



## December 2023 >>>

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[www.saintsebs.org](http://www.saintsebs.org)

5400 West Washington Boulevard, Milwaukee, WI 53208

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## From Our Pastor >>>

Father Peter Patrick Kimani

### Be Counted!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the *Love One Another Capital Campaign* co-chairs, CJ Murray, and Sue Olson for the tremendous job they have done. Not forgetting my Trustees Rocky Marcoux, and Audrey Ticcioni and many volunteers including the Building and Grounds committee chaired by Holly Rutenbeck and Chris Bolle.

There is so much to be thankful for this time of year, especially the incredible work of our team toward advancing the *Love One Another Campaign* at St. Sebastian.

Before Thanksgiving weekend, we had \$1,351,110 pledged for our goal of \$3,520,133 from 83 families, that's 7% of our parish families. I know for now all the families and individuals have received a letter from me asking for your participation. If you haven't received it, please kindly let us know. It's my prayer we have 100% participation. If you haven't pledged, please prayerfully consider pledging towards this campaign. We have a lot to do to restore our Church and school. It's our time to continue to maintain our beautiful Church and school that prepare the future generations.

In the letter I sent, the goal is \$3,520,133. That amount, if reached, will not be able to do everything on the list because the total is \$5,762,070. If every family and every individual participated, we will be able to do everything listed. Please be counted. We are about to wrap up the campaign. Please drop your pledge card in the offertory basket or drop box in the parish office and not to the Archdiocese as we are responsible for collecting pledges. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to co-chairs, trustees, volunteers and me. I am counting on you. Thank you all for your continued support of our parish, may the good Lord continue blessing you. Be safe and healthy and always remember the less fortunate.

I would like to wish you all and your loved ones a blessed Advent season and Merry Christmas.

## Sacrament of Reconciliation and Gluten Free Hosts

During Advent, I will offer the sacrament of reconciliation 30 minutes before the Masses I will be presiding.

Dec 10            5:20-5:50 pm

Dec 17            7:20-7:50 am            9:50-10:20 am

As from the beginning of Advent, we will always have gluten-free Hosts available. For those who are gluten intolerant, please see the sacristan.

God is good all the time and all the time God is good!

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## *Human Concerns >>>*

### ***St. Sebastian Parish Advent Giving Tree – 2023***

The St. Sebastian Human Concerns Committee is sponsoring the annual Advent Giving Tree from Sunday, December 3 through Sunday, December 17. Thank you for your help in bringing Christmas to the recipients of these agencies' ministries.

Please take a tag from the Tree, purchase the gift listed on the tag (no substitutions please) and return it on 12/10 or 12/17 beneath the Tree in the Gathering Space. Gifts must be new and unwrapped with tag attached. You may also bring an item listed separately on this flier with a note specifying which agency it is for. Descriptions of the agencies with contact information are listed below.

Gifts will NOT be accepted after 12/17 (Third Sunday of Advent). Exception - please drop off Pathfinders items early, by 12/10. Please call Annalisa Ragatz at 778-0260 if you have questions.

CHECK DONATIONS: Place envelopes in Sunday collection basket or drop them off at parish office.

ONLINE DONATIONS: Visit each agency's website separately to donate online directly.

#### **St. John's Cathedral -**

The Open Door Café Meal Program

\$ for bus passes

Travel size toothpaste & deodorant,  
toothbrushes

Pick & Save gift cards (\$5 or \$10)

Gloves & Scarves (S, M, or L adult size)

Pathfinders (12/10/23 early deadline)

Arts and crafts kits

Self-care or spa kits (body lotion, bath bombs, etc)

Cozy blankets

Board games (ages 10-12)

Puzzles (for child, youth, or adult)

Chapter Books (for middle school-high school/young adult)

Small or medium stuffed animals

Wireless earbuds

Sports balls (football, basketball, catch ball, etc)

2024 Planners or journals

Reusable water bottles

Women's Support Center of Milwaukee

Winter clothes/sleepers (size 0-24 months)

Onesies (size 0-24 months)

Socks (size 0-24 months)

Receiving blankets

Diapers or wipes  
Teething toys  
Baby shampoo or wash  
Diaper ointment or cream

### **Dominican Center for Women**

Winter hats & gloves (men's and women's)  
Socks (men's and women's)  
Body wash/shampoo/lotion (men's and women's)  
Coffee (large bags, only ground coffee)  
Blankets  
Coats (for kids)  
Laundry detergent/cleaning products  
Christ Child Society  
Layette items (boy or girl):  
Quilts or afghans  
Sweaters or sweatshirts (size 3-6 months)  
Receiving blankets  
Onesies (size 3-6 months)  
Blanket sleepers (size 3-6 months)  
Sleep & play outfits (size 3-6 months)  
Socks  
Diapers (size 1)  
Board books (for babies, English or Spanish)  
Bottles  
"My Stuff" Bag items (boy or girl):  
Pajamas (size 2-18)  
Underwear and socks (for ages 2-18)  
Long sleeve shirts (for girls, ages 14-18)  
Mittens or gloves with matching hat (for ages 3-8)  
Medium stuffed animal, 12-15"  
Nerf football (for older boys)

### **St. Vincent de Paul-St. Sebastian Conference**

make check payable to:  
SVDP-St. Sebastian Conference

### **Teosinte Scholarship Fund or Initiatives Fund**

make check payable to:  
St. Sebastian Parish-El Salvador Committee

### **Dominican Center for Women**

<https://www.dominican-center.org>  
2470 W Locust St 53206 414-416-6388 (call or text) Contact: Maricha Harris

Dominican Center for Women integrates residents into the development and

revitalization of their neighborhood. Through one-on-one tutoring and job training, members can end the cycle of poverty and find life-sustaining employment. The credit counseling and home-ownership programs provide residents a means of living in healthy, safe and beautiful homes.

Sustainable, resident-led communities emerge. Pathfinders <https://www.pathfindersmke.org>

Contact: Madison Fisler

4200 N Holton St Suite 400 Milwaukee, WI 53212 414-988-6950 or  
[community@pathfindersmke.org](mailto:community@pathfindersmke.org)

For more than 50 years, Pathfinders has brought safety, hope and healing to youth facing homelessness, sexual abuse, exploitation and trafficking, crisis and other trauma through innovative and transformational services. Their mission is "empowering youth – changing lives," and their vision is to provide a more meaningful voice for youth in

crisis and ensure that all youth are safe, healthy, independent, successful and valued.

The Open Door Café Meal Program

<https://www.stjohncathedral.org/index.php/odc/> Contact: Idalia Nieves

831 N Van Buren St 53202 414-276-9814 or  
[idalianieves-reyes@stjohncathedral.org](mailto:idalianieves-reyes@stjohncathedral.org)

The Open Door Café meal program serves bag lunches Sunday through Friday to an average of 75 men, women and children each day. This ministry addresses the needs of the whole person and provides hygiene kits, food vouchers in emergencies and other resource information.

Women's Support Center of Milwaukee

<https://www.wscmil.org/about-us/>  
2051 W Wisconsin Ave 53233 414-934-8888

Contact: Jackie Wild

The Women's Support Center is a very busy Catholic, pro-life pregnancy Center serving over 150 women a month. All services are 100% free and include pregnancy testing, ultrasounds, baby supplies, teaching Natural Family Planning and much more.

Christ Child Society of Milwaukee

<https://christchildmilwaukee.org> 414-540-0489

4033 W Good Hope Road 53209 Contact: Resale Shop, Tu & Th 10am-2pm, 1st & 3rd Sat 9:30am-12:30pm

Christ Child Society welcomes members of all denominations and focuses on nurturing youth in the Greater Metropolitan Milwaukee Area. Their signature layette program provides hospitals and social service agencies in the greater Milwaukee area with complete layettes for needy newborns. Their "My Stuff Bags" program has been ongoing; bags are given to social service agencies and homeless shelters for distribution to children in crisis, containing items to bring comfort to children placed in difficult situations and remind them that someone cares about them.

#### **St. Vincent de Paul Society – St. Sebastian**

Conference Contact: Tom Doyle

The St. Vincent de Paul Society helps parishioners and non-parishioners with emergency needs of clothing, food, appliances,

beds, etc. Volunteers make home visits based on referrals from the SVDP Central Office, assess the family's social condition, refer them to appropriate community agencies, if indicated, and provide vouchers for food, clothing, furniture, refrigerators and stoves.

#### **El Salvador (Teosinte)**

Contact: Mary Beth Duffey

Teosinte Scholarship Fund: High School and public university tuition is largely provided free of charge. The challenge for

Teosinte students is in having the funds to enable them to travel to/from classes, room/board when away from home, and the cost of supplies (books, etc). Scholarship funds are closely monitored by the Directiva (community leadership council) and remain their primary request.

#### **Teosinte Women's Empowerment Initiatives**

**Fund:** Sewing Center and micro-loans for small businesses (with the possibility of a community bakery).

## ***St. Vincent DePaul Meal Program***



St. Sebastian's will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, December 22**. Volunteers are needed to help cook or to serve the meal. Cooks meet in the church hall kitchen at 8:00am, servers at 4:00pm. 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 before 4:00pm.

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 last meal program back in October where we served 107 meals. All who were served were very appreciative and thankful for our efforts.

## ***Visit MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary***

Please consider joining us for a visit to MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary on Saturday December 9 at 10:30 am. We will get a tour of the facility and learn more about the mission and ministry of the center. Contact Jon Metz at [jmetz@saintsebs.org](mailto:jmetz@saintsebs.org) to sign up for this powerful opportunity.

## ***Capuchin Holiday Food Box Ministry***

As we prepare for the holiday season, let us continue to keep in mind those who struggle with having necessities and live in poverty. As a parish, we will continue to support the Capuchin Holiday food box ministry. The boxes are in the gathering space and the list of items requested are listed on the boxes. Please consider helping families in need with Thanksgiving and Christmas meals. We will collect the food boxes through December 17. Boxes can be returned to the gathering space or brought to the parish office.

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## ***Community Activities >>>***

### ***Sebs Newsletter Needs You!***

If you have the know-how and time to draft the St. Sebastian monthly newsletter, your help is needed. A volunteer's responsibility includes compiling articles and photos and then sending the draft version to Joann Perleberg before the end of the month. Please contact [jperleberg@saintsebs.org](mailto:jperleberg@saintsebs.org) asap if you can help!

## ***Church Decorating Volunteers Needed***

Decorating the Church for Christmas will happen on Sunday, December 24, from 11am – 1pm. We need 6 - 10 volunteers to assist Teri Marsicek and Judy Hill. Any amount of time you can offer will be appreciated. With your help, we can create a beautiful Christmas environment for worship. Activities include decorating the altars, pillars and walls of the Church environment, and the Gathering Space. Please call Julia Galligan at the Parish Office to volunteer / (414) 453-1061.

## ***Las Posadas Celebration December 15***

The El Salvador Committee invites you to join us for this family friendly celebration of Las Posadas. Like Mary and Joseph searching for a place to stay, many Salvadorans still seek a safe place to sleep, work, and raise their families.

Join us as we celebrate Las Posadas by retracing the footsteps of members of Teosinte, El Salvador as they journeyed from El Salvador to Honduras and back, including some who continue to journey to other countries. We will share prayer, music, stories and fellowship on Friday, December 15 at 7 pm at St. Sebastian Church.



## ***January Fish Fry***

Please stop by the St. Seb's cafeteria for dine in or carry out, open from 4:30-7:30 pm on January 5, 2024.

## ***Women of St. Sebastian Ladies Night Out***

**Wednesday, January 10, 2024 in the Multipurpose Room**

JoAnn Stasiewicz, Coordinator [joannstaz@gmail.com](mailto:joannstaz@gmail.com)

All women of the parish are invited to join us on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, for another Ladies Night Out. We will gather in the Multipurpose Room for food, fun and fellowship anytime from 6 to 10pm.

We will visit, play games and plan for future activities. Wine, soda, and snacks will be provided. You are welcome to bring something to eat or drink only if you would like to. Do you have a favorite game that you'd like to play? Bring it along. This is meant to be a no stress, fun night. So come as you are, stay as long as you can, meet someone new or just hang out with friends. If you have any questions you can contact JoAnn Stasiewicz, 414-405-5303 / [joannstaz@gmail.com](mailto:joannstaz@gmail.com), or Sue Olson, 414-331-3358 / [Susan-olson@att.net](mailto:Susan-olson@att.net).

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## ***Prayer and Worship >>>***

### ***Selected Prayers***

Jean Kreul, Chair, Prayer & Worship Committee

All My Heart This Night Rejoices  
All my heart this night rejoices,  
As I hear, far and near, sweetest angel voices;  
"Christ is born" their choirs are singing,  
Till the air, everywhere, now with joy is ringing.  
Hark! A voice from yonder manger,  
Soft and sweet, doth entreat, "Flee from woe  
and danger;  
Brethren, come; from all that grieves you  
You are freed; all you need I will surely give you."  
Come, then, let us hasten yonder;  
Here let all, great and small, kneel in awe and wonder,  
Love Him Who with love is yearning;  
Hail the star that from far bright with hope is burning.  
Paul Gerhard (1607-1676)

"Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home." Gilbert K. Chesterton (1874-1936)

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*Please continue to read the bulletin; it's available online or if you would like to have it mailed to you, contact the parish office at 414-453-1061.*