doors with new cameras installed as part of the renovation. The final element of the project was to restore “Alumni Alley,” a collection of photographs of the school displayed along the walls where the stairs lead up to the main office. In 2023, Brenda Pier Beck, the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation’s president, and Kathy Holaday, the Foundation’s director, redesigned the display utilizing both old archival and current photographs, as seen in the pictures below. Please come for a visit and see them for yourselves!

LEFT: This side focuses on historical images, including 1) the original building, which was built in 1929 as a combination church, school, and convent; 2) the Class of 1939, one of the first classes to attend the new school for the full eight years (before kindergarten was offered); 3) a large composite photograph of the entire school body created in 2019 to commemorate the 90th anniversary of our school; 4) Sunday Mass circa 1940-42, when Mass was celebrated in the original church, now known as Zwisler Hall; and 5) the Sisters of the Humility of Mary, who served faithfully at our school for more than 70 years. Over 150 sisters taught here, with the retirement of Principal Sr. Mary Pat Leopold in 2000 marking the closing of the convent and the departure of the sisters.

RIGHT: This side features more recent images, including: 1) students enjoying their time in the Helen Barry Hamlin Library, located in the lower level of the school in what was previously the cafeteria, social hall, and school stage; 2) students using programmable robots to demonstrate their STEM skills; 3) the Class of 2022, which represents one of the larger graduating classes in the past decade with a total of 43 students. Today, the school is flourishing, with steady enrollment of over 370 students in grades pre-K to 8th-grade; 4) an all-school “living rosary,” photographed using a drone from the school’s Innovation Lab; 5) our pastor, The Reverend John Valencheck, sitting with students near the Sacred Heart of Jesus statue outside of Zwisler Hall; and 6) school Mass being celebrated in the “new church,” where the first Mass was celebrated in 1960.



ALUMNI UPDATES



CLASS OF 1953: 3RD-GRADE PHOTO

Thank you to **Emily Butler Petrarca** for sharing this fantastic 3rd-grade picture of the Class of 1953.

Row 1: Denis Mehigan, William Fanelly, Edward Michael Flynn, Larry Schillmiller, James Dettling, John Bauer, Jackie Anderson, Michael Neman, Dick Wendelken

Row 2: Mariann Kuebler Golobic, Jane Fenwick Urbanski, Centrutta Vance Duve, Margaret Houger-Mayhew, Mary Fay Fisher, Donna Auseon Giffels, Ellen Wozniak Shacklett, Frances Hummel Hickey, Martha Starinki Sprouse, Cynthia Jesser Crigler, Charlene Ball Bowman, Helen Agnes Wright

Row 3: Teacher: Sr. Maura, Judith Linton, Kathryn Riedel Johnson, Ann Murty Scheffer, Andrea Kobetis, Margaret "Posey" Schorr Crabb, Mary Loftus, Catherine Garrett Rauh, Marcia Koop, Sr. Suzanne Strausser O.P., Donna Sawan Puett

Row 4: Michael Murphy, Karren Sawhill, Rita Reymann Czarnecki, Patricia Ohmer Wheeler, Patricia Davis Ross, Emily Butler Petrarca, Joyce DeWitt, Joann Feora Krummel, Patricia Collins Phillips, Michaleen Maloy Traber, Rosemarie Krimmer Adamo, Elizabeth Doerr Rhodes, David Meeker

Row 5: William Linnane, Charlie Crano, James Kormanik, Robert Bachmann, Jr., Timothy O'Rourke, Albert Van Detta, Robert Haas, Peter Yahner, Thomas Vassel, Walter "Scott" Kidder, Paul Hummel, Jr., William Owen, Bernard "Pat" Mong

CLASS OF 1956

Frank Casalino was posthumously inducted to the Diocese of Cleveland CYO Hall of Fame on January 29, 2023. His daughter Ann Lyle accepted the award on his behalf. Frank coached both basketball and football at St. Sebastian, and he also coached at St. Hilary, Walsh Jesuit High School, Buchtel High School, Cloverleaf High School (Lodi) and for Akron's WABL baseball league.

CLASS OF 1982

Jon Cotter and his wife, Patty, live in Strongsville. Jon works for Brand Castle as a Quality Assurance and Compliance Manager. Jon says his wife went back to work after a 7 month layoff after a serious injury, and he wanted to say she is doing great and they thank everyone for all the prayers and support. They have three children: Dana 24, Nicholas 22, and Samuel 17. Dana is teaching at Bay Middle School, Nicholas is working for the Akron Rubber Ducks, and Sam is Hype Master for the Strongsville Mustang Marching Band.

CLASS OF 1993 30TH REUNION: SEPT. 29 – OCT. 1, 2023

Don't miss out on this wonderful weekend of activities! An RSVP request is coming soon, so please email your updated contact information to Maryetetrault@gmail.com.

Friday, September 29

- St. Sebastian Parish School Tour, 4 p.m.
- Forest Lodge Pot Luck, 5 p.m.

Saturday, September 30

- Akron Marathon Relay, 7 a.m. start
- Picnic & Play at The Ledges (families welcome!)
- Evening Out at R. Shea Brewing

Sunday, October 1

- Mustard Seed Brunch, Highland Square

CLASS OF 2015

Cecelia Walter served as president of TedxOhioStateUniversity and as co-organizer of the 12th TedxOSU event in March at Ohio State's Mershon Auditorium. Cecelia recently graduated from OSU with a civil engineering degree with a specialization in Water Resources Engineering and a minor in Environmental Science.

Alex Phillip finished an outstanding senior season for the John Carroll University track and field team. After setting national indoor track records in the 3,000m and 5,000m events, he moved to outdoor competition and helped JCU earn a top three place in the DIII national meet with his first-place finishes in both the 5,000m and 10,000m races, setting a national record in the 10,000m. Alex, who racked up 7 national titles at JCU, was named the 2023 USTFCCCA (U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association) National Male Track Athlete of the Year for DIII. Alex has extended eligibility in both cross country and track due to NCAA COVID-19 eligibility relief, and he will be attending UNC Chapel Hill as a graduate student next year with a full scholarship to further his academic and athletic career.



Photo courtesy of John Carroll University Athletics

CLASSES OF 2019-2022

Two St. Sebastian graduates finished at the top of their graduating class at St. Vincent-St. Mary High School. Congratulations to **Elizabeth Schlueter '19** (valedictorian, Hillsdale College, philosophy/pre-law school major, pictured far left) and **Elizabeth Saliga '19** (salutatorian, The Ohio State University, biochemistry, pictured second from left), who were also both National Merit Commended Scholars. These two alumni were also honored as the STVM Class of 2023 "Academic Top Ten," along with fellow alumnus **Julia Pentasuglio '19**. Congratulations also to **Mara Rizopulos '19**, **Elaina Rooney '19**, and **Millie Ciarlariello '19**, pictured as a group to the right, who were named valedictorians (indicating a GPA of 4.0 or higher) for Firestone High School's Class of 2023. Mara is planning to attend The Ohio State University and study Industrial Design. Elaina is planning to attend The Ohio State University and study Psychology. Millie is planning to attend her first year at Stark State and then Kent State, and she will study PreMed/Psychiatry.



Classes of 2019-2022 continued

In other year-end awards for the STVM Class of 2023, **Elizabeth Schlueter '19** received the Marianist Service Award and the Knights of Columbus Womanhood Award. **Olivia Kindbom '19** received the Mary Jo Chionchio award for outstanding female athlete, and Julia Pentasuglio received the OHSAA Scholar Athlete award. **Shane Adamczyk '19** received the Emerald Shamrock Award as well as the OHSAA Archie Griffin Sportsmanship Award. **Fiona Yori '19** earned the National Federation of High Schools National Award of Excellence. Earning the top scholar award given by department faculty were **Elizabeth Saliga '19** (Excellence in Math, Outstanding Senior in Science) and **Olivia DeKatch '19** (Outstanding Senior in Art). **Elizabeth Schlueter '19** and **J.P. Rybka '19** led the STVM Model United Nations team in winning its 8th consecutive 1st place "Best Delegation" award at The Ohio State University competition in April. Elizabeth also earned an individual first place "Best Delegate" award.

Olivia Kindbom '19 and **Anne Rea '20** earned medals at the state track and field meet as part of a 4x800 relay team that won 7th place. Olivia also medaled individually in the 3,200 meter run, with an 8th-place finish. The STVM boys' volleyball team featured a large group of St. Sebastian alumni: **Jason Walter '19**, **Michael Walter '20**, **Ethan Wyszynski '19**, **Noah Meyer '19**, **Brennan Chivers '20**, **David Armbrust '19**, **Zed Edgar '19**, and **Nate Sparhawk '22**. The team qualified for the state tournament and earned the state runner's up trophy for Division II in the first officially-sanctioned OHSAA boys' volleyball tournament.

Clare Rothkopf '20 graduated from the Junior Leadership Akron as a member of Class 36. Junior Leadership Akron is a nine-month program that provides community awareness and leadership skills for high school juniors in Summit County. Clare was also the recipient of the St. Michael Book Award, which is given to select STVM juniors who are members of National Honor Society and demonstrate academic achievement and social conscience.



Anne Rea '20 was the recipient of the Harvard Book Award, which is given to a junior who displays excellence in scholarship and character combined with achievement in other fields.

Mason Reiss '20 participated in "STEM Research Experience," a program through which STVM partners with the University of Akron's Department of Polymer Science. Students accepted into this program have the opportunity to work under the direction of a professor to perform cutting-edge research. Mason was one of three STVM students in the program who participated in the 70th Annual Northeastern Ohio Science and Engineering Fair at Cleveland State University on March 14. Mason's topic was "Testing the toughness of elastomers synthesized with mechanophore crosslinkers."

Jackson Chapin '22 (second from right) and **Dietrich Loyed '22** (far right) were members of the 3-person team from STVM to qualify for the national TARC (The American Rocketry Challenge) competition in Washington, DC this May. The team finished in 22nd place out of 798 teams.



COME VISIT ST. SEBASTIAN!

CAMPUS TOURS

If you would like a tour of our campus, please contact Kathy Holaday at 330-836-2233 ext. 113 or HoladayK@stsebastian.org. Kathy would be happy to show you around!

VIRTUAL TOUR

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation created a special virtual tour of our campus, with highlights of the school and classrooms, as part of the Foundation's 50th anniversary celebrations. To view, please visit www.stsebastian.org/foundation and click on "Foundation 50th Anniversary Virtual Tour."



ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WELCOMES 33 NEW MEMBERS

Congratulations to our newest members of the St. Sebastian Parish School Alumni Association, the Class of 2023, who celebrated graduation on June 1: William Agambila, Catalina Boville, Gage Caruthers, Lydia Chivers, Marcus Chuba, Alessandra Ciarlariello, Louisa Dennée, John Gallagher, Andrew Gerstenmaier, Charlotte Gilbert, Grayson Johnson, Jack Kenny, Brady Kidder, Nicole Krohn, Noah Madonia, Ethan Marshall-Wack, Joseph Matthews, Greyson McKeon, David McManus, Greysen Mickel, Landon Noggle, Giovanni Nonno, Nicholas Paxton, Jane Porter, Allison Raita, Julia Rea, Elena Salisbury, Isaac Sullivan, William Tober, Kaeden Wadlington, Sophie Walker, Owen Zieman, and Peter Zografakis. They will continue on to the following high schools: Akron Early College (1), Archbishop Hoban (8), Copley (1), Gilmour Academy (1), Revere (1), St. Vincent-St. Mary (17), Walsh Jesuit (3), and Woodridge (1).



CLASS OF 2023 FAMILY LEGACIES:

The Class of 2023 included seven children/grandchildren of alumni: Louisa Dennée (parent Anne Morgan Dennée '85), Andrew Gerstenmaier (parent Jack Gerstenmaier '93), Jack Kenny (parent Tiffany Whitney Kenny '88), Brady Kidder (parent Mike Kidder '90, grandparent Scott Kidder '53), Noah Madonia (grandparent Marilyn Halabrin Maximovich '57), Will Tober (parent Melissa Johnson Tober '95), Kaeden Wadlington (grandparent Suzan Parker Koly '62), and Sophie Walker (parent Lisa Dalessandro Walker '86).

Send Us Your Alumni Updates!

We love to hear from our alumni! Please let us know what you are doing. Email us at alumni@stsebastian.org or use the online form: stsebastian.org/school/alumni/contact.

++ We Will Remember ... ++

The Alumni Association extends our sincerest sympathy to the families and friends of our deceased alumni (February to mid-June, 2023). If you learn of the passing of a St. Sebastian alumnus, please contact us by phone at 330-836-2233 ext. 113 or by email at alumni@stsebastian.org.

Mary Helen McSweeney Cox '38, May 7, 2023
John J. Dettling '42, March 22, 2023
Donna Del Greco LaCasella '50, March 7, 2023
Saiom "Nellie" Bertsch Shriver '56, January 12, 2023
Martin J. Wiesheier '59, May 12, 2022
Shirley Anne "Cappy" Petersen '60, April 10, 2023
Joyce Cavanaugh Hickman '61, April 16, 2023
Pamela O'Brien McMasters '62, May 20, 2023

Gregory M. Bryson '65, January 12, 2023
John W. Dobbertin '66, March 26, 2023
Douglas B. Maher '66, March 6, 2023
Karen Zazo Rowe '68, December 2022
Christine Budd Bane '72, May 7, 2023
Michael D. Kirn '75, September 8, 2022
Elizabeth Balaun Coughlin '80, May 22, 2023

OVER \$40,000 IN STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The St. Sebastian Parish Foundation was proud to host the annual Foundation Scholarship Mass on March 30. This year, a remarkable 52 scholarships were awarded to students from St. Sebastian Parish School. Our students earned scholarships worth a total of \$41,650 offered by the St. Sebastian Parish Foundation as well as four other parish entities. The awards will be applied to tuition for the 2023-24 school year at St. Sebastian Parish School, or in the case of eighth-grade students, at a local Catholic high school. Additional eighth-grade scholarships were recognized at graduation. Congratulations to these fantastic students, and thank you to the generous individuals and groups who made these awards possible!

St. Sebastian Parish Foundation Scholarships

The Michael R. Beck III Memorial Scholarship: Andrew Gerstenmaier, Ethan Marshall-Wack, Peter Zografakis

The Mary Ley Burke Scholarship: Nevaeh Brunson, Abigail Coleman, Jackson Edgar, Luca Hall, Frances Knauer, Finn Rafferty, Connor Whitney

The Christopher James Consilio Memorial Scholarship: Louisa Dennée

The Dayspring Opportunity Scholarship: Trisha Dakhore

The Denise Maroon Finley Memorial Scholarship: Greysen Mickel

The Gerstenmaier Family Scholarship: Andrew Gerstenmaier, Peter Zografakis

GOAL Scholarship (Graves O'Neill Academic Leaders): Sadie Borges, Aubrey Coates, Angelina Gerbick, Gemma Griffin, Ben Hagenbush, Daphne Kindbom, Ellen Rothkopf, Adeline Trenor

The Hanlon Family Scholarship: Parker Chapin, Joe MacDougall, Zoe Obringer, Nate Pirie

The Karg Family Scholarship: Emerson Kavulic

The Tom and Jeanne LaRose Family Memorial Scholarship: Helena Buehner, Shilo Davenport, Levi Dunn, Abigail Gilbride, Lincoln Lawson, Angela Marino, Harlyn Nordberg, Myra Singh, Miles Soper, June Taray

The William and Mildred Loftus Memorial Scholarship: Ellie Salisbury

The Frances L. Sharp Scholarship: Sophia Brdarski, Jordan Large, Jonathan Schnurr

The John A. Trecaso Scholarship: Marcus Chuba, Giovanni Nonno

Additional St. Sebastian Parish Scholarships

HASA Youth Christian Service Scholarship: Noah Madonia, Julia Rea

The Knights of Columbus Council #14255 Deacon Terry Peacock Memorial Scholarship: Isaac Sullivan, Julia Rea

The Sanctuary Society Service Scholarship: Julia Rea

The St. Irene Principal's Scholarship: George Knauer, Isaac Sullivan

***Congratulations
to These Terrific
Terriers!***

