

# Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

### Happy Easter

Happy Easter! I hope you had a blessed Lenten season and experienced transformation. On Easter Sunday, the disciples discovered the empty tomb, signifying that Jesus had risen from the dead. He defeated death, which was the last enemy. The empty tomb is one of the most powerful symbols in Christianity, especially during Easter celebrations. At its core, it represents hope, victory, and new life. New life means leaving behind everything that separated us from God and others, and overcoming vices.

The empty tomb signifies that everything separating us from God—sin, fear, and death—has been conquered. What appeared to be defeat on Good Friday turns into victory on Easter Sunday. Jesus, who died on Good Friday, was transformed into the risen Jesus on Easter Sunday.

The resurrection is not just about Jesus; it is a promise for us. The empty tomb assures us that suffering, loss, and even death are not the end of our story. Interestingly, the empty tomb by itself did not immediately convince everyone. It invites belief. Like Mary Magdalene and the other disciples, we are called to move from confusion and fear to trust and faith, and call us to mission. The women who discovered the empty tomb were told to “go and tell.” The empty tomb sends us out to witness, to live differently, with joy and courage.

I would like to reflect on the origin and traditions of Easter. Some of the things we do, and we don't know why, and why we celebrate it in spring.

Easter, like Christmas, has roots in both Christian and ancient pagan cultures. While most people think of it as a religious holiday, many of today's traditions actually come from pre-Christian customs.

**The Origin of Easter:** Easter started as a pagan celebration of the spring equinox. For Christians, it became a day to remember the resurrection of Jesus Christ, which happens around the same time as the Jewish Passover. As Christianity spread, early Christians who did not follow Jewish customs combined their ceremonies with the pagan spring festival and began calling it "resurrection day."

**Modern Easter Traditions:** Today, Easter traditions blend Christian themes with ancient pagan celebrations, but most of the symbols we use derive from older customs. Decorations like eggs, bunnies, and candies all have roots in pre-Christian springtime.

The Easter egg is one of the most familiar symbols of the holiday. Its history goes back to the Ancient Babylonians, who believed an egg fell from heaven into the Euphrates River and "hatched" the goddess of fertility, Astarte (also called Ashtur, Ishtar, and even Easter). Pagans gave eggs as gifts during their spring festival. Today, people paint eggs in bright colors and hide them for children to find in Easter egg hunts.

The Easter Bunny is another well-known symbol. Like eggs, rabbits stand for spring and fertility. The tradition began with the pagan festival of Eostre, which honored a northern goddess linked to rabbits and hares. Now, the Easter Bunny brings eggs and treats for children to enjoy each year.

### In this newsletter you will find information about:

- Facing Racism Book Discussion
- Welcome Group Meeting
- Spring Into Service Parish Beautification
- Baptism for Students in 1<sup>st</sup> Reconciliation & Eucharist in 2026-27
- St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program
- Auction Update
- Men's Morning Retreat
- Saturday Morning Masses
- New Cluster Mass Schedule
- Archbishop Grob at Fish Fry
- Save the Date for the Fall Women's Retreat
- Volunteer Appreciation Night
- Faith Formation Family Events
- Care for Creation Information and Opportunities
- Benefit for Hope Event
- Divine Mercy Sunday
- Welcome to New Parishioners
- Sr. Helen Prejean Event at Mount Mary University
- Craft Group Meetings
- Christian Women's Group
- Holly Berry Boutique Opportunity
- Confirmation
- Archives History Briefs
- Buildings and Grounds Update
- Spiritual Direction Opportunity

The white lily, often called the Easter lily, is closely tied to the holiday. Lilies stand for purity and resurrection. According to one legend, lilies grew in the Garden of Gethsemane, where Christ prayed before his death. Other spring flowers, such as daffodils, crocuses, hyacinths, and tulips, are also associated with Easter.

Other Easter symbols include crosses and crucifixes, which connect directly to religious teachings. Chickens and chicks stand for spring and new life, while palm branches are important in both spring and Christian traditions.

May this Easter bring true meaning in our lives, and like Christmas, Easter is a great time of sharing a meal with close friends and family, and those in need.

See you at Mass,  
**Fr. Peter Patrick**



**SCAM  
ALERT!**

#### Scam Warning Reminder

If you get an email or text that looks like it's from Fr Peter Patrick BEWARE. He will **never** send you an email or text asking for money or gift cards or making the request URGENT. Scammers are praying on your good intentions. **Do not hesitate to contact the parish house for verification, 414-453-1061 or email [jperleberg@saintsebs.org](mailto:jperleberg@saintsebs.org)** first before taking any action. Protect yourself from these unscrupulous people.

## FACING RACISM BOOK DISCUSSION



Come and bring a friend for a lively discussion on the following Friday evenings at 6:30 pm in the St. Sebastian multipurpose room.

The titles and dates are:

- *I Am Nobody's Slave* by Lee Hawkins; May 1

Fish Fry take outs will be available from 4:30 to 7:30 pm at St. Sebastian School (enter through playground entrance facing 54<sup>th</sup> St.) Purchase your fish fry supper and bring it to the book discussion if you wish.

## WELCOME GROUP: DIGNITY IN PRACTICE

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops defines Catholic Social Teaching as the belief that human life is sacred, and that the dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision for society. How we express that dignity - especially in welcoming LGBTQ+ individuals in liturgy and daily life - is an ongoing transformation.

At the next St. Sebastian Welcome Group gathering, **Sr. Jane Marie Bradish, OSF**, will reflect on how her life journey has shaped her understanding of inclusion and belonging. Drawing on her experience in Catholic secondary education and as a church cantor, she will explore what fosters welcome, what exclusion can look like, and how communities can respond with faithfulness and care.

Join us on **Monday, April 27 at 6 pm in the Adult Formation Room**. For more information, **contact Barb Haig** at [welcomegroup@saintsebs.org](mailto:welcomegroup@saintsebs.org).



Join us on **Saturday, April 18th** for a joyous day of community fellowship at our *annual* Spring into Service event! It's time to come together to rejuvenate our beloved parish campus, both inside and out.

This is a fantastic opportunity for school-aged kids to earn service hours, and we rely on our adult parishioners to help lead the charge. Whether you are a seasoned cleaner, a weekend gardener, or just looking to spend a great Saturday with your parish family, we need your hands and your enthusiasm!

**Our day will kick off at 9:00 AM** with a group prayer in church, and we will **conclude at 1:00 pm** with an ice cream social in the Multipurpose Room.

**Here's a glimpse of what we'll be tackling:**

- **Parish House:** Dive into a deep clean of the kitchen, spruce up common areas, and refresh the bathrooms.
- **Church:** Sweep away the winter dust and bring back the sparkle to our worship space.
- **Outside Gardens:** Get your hands dirty with some weeding and mulching to bring our outdoor spaces back to life for spring.

All hands are welcome, regardless of age or expertise. Please bring along your favorite cleaning supplies or gardening tools if you have them!

**Ready to lend a hand?** Come when you can, ~~leave when you need~~ to, but let us know you are coming. **Sign up today** by visiting <http://bit.ly/4tcQRVZ>

Or scan here:



Together, let's make our parish shine!

Many thanks from the Stewardship Committee

## BAPTISM FOR STUDENTS PLANNING 2026 - 2027 FIRST RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST



Is your First Grade student planning to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist next year? If they have not yet been baptized or they were baptized in another Christian denomination, now is the time to take action! In order to prepare and receive the sacraments with their classmates, we must be notified of your desire to have them baptized or convert to the Catholic faith before they begin Second Grade. Contact Jessica Quintanilla at [jquintanilla@saintsebs.org](mailto:jquintanilla@saintsebs.org) for more information, or sign up for a baptismal preparation class at <https://tinyurl.com/AdultFormSignUp>.

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### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEAL PROGRAM



St. Sebastian will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, May 8**. Volunteers are needed to help cook or to serve the meal. Cooks meet in the church hall kitchen at 8 am and servers at 4 pm. Servers will load up the food to bring it down to All People's Church (2600 N. 2nd Street) to serve the meal.

Donations of **oranges\***, cookies/desserts, and lettuce for salad (bags or heads cut up and ready to go) are also appreciated and can be dropped off in the church hall kitchen anytime on **Friday, May 8 before 4 pm**.

**For more information or to donate food or to volunteer, contact Phil Bielefeld at 414-559-0996 or [pjb0469@gmail.com](mailto:pjb0469@gmail.com).** Monetary donations are accepted as well to help offset the rising cost of purchasing groceries.

Thank you to all of the cooks, servers, and donors who helped at the meal program on March 13 where we served 65 meals that evening with plenty of leftovers to feed more the following days that they were open. All who were served were very appreciative and thankful for our efforts.

*\*In the past we have asked for apples or oranges. SVDP seems to have plenty of apples so we are going to focus on oranges this time (oranges, mandarin oranges, or Cuties). SVDP also made a specific request for donations of juice...large cans, powder, or juice boxes.*

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### “FROM SEBS, WITH LOVE” AUCTION UPDATE

We are thrilled to share the wonderful success of our 2026 From Sebs, With Love Parish Auction! Thanks to the incredible generosity of our Saint Sebastian community, **the event raised \$64,000, along with an additional \$15,000 through our “Stop the Auction,” for a total of \$79,000.**

Not only did we meet our goal, **we far exceeded our budget expectation of \$60,000!** This year's Auction was truly a remarkable success and a testament to the strength and spirit of our Sebs community.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our Auction chairs, Stacey and Nate Rebholz and Lacey and Ben Aronin, as well as our committee members, sponsors, donors, and participants who made this event possible. Your support continues to make a meaningful difference in our parish community.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25 | 8AM-1PM**

**ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH**

# **PRACTICAL STEPS TO A PRAYERFUL LIFE**

for Catholic Men

**A MORNING RETREAT FOR THE MEN OF  
ST. SEBASTIAN AND ST. CATHERINE PARISHES**

## Retreat Schedule:

8:00 AM – Gather

8:30-11:30 AM – Retreat Sessions

11:30 AM – Mass

12:00 PM – Lunch and Departure

## Retreat Facilitator:

David Lichter

Register at



Questions?

Contact Zac Karanovich

[rzkaranovich@gmail.com](mailto:rzkaranovich@gmail.com)



**SPONSORED BY:**

**THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS  
ST. CARLO ACUTIS COUNCIL**



## SATURDAY MORNING MASS!



Starting in Lent, Fr. Peter Patrick will be adding a Saturday morning **Mass beginning at 8:30 am**, followed by **Adoration** and **Reconciliation from 9 am - 10 am**. The location for Mass will alternate between St. Sebastian and St. Catherine on the following schedule:

**1st/3rd/5th Saturday: St. Sebastian**  
**2nd/4th Saturday: St. Catherine**

This new Mass will stay on the schedule in perpetuity. As it is in the morning, it is *not* a Mass of Anticipation.

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## NEW SCHEDULE FOR CLUSTER MASSES

After careful consideration and in continued efforts to draw our faith communities together, the Cluster Mass schedule going forward will be as follows:

When the Cluster Mass is held on a Sunday at **ST. CATHERINE**, it will be at **10 am**.

When the Cluster Mass is held on a Sunday at **ST. SEBASTIAN**, it will be at **10:30 am** and there will be **NO 8 am Mass**.

**The first instance of this new schedule will happen on PALM SUNDAY!** Mass is at St. Sebastian at 10:30am and there will be NO 8 am Mass. Please mark your calendars and plan ahead.



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## ARCHBISHOP GROB VISITS ST. SEB'S FISH FRY!



*St. Sebastian was excited to welcome Archbishop Grob to Fish Fry last month, pictured here with Fr. Peter Patrick.*



### **Save the Date Women's Fall Retreat**

October 16 & 17, 2026

Siena Retreat Center  
Racine, WI

Our Program will be:

***Checking Your Spiritual Vital Signs***

***Vitality  
Intensity &  
Spirit***

**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR  
SAINT SEBASTIAN  
VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION NIGHT**

**MUSIC  
BINGO**

As a way to thank our AMAZING volunteers, please join us for an evening of delicious food, exciting prizes, and endless fun!

**TUESDAY, APRIL 21 FROM 6 – 9 PM**

Saint Sebastian Church Hall

**Please RSVP to  
[bit.ly/Sebsvolunteers](https://bit.ly/Sebsvolunteers)  
Adults only please.**



# Faith Formation Family Events

*These intergenerational lessons are held five times a year, focusing on different core themes. Each Family Program involves catechesis, activities, and take-home materials for continued spiritual growth. All families are welcome to participate in any of the Family Programs.*

## **DATES**

- November 1st, 10am-12pm:  
Saints & Souls
- November 30th, 4- 5:45 pm:  
Advent
- January 6th, 5:30-7pm:  
Scripture & Tradition
- March 14th, 10 am-12pm:  
Catholic Social Teaching:  
Family & Participation
- May 9th, 10am-12pm: Mary



# HUMAN CONCERNS COMMITTEE: CARE FOR CREATION - FROM OUR CHURCH TO OUR COMMUNITY

In 2015 the Vatican published Pope Francis's second encyclical, ***Laudato Si'***

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco\\_20150524\\_enciclica-laudato-si.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)

In 2023 the Vatican published Pope Francis's apostolic exhortation, ***Laudate Deum***

[https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost\\_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html)

Last year the Vatican published Pope Leo's message for the **10th World Day Of Prayer For The Care Of Creation 2025**

<https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/creation/documents/20250630-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>

These documents reflect upon the connection between care for creation, our common home, and care for the poor and vulnerable. Consider setting aside time this **Earth Day, Wednesday April 22nd**, to contemplate their words and our actions.

There are also opportunities to participate in clean-ups across Milwaukee County (and beyond) during Earth Week, including:

**St. Catherine Neighborhood: Saturday April 18th, 9 am to Noon**

Bring rakes/gloves, meet at St Catherine's Community Center (51st St doors just south of Center St).

**Washington Heights Neighborhood: Saturday April 25th, anytime between 8 am and Noon**

Stop by the Washington Heights Community Garden (49th & Lloyd) to pick up gloves, bags, and tools.

**Urban Ecology Center at Washington Park: Saturday April 25th, 9 am to Noon**

UEC is celebrating Earth Week all week; there are many events at all three UEC sites.

<https://www.urbanecologycenter.org/calendar?search=earth+week>

**Milwaukee Riverkeeper: Saturday April 25th, 9am to Noon (many locations)**

<https://milwaukeekeeper.org/restore/spring-cleanup/>



Please sign-up to attend or sponsor a table at our inaugural **Benefit for Hope: An Evening with Catholic Charities!** Learn about our work, celebrate our shared mission to love and serve our neighbor, and experience how your support is transformed into hope for those most in need in southeastern Wisconsin. **Wednesday, April 29 at the Italian Community Center, Milwaukee. 5 pm cocktail hour, 6:30 pm dinner.**

Find more information and registration on our website [CCMKE.ORG](http://CCMKE.ORG) or search "Benefit for Hope".



## FRIENDS FOR LIFE: DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY - OPPORTUNITY TO SEEK FORGIVENESS

Divine Mercy Sunday is a Catholic feast day celebrating God's Boundless Mercy offering complete forgiveness of sins through Confession, Communion and trust. It is celebrated on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter. This was a request made by Jesus to St. Faustina emphasizing a spiritual renewal and a call to show mercy to others with promises of grace for those who have faith and show compassion for others.



Divine Mercy Sunday reminds us that no sin is beyond God's forgiveness. When we approach with sincere hearts, His Mercy is boundless. God provides us all the opportunity to heal and restore our brokenness. The message of Divine Mercy speaks to everyone from those carrying heavy burdens of sin to the faithful souls seeking deeper conversion. God's love isn't earned but freely given and it challenges us to extend that mercy to others.

This Year, 2026, **Divine Mercy Sunday is being celebrated on April 12.** The intercession provided through the United States Catholic Conference of Bishop's Words of Life for April include prayers for those who are dealing with Life Issues and Struggles whether it be an Unplanned Pregnancy, a Serious Health Condition, Mental Disorder or an Addiction or Death. Our Friends for Life Committee would like to offer a couple special prayer intentions that we as individuals and as a parish can pray for during this month of April.

On April 12<sup>th</sup> we are asked to pray for those who have had an abortion and feel they have committed an unforgiveable sin: May they come to know the Lord's limitless mercy and turn to Him for forgiveness and healing: let us pray to the Lord.

On April 26<sup>th</sup> we are asked to pray for those tempted to end their lives: That through the grace of the Resurrection, Christ will fill them with hope, belief in His love, and the assurance that their lives are worth living; let us pray to the Lord.

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

We warmly welcome all those who joined our Saint Sebastian parish family in **February!**

**Samantha Windsor and Ryan O'Hara with son, Maximilian**  
**Clara Kuranz and Jack Mihelich**  
**Imani and Kate Graham with daughter, Violet, and son, Emmett**  
**Tracy Washington with son, Felando**  
**Kalli Geason**  
**Rob Dedrick**

Your presence enriches our community. May you find a warm, spiritual home here at Saint Sebastian. We invite all parishioners to extend a friendly greeting, introduce yourselves, and help our newest members feel at home as we continue to grow together in faith and fellowship.

WELCOME



# DEAD MAN WALKING

## Life, Death and a Burning Passion for Justice

*A Conversation with S. Helen Prejean*

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17 | NOON**  
Alumnae Dining Room | Bergstrom Hall

Sister Helen Prejean is an inspiring speaker, storyteller and advocate against corporal punishment. Her book *Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States* served as the inspiration for the Academy Award-winning 1995 film, *Dead Man Walking*. Prejean's passionate advocacy work has spanned over four decades and has taken her across the globe for conversations with influential figures in society—including actors, religious leaders and U.S. presidents.

The event will be followed by a book signing. Registration is required and space is limited—please use the QR code below to reserve your spot.

*Dead Man Walking Graphic Edition* can be purchased through Boswell Books at <https://boswellbooks.com/book/9780593134856> Pre-ordered books can be picked up at the event—just add “pick up at event” during online checkout.

Questions or for more information,  
contact Zac Karanovich:  
[karanovr@mtmary.edu](mailto:karanovr@mtmary.edu)

**SCAN THIS QR CODE  
TO REGISTER NOW:**



Sponsored by the School Sisters of Notre Dame

# CRAFT GROUP 2026!

The Craft Group will be meeting **April 7 at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room**. Our project this month is making Cinnamon Ornaments. Everyone is welcome to join us for an evening of fun and project making. Supplies will be provided. The items we make will be sold at the Holly Berry Boutique in December. Hope to see you there!

The Craft Group is ready to go for 2026! We have a great list of projects available for anyone who wants to participate. If you love making things and enjoy being with other people, consider coming to a gathering for an evening. The Craft Group meets the **First Tuesday of each month** from **February through November** at **7 pm in the Multipurpose Room**. Each month we work on a new project. The items we create will be sold at the Holly Berry Boutique, which will be on December 5. We are a welcoming group. If you just want to stop in for a particular item we are making, please feel free to join us. No need to call or sign up, just stop in and have some fun and express your creativity. We usually have delicious chocolates to munch on too. Please see the list of items pictured with the date of the project. All materials and tools will be supplied. Looking forward to having you join us on a regular basis or just or just for an evening. Any questions, I can be reached at: [joannstaz@gmail.com](mailto:joannstaz@gmail.com).

**April 7- Lisa**  
CinnamonOrnament



**May 5 - Stephanie**  
Eyeglass Lanyard &  
Crystal Snowflake



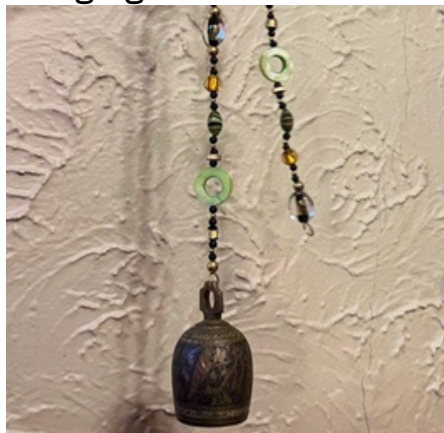
**June 2 - Laura**  
Bath Bomb



**July 7 - Jackie & Sam**  
Crystal Tree Earrings &  
Icicle Earrings



**August 4 - Laura**  
Hanging Bell



**September 1** Jo Ann  
Door Hanger



**October 6** - Jackie & Sam  
Book Ornament  
& Magic Wand



**November 3** -  
Lisa & Annalisa  
CandyJar & Music Pyramid



**Additional Projects**  
Laura Bonnie  
Chocolate Espresso  
Stir Spoon



Scissors Holder



**November 17th** Finish Up

**December 4th** Set Up

**December 5th** Boutique

## FROM FR. PETER PATRICK: CHRISTIAN WOMEN

God is good all the time; all the time, God is good. Although it might be late, I want to thank all the women who attended the 2025 Annual Holly Berry Christmas Boutique. Thank you for continuing this great tradition in our parish.

I appreciate seeing parishioners gather at Mass and social events. As many of you know, the Christmas Boutique was founded by Christian Women. While we do not currently have a dedicated Christian Women's group, several women's groups are active. **I invite everyone interested, whether previously involved or new, to help revive this group and support a positive future for all women in our parish. Please watch for an invitation to a brainstorming meeting about our next steps.** Thank you for being a member of St. Sebastian, and welcome to our new members. We all belong.



# HOLLY BERRY BOUTIQUE: WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!!



For many years, our parish has been blessed by a special event that has brought women together in faith, friendship and service. It is more than just a date on the calendar - it is a tradition filled with laughter, connection, and a shared sense of purpose.

Today, we have an opportunity to ensure this cherished event continues for years to come...but we can't do it without you.

**We are inviting women of our parish to come together and join our committee dedicated to carrying this tradition forward.** Whether you have been part of this event in the past or are simply looking for a meaningful way to get involved, your voice, your ideas, and your presence matter.

You do not need special experience - just a willing heart and a desire to connect. Every contribution big or small, helps create something beautiful for our parish community.

This is more than volunteering - it's about building friendships, sharing our gifts, and being part of something that is important to the parish,

If you have ever thought, "I'd love to get more involved," this is your moment".

Please consider joining us. Together, we can honor the past while creating something wonderful for the future. Interested? We would love to hear from you! **Please contact Jenny O'Neil with a text at 414-403-7419 or email at [Jso172252@gmail.com](mailto:Jso172252@gmail.com)**



## SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

As our youth Candidates prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 19th with Archbishop Grob at St. Catherine's, please hold them in your prayers. May the Holy Spirit grant in them the wisdom to know God's will, courage to follow it, and love to share it with others. Blessings on each of them and their families.

### **St. Sebastian:**

*Evelyn Christina* Ambrose  
*Evelyn Pio* Canavan\*  
*Bennett Walter* Corr  
*Caelyr Clare* Grining  
*Anita Catherine* Hatten  
*Gunnar Vincent* Holsen  
*Jordyn Dymphna* Kerry  
*Kadre George* Lee  
*Charlie Simon* Lloyd

*Lukas Vincent* Marik\*

*Joseph John Paul II* Murray  
*Brady Sebastian* Potier Brown  
*Finley Patrick* Roney  
*Judah Felix* Sanders  
*Joseph Francis* Schreiner  
*Harrison Maximilian* Schwabe  
*Gemma Veronica* Villanueva  
**St. Catherine:**  
*Tahlia Bernadette* Melendes

# ST. SEBASTIAN ARCHIVES | HISTORY BRIEFS

Over the past year, several parishioners have asked about relics, supposedly preserved either on or in the church altar. There are several theories about 'who,' whether, if any, they represent St. Sebastian or another saint. At this time, no such relics have been located, but the search continues.

However, in the St. Sebastian archives we have relics from other, historically significant individuals described below including: SS Crucis believed to be from the True Cross; Saint Maria Goretti an 11-year-old girl designated as a Virgin/Martyr; Saint Pius X the 258 Pope; and Saint Anthony of Padua a 13<sup>th</sup> century Franciscan. The identifying name and 'bone' are housed in round decorative encasements and are difficult to read, but with a magnifying glass, we were finally able to transcribe them. We must be skeptical, yet open to the truth about some, that these were acquired at a time in our faith, when relics held great significance and meaning. I thought you'd like to know not only about the types of relics, but those our parish preserves.

## SS Crucis DNJC

SS. Crucis D.N.J.C. SS Crucis DNJC" is a Latin inscription commonly found on Catholic reliquaries, standing for Sanctissimae Crucis Domini Nostri Jesu Christi. It translates to "**Most Holy Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.**" This label indicates that the item contains a relic (usually wood) believed to be from the True Cross.

## S. Mar. Gor. V.M.

S. Mar **Saint Maria Goretti** (1890–1902) is a recognized saint in the Roman Catholic Church. She is venerated as a virgin and martyr, having died at age 11 after being stabbed while resisting an attempted rape. She was canonized by Pope Pius XII in 1950. If "s. mar. gor. v.m." referred to other possibilities (such as a variation of St. Mark or other local saints like Mar Sabor), the search results indicate those are separate individuals, but Saint Maria Goretti is the primary saint recognized with the "V.M." (Virgin/Martyr) designation in this context.

## S. Piix. P.C.

Yes, Piix p.c. or more commonly SSPX (Society of St. Pius X) or FSSPX (Fraternité Sacerdotale Sancti Pii X) refers to **Pope Pius X**. Pope Pius X (born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto) was the 258th Pope of the Roman Catholic Church, reigning from 1903 to 1914. The Society of St. Pius X (SSPX) was named after him by Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre in 1970 because Pius X was known as a staunch conservative who opposed modernism within the Church. In French (often found in international traditionalist documents), it is written as Fraternité Saint Pie X.

## S. Antoni Pat.

Yes, S. Antoni Pat is an abbreviation for **Saint Anthony of Padua**, a popular 13th-century Franciscan friar. Often found in catalogs, church listings, or on medals, it signifies the Portuguese-born saint known as the patron of lost items, sailors, and travelers. **Alternative Names:** Saint Antony of Padua, Saint Antoine de Padoue (French). **Background:** Born Fernando Martins de Bulhões in Lisbon, Portugal (1195–1231). Known for his preaching, he was canonized within a year of his death. **Devotion:** Commonly invoked to help find lost objects.

If you have questions about your family or parish history at St. Sebastian, or have items you'd like to donate to the archives, contact Mary Voell at [sebsarchives@saintsebs.org](mailto:sebsarchives@saintsebs.org) or leave items at the parish house, attention: Archives.



## What Are Relics?

The word relic comes from the Latin reliquiae, which translates into "remains". Relics are physical objects that have a direct association with the saints or with Our Lord.

### There are three different types of relics:

- ✦ First-Class Relics are items directly associated with the events of Christ's life (the manger, the cross, etc.), or the physical remains of a saint (a bone, a hair, a limb, etc.)
- ✦ A Second-Class Relic is an item which was worn by a saint (such as a shirt or a glove), or which the saint owned or frequently used (such as a crucifix or book).
- ✦ A Third-Class Relic is an object that is touched to a first- or second-class relic. Most third-class relics are small pieces of cloth.

# UPDATE FROM THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

2026 will be an exciting year as the masonry restoration of the Church will be completed and the Roof Top Units (RTU's) providing heating and cooling to the Church will be replaced. A limited amount of roof work will also be done.

## **2026 construction scope and schedule:**

**Masonry Restoration** of the Church will conclude in 2026. Impacted areas include:

*East elevation*- the lower sections of the east façade as well as selected areas of the east gable. Most of this work will be done using ladders, lifts, rolling scaffolding and 2 vertical scaffold towers for the east gable work. We will maintain access to the church doors on weekends but will require selective door closures on a limited rolling basis as work proceeds. The South and North corners of the East gable end wall will be removed to expose, repair and coat with epoxy the deteriorated steel columns at those locations. The corners will then be rebuilt utilizing a combination of salvaged original stone and replacement limestone. This work is currently underway.

*South (Washington Blvd) elevation*- salt damaged limestone adjacent to the 3 sets of entrance doors will be replaced. This is a short duration event which will necessitate limiting access to these doors during the work week, but weekend access will be maintained. This work will be scheduled to avoid any conflict with special events.

*West elevation*- the lower sections of the west façade south of the bell tower. Most of this work will be done using ladders, lifts and a small amount of scaffolding. The west façade (gable end) north of the bell tower will be fully scaffolded. Access to the west transept from the bell tower door (55<sup>th</sup> Street) will not be impacted. Access to the church hall entrance (55<sup>th</sup> Street) will be restricted during the work week but we will attempt to allow weekend access.

*North elevation*- coping stone joint replacement on lower wall sections and installation of scuppers on the parapet walls adjacent to the church roof top units. No access impacts.

Duration:

3/20/26 -Site mobilization and scaffold erection began

Late summer -Masonry restoration concludes. (actual date will be determined by weather-related delays and any unforeseen additional work that may be required)

## **Church RTUs and related roofs**

The replacement of the church rooftop heating and cooling units (RTUs), as well as the roofs beneath those units and two additional roof areas-the southeast corner of the church and the connector between the church's north wall and the school is **tentatively** planned to start in late April.

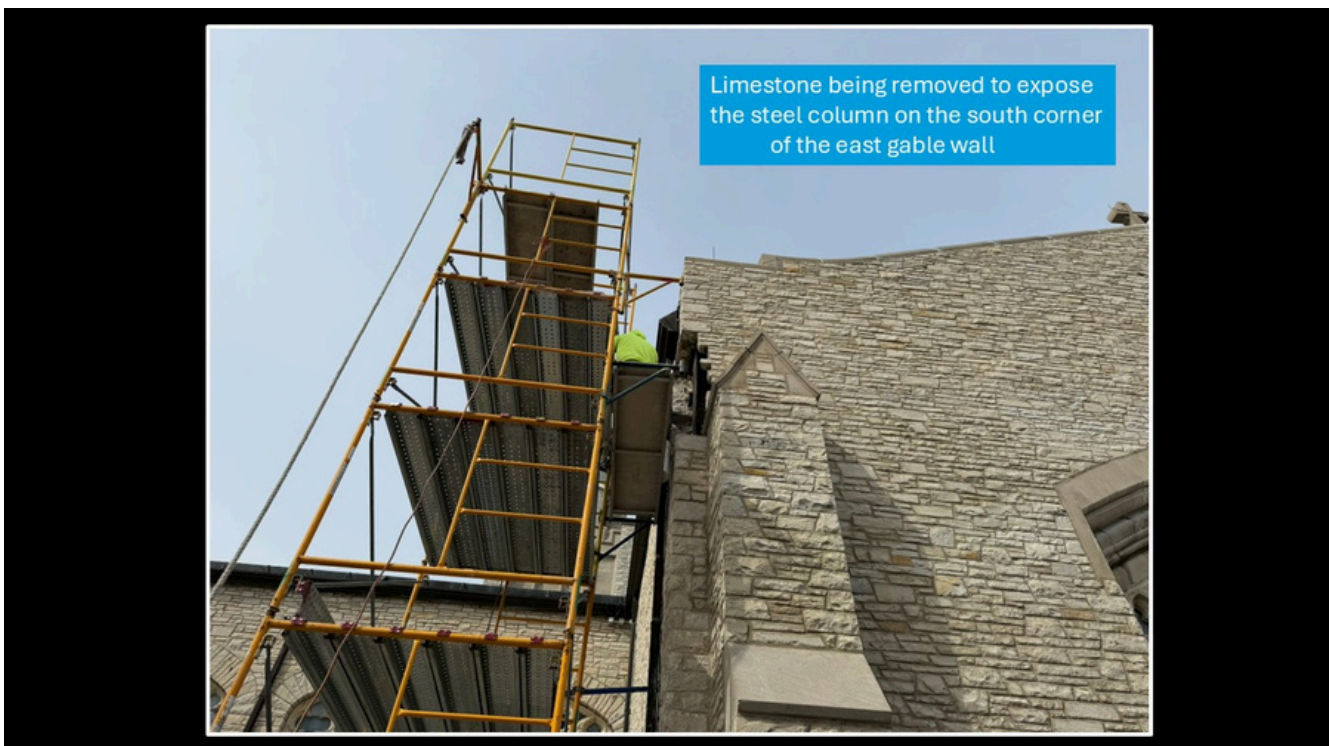
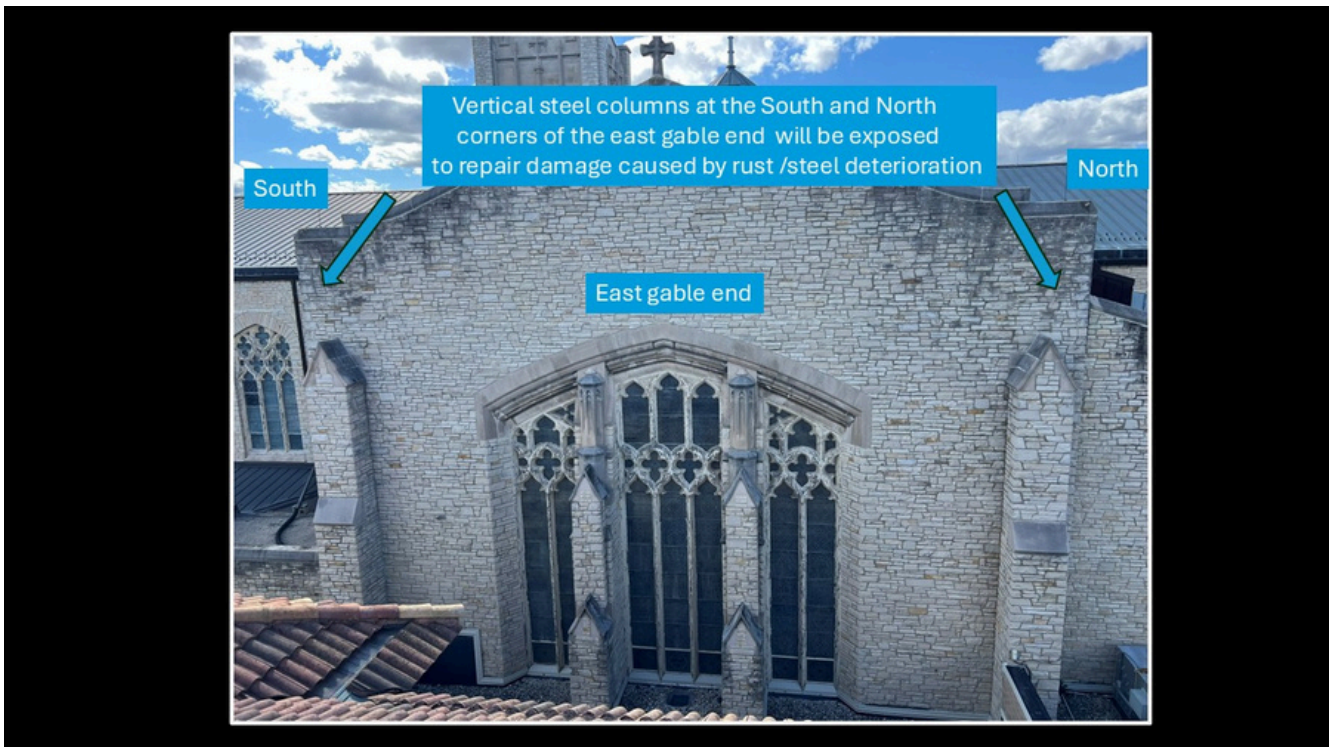
The work, which should last about two weeks, includes removing current RTUs, replacing roofs, and installing new RTUs. Heating will be limited and AC unavailable during this time, so outside temperatures will factor into the scheduled start date. The remaining two roof sections will be addressed after the RTU areas are complete. There will be some very limited impacts on access, but they will be short duration and occur during the work week. A large construction crane will be used to remove the existing RTUs as well as position the new units. The crane will be positioned on the concrete apron adjacent to the dumpsters/parking area on N.55<sup>th</sup> Street. During the lift operations we will need to shut down the 55th street sidewalk, close off entrance/exit doors on N. 55<sup>th</sup> street and vacate the parking area of the apron. There will be 2 dates that the crane will be present with a 4-6-hour duration each time.

*Continued on next page*

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Some preliminary work on the new steel structure for the connector roof can started on **2/9/26** and is now complete. This area will not be accessible but will not interfere with the function of the school stairwell other than limit access from the stairwell to the church via the back of altar area. The workers are aware of daily Mass (including school Mass) and will not generate noise during those times. **Additional access will be required during the RTU roof replacement activity.**

**School playground improvements-** This work is still in the planning stages but will be executed during the summer break.

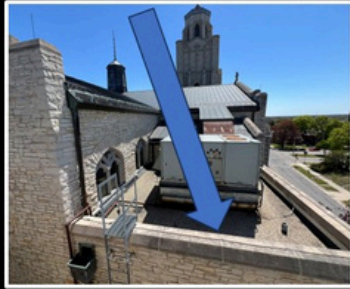
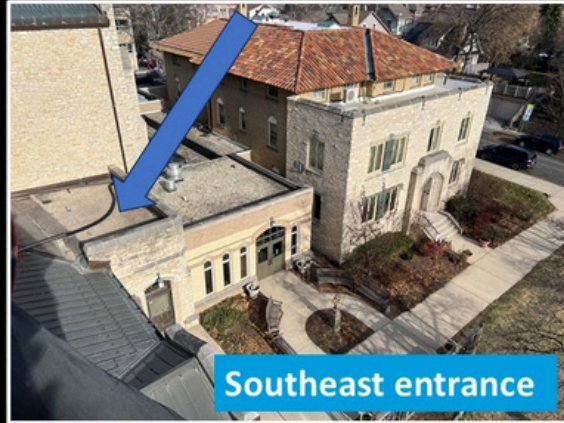
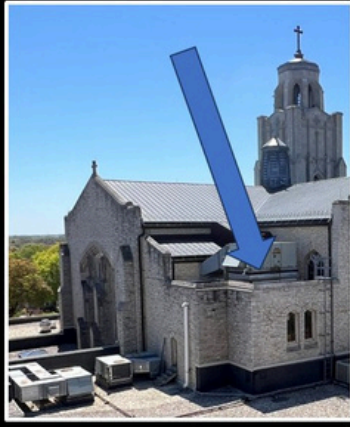


Deterioration caused by water infiltration promoting rusting and corrosion of the steel column

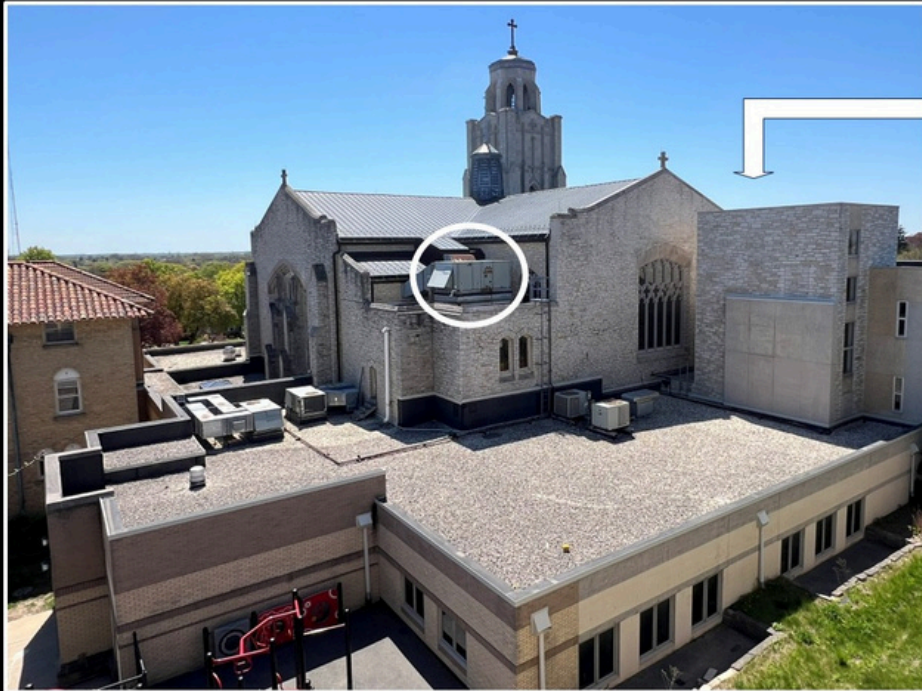


Steel column will be cleaned ,inspected and covered with protective epoxy coatings .  
Limestone corners will be rebuilt utilizing a combination of salvaged original stone and replacement limestone



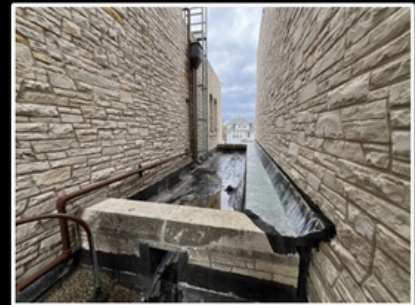
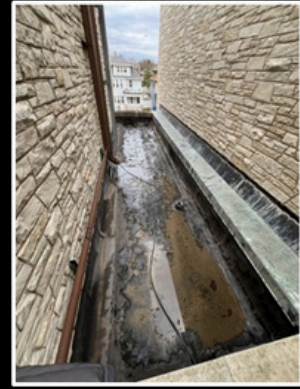


The roof areas directly below the existing roof top units that provide heating, ventilation & air conditioning (HVAC) to the Church will be replaced in late April. The roof area at the Southeast entrance to the Church will also be replaced.



○ = Roof top units that provide heating, ventilation & air conditioning (HVAC) to the Church will be replaced in late April

Roof area between the church and school  
will be replaced in late April



## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AT ST. SEBASTIAN

As Catholics, we believe that God is present and active within our lives and yet, it's all too easy to miss. Spiritual direction offers an opportunity for you to intentionally slow down and notice that which reveals itself as Sacred within the concrete particulars of your days. In this paying attention, you can begin to savor and clarify your awareness of the way in which the Spirit is moving within you and within your world and thus deepen your relationship with the Divine Mystery.

Spiritual direction is also a place in which you can consider how your upbringing, your faith tradition, the joys and sorrows of your personal history, and your present-day reality connect you to the Sacred. It can be a place where you can navigate transitions, grieve, and discern. It's a place where you can question and engage and discover. As a monthly spiritual practice, spiritual direction seeks to illuminate and enliven this relationship between you and All That Is, thus distinguishing it from counseling, therapy or life coaching.

A spiritual director offers the experience of "holy listening" in that it takes you where you are at. Grace, healing, and growth are sought through these times of active listening, reflection, and prayer during the session and in the days that follow. Consider this an invitation to explore this as a spiritual practice for yourself.

The "Spiritual Reflection Room," on the second floor of the Parish House, hosts spiritual directors trained in various lineages (Jesuit, Franciscan, and Dominican, for example) to meet with individuals desiring to explore their own unique sacred journeys. These one-on-one sessions are generally scheduled once a month and last for about an hour. Compensation, intake information, and meeting times are negotiated individually between you and your chosen spiritual director.

**The following parishioners are trained guides who offer spiritual direction here at the Saint Sebastian Parish House. Please contact via email to explore the opportunity to work together.**

Julia Gray - [juliagrayscale@gmail.com](mailto:juliagrayscale@gmail.com)

Rhonda Matthias - [ListeningPostMKE.Rhonda@gmail.com](mailto:ListeningPostMKE.Rhonda@gmail.com)

Nicki Nelson - [nicki@nickinelson.com](mailto:nicki@nickinelson.com)

Leah Sealey - [leahsealey@hotmail.com](mailto:leahsealey@hotmail.com)

If you would like to explore spiritual direction outside of our parish, please check out [www.mkespiritualdirectors.com](http://www.mkespiritualdirectors.com). In 2019, Nicki and Leah helped establish this peer group of local spiritual directors. The group's website was established so that seekers could easily access the profiles of providers in the Milwaukee area. Currently nearly 30 directors are profiled on the site. Along with their contact information, each profile shares the director's background, type of training, and specific areas of interest in their practice.

**Please feel free to contact Leah Sealey if you have any questions, [leahsealey@hotmail.com](mailto:leahsealey@hotmail.com).**

## Bring Your Marriage Home

In every season of life, the Church desires to walk with you, most especially in the sacred vocation of marriage. If you and your spouse were married civilly (at a courthouse, on a beach, or in another non-Catholic setting), we want you to know: you are seen, you are loved, and you are warmly invited to take a beautiful next step.



Through the *“Bring Your Marriage Home”* initiative, the Archdiocese of Milwaukee is reaching out to couples like you with an open heart. This invitation is not about judgment or obligation—it is about grace. It is about bringing your marriage fully into the life of the Church, where it can be strengthened, blessed, and renewed as a sacrament.

Having your marriage “validated” (sometimes called convalidation) in the Catholic Church is a simple and meaningful process. It is an opportunity to exchange your vows in the presence of Christ and His Church, allowing your union to become a visible sign of God’s faithful and abiding love. Many couples describe this moment as deeply moving—a chance to begin again with intention, faith, and joy.

No matter how long you have been married, it is never too late. Whether you were married recently or many years ago, the Church welcomes you just as you are. Your love, your commitment, and your shared life together are already a gift. This step simply invites God more fully into that gift.

If you’ve ever felt a quiet nudge in your heart, or wondered about having your marriage blessed, this could be the moment to explore that invitation. St. Sebastian Parish is here to accompany you every step of the way, with understanding, encouragement, and care.

To learn more about how to begin the process, please contact Michelle Klotz, Director of Liturgy and Music, in the parish office. We would be honored to walk with you as you bring your marriage home to the Church. *“What God has joined together, let no one separate.” (Mark 10:9)*

# ALUMNI FISH FRY NIGHT

FRIDAY, MAY 1  
4:30 – 7 PM

VISIT THE VIP ROOM FOR DESSERT  
AND REFRESHMENTS (5 – 7 PM)

GUIDED SCHOOL TOURS WILL BE  
AVAILABLE AT 4:30, 5:30 & 6:30 PM.

PLEASE CHECK IN WHEN YOU ARRIVE.

RSVP TO MARIA AT  
[MWATSON@SAINTSEBS.ORG](mailto:MWATSON@SAINTSEBS.ORG)

