

Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH



From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

Spiritual Well-being

I hope you and your families are enjoying the summer. Some of you may have gone on vacation, while others might be staying at home. The most important thing is to be intentional about creating family time. Ultimately, family is the most important thing, even though we sometimes have our own differences, which is okay. No family is perfect. I like revisiting Pope Francis' words: "Perfect families do not exist. This must not discourage us—quite the opposite. Love is something we learn; love is something we live; love grows as it is 'forged' by the concrete situations which each particular family experiences. Love is born and constantly develops amid lights and shadows. Love can flourish in men and women who try not to make conflict the last word, but rather a new opportunity. An opportunity to seek help, an opportunity to question how we need to improve, an opportunity to discover the **God who is with us and never abandons us**. This is a great legacy that we can give to our children, a perfect lesson: we make mistakes, yes; we have problems, yes. But we know that that is not really what counts. We know that mistakes, problems, and conflicts are opportunities to draw closer to others and to draw closer to God.

No family is perfect, but they are still your family. This means that even though there will be disagreements, arguments, and

moments of distance, the love and bond within a family ultimately prevails. As I mentioned, no family is perfect; we argue, we fight, and we even stop talking to each other at times, but in the end, forgiveness, understanding, and acceptance are key to navigating the complexities of family life. A family doesn't need to be perfect; it just needs to be united! Family is family... the love will always be there, and that's the core of its well-being.

Besides biological or blood relatives, we have other families that we choose to belong to. **Thank you for choosing Saint Sebastian Church as your family and home.** For those who have been here for a long time, we appreciate you for being pillars; for those who have recently joined, welcome, and we are happy you are part of the Sebs family. Church is where we come to be spiritually nourished with the Word of God and the Holy Eucharist. Eucharist means thanksgiving and is the source and summit of our faith. Thank you all for always planning to attend the Sunday liturgies, especially those who come as a family. For those who are not regularly attending, I encourage you.

On Wednesday, June 23, I had the privilege of flying with Clergy Flight Air Refueling. It was fascinating to see how they refuel fighter jets mid-air. Mid-air refueling, also known as aerial refueling or air-to-air refueling (AAR), is a vital military operation that allows fighter jets

In this newsletter you will find information about:

- Human Concerns
- Donations Updates
- Fall Women's Retreat
- New Parishoner Welcome
- The Welcome Group Gathering
- The Facing Racism Group's Upcoming Activities
- The Catholic Class
- Vacation Bible School
- A Taste of Teosinte at SebsFest
- The Delegation to Our Sister Parish in El Salvador
- The Generous Donation to St. Catherine's Food Pantry
- Volunteer Opportunities with St. Vincent de Paul
- An Opportunity to Purchase Hymnal Placards
- St. Sebastian All-School Reunion
- The Parish Altar
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- SebsFest
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and other aircraft to extend their range and mission duration without needing to land. The tanker aircraft extends a rigid, telescopic boom with control surfaces, located at its rear. A boom operator inside the tanker manages the boom's movement and guides it into a receptacle on the receiving aircraft. Once connected, pressurized fuel is pumped into the fighter jet. It offers a much faster fuel transfer rate compared to the probe-and-drogue method. This technique is primarily used by the US Air Force for its fighters and bombers.

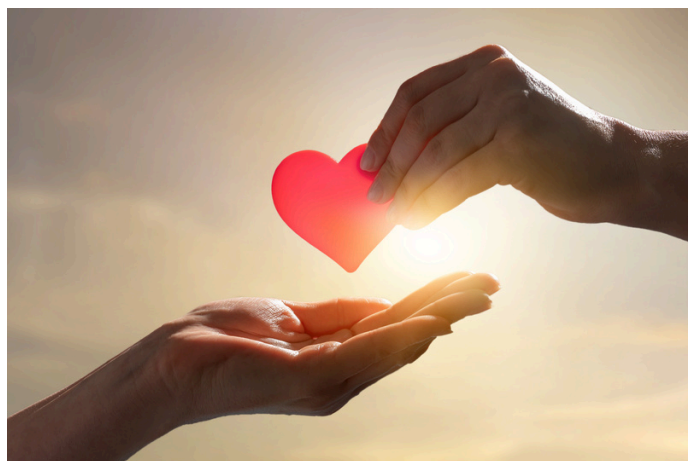
As I watched the refueling operation, it reminded me of the Church, with the tanker aircraft representing the Church and us, the Christians, as fighter jets. The tanker refuels the fighter jet, meaning that if the jet doesn't get refilled in midair, it will be forced to land, which could make things worse and possibly lead to it being attacked by the enemy. Remember, it's not the tanker aircraft coming to the fighter jet, but the fighter jet coming to the tanker for refueling. Think about it: as I mentioned earlier, we come to Church to be refilled so we can continue our spiritual journey to face or overcome the challenges in our lives. If we want to stay strong in our faith, we need to attend Sunday liturgies to remain spiritually strong.

If we want a physical transformation of our body, we don't go to the gym just once. The idea that a single visit to the gym can't lead to physical change also applies to one's spiritual journey. Consistent effort, dedication, and a commitment to regular practice are essential for both physical and spiritual growth. Spiritual journey: This involves consistent engagement with spiritual practices, exploring various aspects of spirituality, facing inner challenges, and developing deeper faith, peace, and purpose over time. Together, we can grow strong as a faith community. See you at Mass, and enjoy the rest of the summer. Let this summer count. ~ **Fr. Peter-Patrick**

HUMAN CONCERNS OUTREACH DONATIONS

Through your contributions to St. Sebastian Parish, Human Concerns Outreach donations were made to the following organizations for fiscal year 2024-2025

Bread for the World
Bread of Healing Clinic
The Cathedral Center
Ezekiel Community Development Corp.
The Guest House
McCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary
MICAH
Neighborhood House of Milwaukee
St. Bakhita Catholic Worker, Inc.
St. Catherine-St. Sebastian Food Pantry
SEA Literacy
St. Vincent de Paul - St. Sebastian Conference



FALL 2025 WOMEN'S RETREAT

TRUSTING GOD'S GRACE: BECOMING TRANSFORMED

The **Women of St. Sebastian and St. Catherine** will be hosting another **Fall Retreat for 2025, "Trusting God's Grace: Becoming Transformed."** This year's theme invites us to step away from the busyness of life and deepen our faith through reflection, prayer and fellowship. It will be an overnight starting Friday evening and will continue through Saturday afternoon. If you are not able to begin the retreat on Friday night, that is not a problem. The retreat is designed for one to attend on Saturday only. The link below is provided for you to take a look of the beautiful retreat center. **Registration for the Retreat will open on August 18 and close September 22** (registration available on both parish websites). Two options are available: Full overnight experience for \$220; Saturday-only attendance for \$75. Come be refreshed, inspired, and transformed by God's grace!

Redemptorist Retreat Center

1800 N. Timber Trail Lane
Oconomowoc, WI 53060
Redemptoristretreat.org

Phone: 262 567 6900

Dates and Times:

Friday, October 17, 2025

Arrival Starts: 3 PM

Dinner: 6 PM

Saturday, October 18, 2025

Breakfast: 8 AM

Lunch: Noon

Room Checkout: 1 PM

Mass: 4 PM

Departure: 5:30 PM



More information can be found on the [retreat website](#) (including registration). **Please contact Jo Ann Stasiewicz (joannstaz@gmail.com) with any questions.**

WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS!

Welcome to our new Saint Sebastian parishioners! We warmly welcome all those who joined our Saint Sebastian parish family in June and July!

- Paul Petchel
- Eamonn Wayson and Amara Durawa and son August
- Susan Mountin
- Anne Leggio
- Marcellinus and Kristina Ubama Ewolo and children Neveah and King Jr.
- Godfrey Sakwa Okumu and son Ephy Ondwasi Sakwa
- Brett and Emily Schneider and son James
- Maeve Holahan
- Andrew Zeidler

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 GROUP - OPEN TO ALL

Join the **St. Sebastian Welcome Group** at **7 p.m. on Monday, August 11** in the **Parish Dining Room** as we welcome Dan Holahan, a parishioner and theology teacher at Marquette University High School, for an evening of honest conversation and community reflection. Dan is a dedicated person of faith who has spent the past 38 years teaching theology at Marquette. He also spent several years in religious formation and was a Capuchin for five years during the 1970s. His journey has offered him a deep view into the diversity of experience within the Church, especially around sexuality and identity, and how we might walk with compassion and integrity in today's world. Dan will share his personal journey through religious life and reflect on how those experiences have shaped his understanding of the Church's teaching on human sexuality. He'll also speak about how he supports high school sophomores as they ask heartfelt questions around LGBTQ topics, identity and faith.

FACING RACISM BOOK DISCUSSIONS

This month, the Facing Racism group invites you to:

- Join us at the **Wisconsin Black Historical Society/Museum** (2620 W Center St) on Saturday August 9 at 10 am for a guided tour; admission is \$10/person.
- Come to our **final book discussion** of the summer: *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store: A Novel* by James McBride will be discussed on **Thursday, August 21 at 7pm in the Adult Formation room** (snacks included).

Please contact facingracism@saintsebs.org if you have questions.

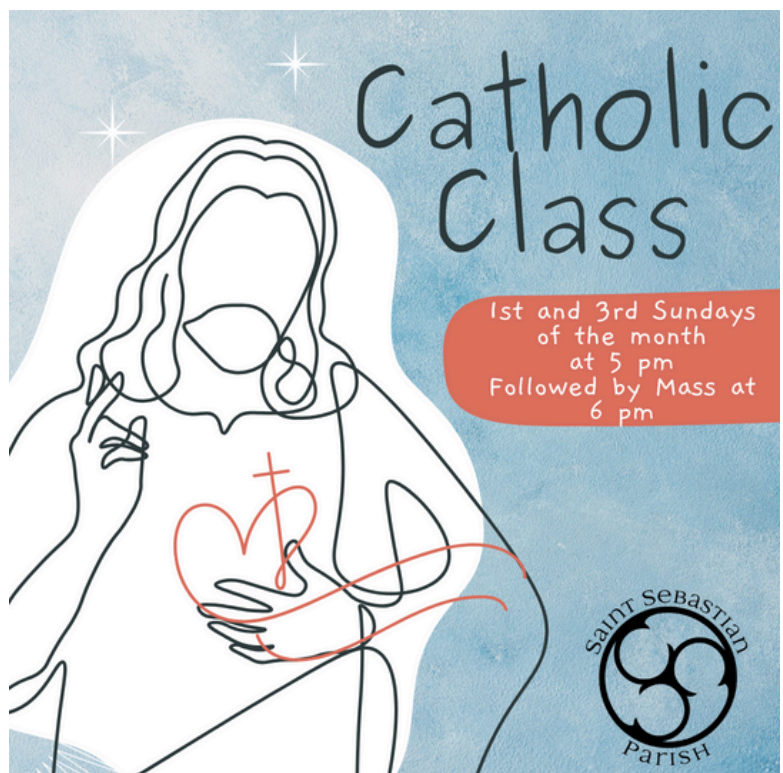
CATHOLIC CLASS!!

Introducing Catholic Class!

Are you interested in learning more about what it means to be Catholic? Are you ready to take the next steps toward becoming Catholic? Are you Catholic but feel a need to deepen your faith or a calling to walk with those who are new to the faith? Then this class is for you!

Saint Sebastian will offer Catholic Class on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 5 pm, **beginning on August 17**, with the option of attending Mass together at 6 pm. Come find out what being Catholic is all about!

Contact Jessica Quintanilla at jquintanilla@saintsebs.org for more info.



VBS 2025: ALL ABOARD! COME FOLLOW ME!

Wherever you go, whether it's by plane, train, or camel, we're called to follow Jesus in spreading the Gospel and loving one another!

Kids age 3 (must be potty trained) through 5th grade are invited to attend Vacation Bible School, Monday, August 4 - Friday, August 8. Participants will be grouped by age to ensure the experience best meets their needs.

Older student and adult volunteers are needed*! If you're interested in volunteering, please reach out to Morgan Frank at mfrank@saintsebs.org.

*Children of volunteers can attend free. Contact Morgan for details.

To register, please visit the link below or scan the QR code. For any questions or concerns, please contact Morgan Frank at mfrank@saintsebs.org.

We will be looking at different bible stories featuring a variety of Christian leaders. Students will partake in different fun activities: crafts, music, stories, games.

Register at the link below. If you have any questions, please reach out to Morgan Frank at mfrank@saintsebs.org.

<https://www.wesharegiving.org/App/Form/4231998c-b4af-4280-9fc6-14a62edec42d>



A TASTE OF TEOSINTE AT SEBSFEST



A taste of Teosinte will be available (for free) at SebsFest on Sunday, September 14 after the Outdoor Mass. If you have ever wondered what life is like in our sister parish of Teosinte, El Salvador, here is a chance to "taste and see." **Fresh and hot pupusas** (with meat or vegetarian) will be available to sample. Information about our upcoming delegation to El Salvador in January 2026 will also be available. The deadline for delegation applications is fast approaching; in fact it is September 15th. However, you may want to learn about ways you can support the delegates even if you are not able to go yourself.

2026 Delegation to Our Sister Community of Teosinte

Would you like to know more about the people of Teosinte that we pray for each week during Mass? Have you dreamed about making a meaningful pilgrimage?

You are invited to join other parish members on delegation to Teosinte, El Salvador from January 14 to January 21, 2026. This is an incredible opportunity to deepen our parish's relationship with our friends in Teosinte and experience their vibrant faith and culture firsthand.



"Often times people go on mission trips to build something or provide a service. People traveling to and from Teosinte are building something more fragile, yet more enduring, than any building. We are building relationships. Our work is driven by the commitment to sustain a reciprocal relationship in which we all learn from each other." - Seb's delegate Beth

This will be a life changing experience.

To learn more about the delegation come to the next El Salvador Committee Meeting at 7 pm on Monday, August 11, 2025. Several current committee members have been on past delegations and will be available to answer questions.

Online applications for this delegation are being accepted now through September 15th at

<https://www.share-elsalvador.org/sistering-delegations.html>

The Share-El Salvador website has additional delegation information.



ST. CATHERINE'S FOOD PANTRY RECEIVES \$15,000 GRANT!

We are thrilled to announce that the **St. Catherine's Food Pantry** has received a **\$15,000 grant from The Greater Milwaukee Foundation**.

What is the food pantry? The pantry is open to the public on the second and fourth Saturdays in St. Catherine's Community Center, from 9 to 11 am. The pantry is completely volunteer-run and has been made possible by donations of food and money from parishioners like you.

Why is this grant a big deal? Over the last 4 years, the total number of food pantry shoppers has almost *doubled* - from 2,864 in 2021 to 5,514 in 2024. This trend has continued in 2025 as well and we are anticipating over 7,000 shoppers from July 2025 to June 2026.

Does this grant mean the food pantry is set and doesn't need any more donations? Alas, no. This generous grant from The Greater Milwaukee Foundation (Wisconsin's largest community foundation and among the first established in the world) is intended to supplement donations from parishioners to meet the growing need. Only with continued parishioner donations of food and money will we have enough bread, meat, and shelf-stable foods to feed the hungry among us.

I'm inspired and would like to make a donation.

How do I do that? Thank you - that is very kind! You can write a check and drop it off at the Parish House, mail it to St. Catherine Food Pantry (5101 W. Center St, Milwaukee, WI 53210), or make a gift online at this link:
<https://www.wesharegiving.org/app/giving/WeShare-3145?tab=home>

Questions? Rob and Terese Shelledy, Volunteer Coordinators (shelledyr64@gmail.com)

To learn more about the Greater Milwaukee Foundation, please visit www.greatermilwaukeefoundation.org.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEAL PROGRAM

Saint Sebastian will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, August 22. Volunteers are needed to help cook or to serve the meal.** Cooks meet in the church hall kitchen at 8 am, 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 apples/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, August 22 before 4 pm.

For more information or to donate food or to volunteer contact Phil Bielefeld at 414-559-0996 or 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 June 27 where we served 87 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.



**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** first before taking any action. Protect yourself from these unscrupulous people.

HYMNAL PLACARDS AVAILABLE!



Have you seen the new Gather IV hymnals? They are beautiful and filled with outstanding music! **We invite you to purchase a placard to be placed inside the front cover a hymnal in honor of or in memory of someone special.** Forms were in the bulletin last week and will be available at the kiosk in the Gathering Space. You can also order your placard directly on our website! **Each placard is \$25** and those funds will go toward purchasing additional hymnals. We are grateful for your support! To donate, visit [here](#).

ST. SEBASTIAN ALL-SCHOOL REUNION



Calling All St. Sebastian School Alumni! Get ready for a night of music, memories, and magic at the St. Sebastian ALL-School Reunion!

When: Saturday, September 13, 2025

Time: 5 – 9 pm

Where: St. Sebastian School, Milwaukee

Whether you graduated last year or decades ago, come relive the good times and make new ones with fellow alumni from across the generations!

- Rock out to live music from the always-awesome Hot Off the Grill band
- Treat your taste buds with a variety of food trucks offering something for everyone
- Take a walk down memory lane with school tours
- Reminisce with decades of photos, memorabilia, and more!

Bring your stories, your school spirit, and your appetite—we'll supply the fun, flavor, and flashbacks. This is your chance to reconnect, rediscover, and celebrate everything that makes St. Sebastian School such a special place.

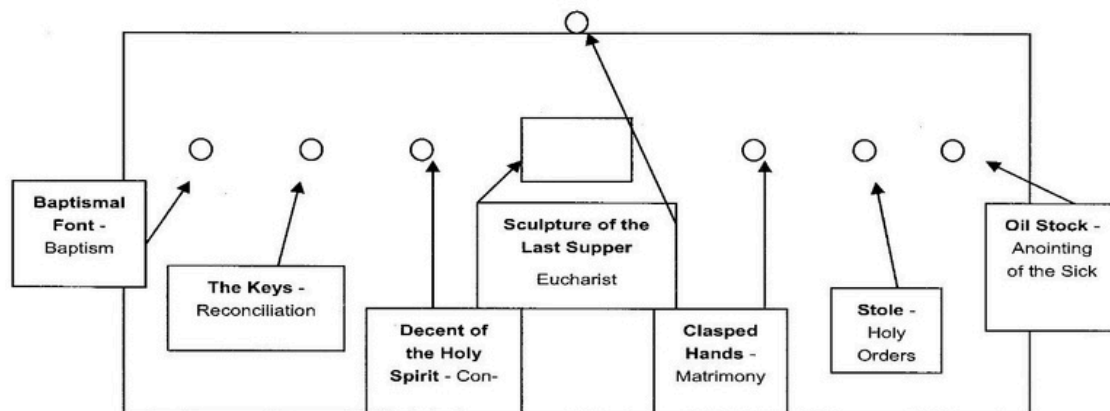
We can't wait to welcome you home! Please RSVP [HERE](#) so we can plan accordingly. Questions? Please reach out to Maria Watson at mwatson@saintsebs.org.

ST. SEBASTIAN ARCHIVE MINISTRY

Over the past few months, the St. Sebs Archive team has introduced the beauty and symbolism of the St. Sebastian stained and mosaic windows. Today's focus is on the Altar and how it has moved and the area surrounding it has changed over time.

In the picture below, you will notice the Angels that flank either side of the St. Sebastian window. Next month's edition will share the story of the angels.

If you enjoy history and would like to be part of the St. Sebastian Archive Ministry or have items you'd like to donate to our library, contact Mary Voell at sebsarchives5400@gmail.com.



THE ALTAR

Excerpts from St. Sebastian Chronicle | August 1927

On entering a Catholic Church the first thing that strikes the eye is the Altar. The altar stands forth prominently as the necessary emblem of the religious rite, because upon it sacrifice is offered.

The altar is made of a single slab of stone, joined by cement to the supports, so that the table and support make one piece.

On the table of the consecrated altar five Greek crosses are engraved, one at each of the four corners, and one in the center. In the middle of the altar is cut a 'cavity,' in which are placed the relics of two canonized martyrs, and to these is sometimes added, when possible, a relic of the saint in whose honor the church is dedicated. This enclosed 'cavity' where the relics repose, is the spot kissed so frequently by the priest during the celebration of the sacred mysteries. In addition, over the main altar in the church, is erected a canopy or baldachino as a protection to the tabernacle itself.

The steps leading up to the altar have no particular liturgical meaning. According to a pious belief they typify the mount of Calvary, up which our Lord walked to His death. They may be made of wood or marble.

The symbol of the vine and leaf is repeated all over the Altar. Look closely and notice they are continuous leaves in bud to burst into bloom. The vine and leaf symbolism is found in all Gothic Cathedrals; the leaves usually climb over the arches. At the top of the Altar is the vine and clusters of grapes, the oak leaf and the acorn. The acorn is the symbol of rebirth.

Notice the medallions on the side of the Altars. They are little squares and triangles. In the middle of these are little circles and radiating from the circle are three or four vine leaves. The symbols of the Seven Sacraments in mosaic are found on little shields along the panels of the Altar. Above each is a medallion leaf motif.

The symbols (left to right), the Baptism font representing Baptism, - the keys, Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance), the descent of the Holy Spirit in Confirmation. Then a Ciborium to represent the Eucharist and continue to the right of the clasped hands of Matrimony. The stole of Holy Orders and Oil Stock symbolizing the Anointing.

The leaf motif is carried through the windows with the lily or Fleur-de-lis in many places as a symbol of Purity, Baptism and Resurrection.



ST. SEBASTIAN CHOIR TRIP TO KENYA

Have you heard the exciting news? **The St. Sebastian Choir is headed to Kenya**—and you are invited to be part of this unforgettable journey! Whether you're a longtime member of the adult choir or simply joining the “Kenya Choir” for this special tour, we welcome spouses and significant others to come along.

After much thought and prayer, we've chosen to set our sights on **August 2027** for departure. This gives us the gift of time: time to raise funds, fine-tune our musical and outreach plans, and build a team ready to share faith, culture, and music across continents.

Imagine celebrating Mass in vibrant Nairobi, going on safari, performing in concert, exploring the beauty of Kisumu and Lake Victoria, and diving into rich Kenyan traditions and flavors. The estimated cost of \$5,000 covers your airfare, housing, in-country transportation, and two meals a day as well as entry into planned tours.

Spots are still open, and we'd love for you to be part of this life-changing journey. **Reach out to Michelle Klotz, Director of Liturgy and Music, to express your interest or ask questions.**

Together, let's make this dream a reality for our choir, our parish, and our brothers and sisters in Kenya. Your prayers, support, and presence will make all the difference.



SAVE THE DATE: SEBSFEST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

Mark your calendars now for one of our most joyful parish traditions! On **Sunday, September 14**, we'll come together under the big tent for **SebsFest**, previously known as our **Outdoor Mass & Ministry Fair**, a festive celebration of faith, community, and service.

🌿 **Mass begins at 10 AM, followed by SebsFest from 11 AM to 1 PM.**

In this Jubilee Year as Pilgrims of Hope, we invite you to explore the many ways to walk in faith by getting involved in the life of our parish. Visit booths, meet ministry leaders, and discover where your time and talents can make a difference.

Bring the whole family for:

- 🎮 Games & Prizes
- 🌈 Bounce House and Kids Area
- 🍽️ Food & Beverages for Purchase
- 🎟️ 50/50 Raffle
- 👨‍👩‍👧‍👦 Community Fun for All Ages!



We'll also be calling on our wonderful parishioners to help bring this day to life! **Volunteers will be needed for:**

- Set-up and clean-up
- Helping during the event
- Contributing to the parish potluck sides & dessert table

Sponsorships are available! Join our amazing lineup of sponsors! Visit [here](#) to learn more.

Stay tuned for sign-up information and more details in the weeks ahead! Let's journey together, joyfully, faithfully, and in service, as Pilgrims of Hope.

~ St. Sebastian Stewardship Committee

ST. CATHERINE'S RAFFLE RESULTS

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent St. Catherine's Raffle! Parishioners from both parishes stepped up in a big way, helping St. Catherine's sell an impressive **474 tickets and raising \$5,925**. While we didn't have a winner from our two parishes this time, St. Catherine's was generously awarded an additional \$500 —bringing their total profit to \$6,425. We're grateful for your enthusiasm and support!



FALL CATECHESIS BEGINS SOON

The Faith Formation team is ready to get children and youth registered for the coming catechetical season. Both catechesis classes for grades K-10th grade and sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation/First Eucharist (2nd graders) and Confirmation (grades 11 & 12) will be available on our parish website at www.saintsebs.org. Please contact Margaret Lee, Joe Sheehan or Morgan Frank with any questions.

We are also looking for interested catechists. If interested, please let us know by reaching out. More details will be available soon through social media and Mass announcements.



**Register now for
Saint Sebastian Catechesis**

JOIN US: PLANNING THE 60TH HOLLY BERRY BOUTIQUE



This year marks the **60th anniversary** of the beloved **Holly Berry Boutique**, and we need your help to make it a success! Join us for a **planning meeting on Wednesday, August 27 at 6 PM in the multipurpose room** to be part of this cherished tradition.

Whether you are a seasoned volunteer or new to the event, there are many roles to fill- from setup and decoration to marketing, cashiering and more. Your time and talents can make a real difference.

Come be a part of the magic!
Please contact Jo Ann Stasiewicz:
joannsta@gmail.com or 414.405.5303.

MONTHLY CRAFT GROUP MEETINGS

The Craft Group meets on a monthly basis on the **first Tuesday of each Month at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room**. This group gathers to make items to be sold at the **Holly Berry Boutique Luncheon**, which will take place on **December 6**. So far this year we have made Noodle Bead Bracelets, Epsom Salt Snow People and Painted Glass Ornaments. For the month of August, we will be making brush trees. All materials will be supplied.

Come and release your creativity in making a brush tree or two for the Boutique. It is a great time to spend with your fellow parishioners. All are welcome.

August 5th Sam Brush Trees



September 2nd Laura Fruit Garlands



October 7th Jackie Twisted Wire Earrings



November 4th JoAnn Bows & Ribbon Swag



November 18th Finish Up

December 5th Set Up

December 6th Boutique

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 - juliagraylange@gmail.com

Deacon Jim Matthias - jmatthias@saintsebs.org

Rhonda Matthias - ListeningPostMKE.Rhonda@gmail.com

Nicki Nelson - nicki@nickinelson.com

Leah Sealey - leahsealey@hotmail.com

If you would like to explore spiritual direction outside of our parish, please check out 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.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: CALL TO FAMILY, COMMUNITY, AND PARTICIPATION

The Human Concerns Committee is focusing on the CST (Catholic Social Teaching) **Call to Family, Community, and Participation** this new parish year.

The person is not only sacred but also social. How we organize our society - in economics and politics, in law and policy - directly affects human dignity and the capacity of individuals to grow in community. Marriage and the family are central social institutions that must be supported and strengthened. We believe people have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable.

"Human beings are so made that they cannot live, develop and find fulfillment except 'in the sincere gift of self to others.' Nor can they fully know themselves apart from an encounter with other persons: 'I communicate effectively with myself only insofar as I communicate with others.' No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love. This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence." (Pope Francis, On Fraternity and Social Friendship [*Fratelli Tutti*], no. 87)

"Local individuals and groups can make a real difference. They are able to instill a greater sense of responsibility, a strong sense of community, a readiness to protect others, a spirit of creativity and a deep love for the land...Social problems must be addressed by community networks and not simply by the sum of individual good deeds." (Pope Francis, On Care for Our Common Home [*Laudato Si'*], nos. 179, 219)

Stayed tuned throughout this next year for opportunities to reflect upon the CST Call to Family, Community, and Participation. **More can be read/heard about this CST at:**

USCCB - <https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/call-to-family-community-and-participation>

CST 101: Call to Family, Community, and Participation - video by USCCB & CRS
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gjQgWakrgQs> (in English)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqaLAs9bzBk> (in Spanish)

***Fratelli Tutti*, On Fraternity And Social Friendship** -
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html

***Laudato Si'*, On Care For Our Common Home** -
https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html

