

Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH



From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

Magnifica Humanitas
"Magnificent Humanity"

With the rise of AI and the internet, it sometimes feels like we are losing a bit of our humanity in how we connect. During COVID-19, many of us saw how helpful online platforms could be. They allowed us to stay in touch, and even attend Mass when we couldn't gather in person. When used with good intentions, the internet can help us learn and connect. I've noticed the difference between meeting in person and meeting online, and I'm sure many of you have too. But if we use these tools carelessly, they can become places for conflict, rumors, hatred, and fake news.

On Ash Wednesday in 2026, Pope Leo XIV spoke about the importance of real human connection. He asked priests not to use artificial intelligence to write their homilies or to chase "likes" on social media like TikTok. The pope warned that relying on AI for homilies is a temptation, saying, "Like all the muscles in the body, if we do not use them, if we do not move them, they die. The brain needs to be used, so our intelligence must also be exercised a little so as not to lose this capacity." He also said, "To give a true homily is to share faith, and artificial intelligence will never be able to share faith."

Pope Leo XIV's worries about AI come from his long-standing interest in the dignity of work and technology. Even in his first week as pope, he talked about these ideas. After his election in May, he told the College of Cardinals that he chose his name to honor Pope Leo XIII, who was known for *Rerum Novarum* during the first industrial revolution.

"If we can offer a service that is inculturated in the place, in the parish where we are working," the pope told the priests of the Diocese of Rome. "People want to see your faith and your experience of knowing and loving Jesus Christ."

Pope Leo XIV wants to restore real human relationships as technology becomes more prevalent. From the start, true relationships have been at the heart of our lives and should always be important, as we read in Genesis: "And God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness." (1:26).

Pope Leo XIV's first encyclical, *Magnifica Humanitas* ("Magnificent Humanity"), centers on the importance of being truly human. It examines how we can protect human dignity as artificial intelligence becomes more widespread. Signed on May 15, 2026, and released on May 25, 2026, the document explores technology, human identity, work, truth, and what it means to flourish as Christians.

Magnifica Humanitas is written for "all the Catholic faithful, to all Christians and to men and women of goodwill" (MH 16). It brings everyone together to consider the questions new technology raises. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that Catholics are called to accept the pope's ordinary teaching with "religious assent" (CCC 892).

For Christians who are not Catholic, this teaching offers a chance to reflect deeply on how to remain human in the age of AI. The encyclical uses stories from the Bible, like the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9), the rebuilding of Jerusalem under Nehemiah (Nehemiah 2-6), the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-

In this newsletter you will find information about:

- New Parishioner Welcome
- Staff Milestone Anniversaries
- Baptism for Upcoming 2nd Graders
- St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program
- Senior Lunch
- Bread of Life Ministry
- St. Catherine's 2026 Raffle
- Altar Server Training
- Notes from Music Ministry
- Saturday Morning Masses
- New Cluster Mass Schedule
- Planning Meeting for Women's Spring Day of Recollection
- Save-the-Date for Women's Fall Retreat
- New Parishioner Spotlight
- Craft Group
- Call for Holly Berry Boutique Leadership
- Celebration for Ms. Z
- Father's Day Reflection
- Buildings and Grounds Update

30), and St. Paul's words that "power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9) to offer a Christian way to think about technology, human dignity, truth, work, and the common good.

Non-Christians are also welcome to join the conversation about our future. We all need to ask: What makes someone a person? Does technology help us, or does it change who we are? How can we protect dignity, truth, and the vulnerable as AI grows? These questions matter to everyone. We should consider whether these tools help us become better people. This document is worth our attention.

Ascension Media gives a good overview of the document: <https://ascensionpress.com/blogs/articles/a-complete-guide-to-pope-leo-s-encyclical-magnificent-humanitas>.

I want to congratulate everyone who received sacraments this past spring and all who graduated at any level. I pray your transitions go smoothly. As summer break begins, I offer my blessings for restful, relaxing, and safe travels, whether you stay in the country or go abroad. Please remember to include God in your plans. Wherever you travel, I encourage you to find and attend a Catholic Church. Our faith and community are everywhere. Let's keep God at the center of our lives this summer. I look forward to seeing you at Mass.

See you at Mass,
Fr. Peter Patrick



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.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

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

**Lucas Mynsberge and Hannah Curley with daughter, Scarlett
Doug and Dayna Hanson**

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.

ST. SEBASTIAN STAFF MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES!

We are grateful to recognize and celebrate the dedicated **St. Sebastian staff members who are marking milestone anniversaries** this year. Their commitment, faith, and service have made a lasting impact on our parish and school community. Please join us in congratulating and thanking them for their many years of dedication to St. Sebastian! **Thank you for all that you do!**

5 Years of Service:

- Morgan Frank (Faith Formation)
- Rachel Jensen (Teacher)
- Maria Watson (Parish Staff)

10 Years of Service:

- Margaret Lee (Faith Formation)
- Lisa Sawyer (Teacher)
- Heidi Spellman (Teacher)

15 Years of Service:

- Naomi Cayce (Hot Lunch)
- Stacey Rebholz (School Staff)

20 Years of Service:

- Joann Perleberg (Parish Staff)

30 Years of Service:

- Mary Zimmermann (Teacher)

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 for more information, or sign up for a baptismal preparation class at <https://tinyurl.com/AdultFormSignUp>.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEAL PROGRAM



St. Sebastian will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, July 10**. 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, July 10 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 May 8 where we served **100 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.*

SENIOR LUNCH | JUNE 17



We invite seniors to come for food and fellowship for the **Senior Lunch on Wednesday, June 17 in the St. Sebastian Church Hall**. It's always a good time and the parking will be easy because school is out! **Let Margaret know you're coming by phone or email at mlee@saintsebs.org.**

BRING CHRIST'S PRESENCE TO THOSE WHO CANNOT BE WITH US

One of the beautiful ways our parish lives out Christ's call to love and serve is by caring for those who are unable to gather with us for Mass due to illness, age, or limited mobility. For many of our parishioners and neighbors, receiving Eucharist at home or in the hospital is a profound source of comfort, connection, and grace.

We are seeking parishioners who feel called to serve in a new **Bread of Life Ministry**. Volunteers will be trained to bring Holy Communion to those who are unable to attend Mass, offering not only the Blessed Sacrament, but also the prayerful presence of our parish community.

This ministry is a sacred opportunity to carry Christ's love beyond the walls of the church and into the lives of those who most need encouragement and connection.

Training for new ministers will take place on **May 31 between the morning masses (9:00-10:00am)** and will include practical guidance, pastoral formation, and instruction for bringing the Eucharist reverently and confidently.

If you are a confirmed Catholic in good standing who feels called to this ministry of compassion and accompaniment, we invite you to prayerfully consider serving.

To express interest or to learn more, please contact the parish office.

"I was sick and you visited me..." - Matthew 25:36

Welcome to the 2026 Parish Raffle!

St. Catherine Church, Milwaukee, WI



<https://raffler-ticket.vercel.app/raffle/188>

twenty-three (23) prizes to be awarded, totaling \$68,000

1st PRIZE: \$30,000 American Express Gift Card
2nd PRIZE: \$10,000 American Express Gift Card
3rd PRIZE: \$8,000 American Express Gift Card

&

Prizes 4-23 are \$1000 AMEX Gift Cards

DRAWING: July 18th @ 8pm EST.
Streaming live at www.parishraffle.com

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING | JUNE 7

Hey, younger people!! If you are going to be in 4th grade or older in Fall 2026, then YOU have the chance to become an Altar Server! Training will take place on Sunday, June 7th from 3 -5 pm in the Multi-purpose Room at St. Sebastian. Please register by emailing Michelle Klotz mklotz@saintsebs.org or Patrick Schley pschley@saintsebs.org. See you there!

PS: If you are ALREADY an awesome Altar Server and want a refresher, please join us!




**ALTAR
SERVER**
Training
FOR YOUTH
4TH GRADE OR OLDER

 **SUNDAY, JUNE 7**
3 - 5 PM

 **MULTIPURPOSE ROOM**
ST. SEBASTIAN



 **SERVE AT THE ALTAR. GROW IN FAITH.**
Make a difference!

NOTES FROM MUSIC MINISTRY



Welcome to the first installment of Notes from Music Ministry! Each month, we will share insights on all things musical as it relates to the liturgy. Feel free to ask a question that you would like to see answered in this column. This week's question is:

Why do we sing during the Opening Processional?

Because the processional is both practical and spiritual—and singing serves both. When we hear the opening procession begin, and the first notes of singing carry us forward, what's happening is more than a “nice start.” Sacred music is intimately connected to the liturgical action itself. The Church teaches that the musical tradition is a treasure because, as a combination of **sacred music and words**, it forms a **necessary or integral part** of solemn liturgy.

The Church describes the purpose of processional music with language that reveals the underlying principle: its function is to **facilitate movement in good order, specify the meaning** of what is happening, and **connect the action** with the mystery being celebrated.

During the Entrance Rites, there is a body moving, a rite unfolding, and a community crossing from ordinary life into sacred worship. Singing helps the moment “hold together,” rather than becoming awkward silence while people shift seats, follow directions, or notice what's going on.

But there's more. Singing during the processional is also a way of teaching the body and the heart what the action means:

- **We are being gathered.** The assembly is not just arriving at a service; it is being formed into a worshipping people.
- **We are oriented toward Christ.** The procession visually expresses movement toward the altar and, more deeply, toward the Lord.
- **We turn “time to spare” into prayer.** A processional can otherwise be a gap where attention drifts. Song keeps minds and hearts directed.

In that sense, music becomes a kind of spiritual “road-sign.” It says, in melody and text: this is not random motion—this is **liturgy**.

And remember: sacred music is not merely decorative. It must be **beautiful** and **prayerful**, drawn from texts that **conform to Catholic doctrine**, and carried out in a way that invites the assembly to participate.

As the procession begins, ask yourself one question: **“What is my role?”**

It is not “to watch the choir,” or “to listen to the choir” but to pray with the Church. Joining with your unique voice is not optional—it's participation in the liturgy's action itself. When we sing the processional, we're not distracting from worship; we're entering it.

May our singing help make the liturgy feel like what it truly is: the Church **moving together** in faith toward Christ—**with ordered steps and one voice**.

SATURDAY MORNING MASS!



Starting in Lent, Fr. Peter Patrick has added 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.

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**.



MEETING: WOMEN'S SPRING DAY OF RECOLLECTION

Planning is underway for the Women's Day of Reflection, scheduled for **February 13, 2027**. We invite women to join us in helping plan this special event and develop topics and ideas for this day. **Please join us for our planning meeting: Tuesday, June 23 at 6 pm in the Multipurpose Room.**

We encourage and warmly invite you to come share your ideas, talents, and enthusiasm as we work together to create a meaningful and inspiring experience for all women. We hope to see you there!



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***

MEET OUR PARISH FAMILY SPOTLIGHT

Name:

Michael Rusin, Julia Shariff and son, John

Year You Joined St. Sebastian:

April 2026

Where are you from originally?

We moved from Madison to Milwaukee 3 years ago.

What made you decide to make St. Sebastian your home?

We joined St. Sebastian because we enjoyed the very welcoming atmosphere.

What do you enjoy most about Sebs so far?

We really enjoy the welcoming atmosphere of St. Sebastian as well as the many events going on in the parish community.



Name:

Matthew and Alexis Rittler, daughter Amelia and son Graham

Year You Joined St. Sebastian:

March 2026

Where are you from originally?

Matt grew up in California, but much of his family is here so they relocated back to the Brookfield area for high school. I am originally from the Chicago suburbs; however, I went to Marquette for college and I have lived in the Milwaukee area ever since. We have two kids-Amelia who is 3 and starting in K3 at St. Sebastian in the fall and Graham who is 10 months old-we are hoping to get him baptized at St. Sebastian.

What is the reason you chose to join St. Sebastian?

We're thrilled to be a part of the community. We were previously attending St. Hedwigs as we lived downtown, but now we have been living in Wauwatosa for a few years and need a parish closer to home. I was actually a bridesmaid in a wedding a few years ago at St. Sebastian and we have many friends who encouraged us to look into St. Sebastian.

What do you enjoy most about Sebs so far?

We have heard wonderful things from friends and are eager to be apart of the community! We're looking forward to attending a Fish fry, mass and school functions once our daughter begins!



CRAFT GROUP 2026!

The Craft Group will be meeting **June 2 at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room**. Our project this month is making bath bombs. 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, 2026. 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.

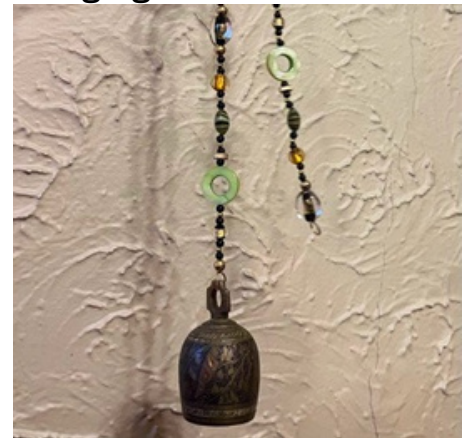
June 2 - Laura
Bath Bomb



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



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**

Ms. Z is Retiring



After 30 years of making sure we stay fit, it's time to put away the Gotcha balls and relax.

Sunday June 7th, 2026

Please attend 10:30am Mass, followed by a reception in the Church Hall.



Can't make it? Leave your thoughts and messages here!



She's kind of a "big dill"!!

FATHER'S DAY - FROM FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Father's Day is an appropriate time to recall the essential role of fathers in the life of the family and in building a culture of life. It is also an opportunity to highlight spiritual fatherhood, which all men are called to embrace. Fatherhood has its origins in God, who chose to reveal Himself to us as Our Father sending his only Son for the sake of our salvation. Fathers therefore have a special role "in revealing and in reliving on earth the very fatherhood of God" (*Familiaris consortio* 25). Indeed, the role of the father "is of unique and irreplaceable importance" (FC 25). Fathers include any man who plays a special role in a child's life whether he is birth father, adopted father, step father, foster father, or godfather.

Although our society tells fathers that they have little to say in the lives of their children before birth and fails at times to recognize the dynamic and critically important role of fatherhood at all stages of a child's life, it is critically important that we encourage and support fathers. Pope Saint John Paul II said "fathers are called to exhibit generous responsibility for the life conceived under the heart of the mother" (FC 25). They are uniquely entrusted with the protection and defense of both mother and child and, in this way, in safeguarding the sanctity of human life. Yet research continues to show that the top reasons women seek abortions include lacking support from the child's father and financial challenges, which are only exacerbated by a father's absence or lack of involvement in the child's life.

As a Church community, we need to encourage and support men to follow the example of St. Joseph and embrace their various roles as father. Even if a man is not a birth parent, he is still called to spiritual fatherhood—a fatherhood that fosters others' relationship with God, protecting them from evil and providing an example of Christ's love.

St. Joseph, himself, was unexpectedly called to both practical and spiritual fatherhood, and amid very difficult circumstances. But despite all obstacles, Joseph was faithful. He welcomed life, offering care and protection to Mary and Jesus. We pray that each expectant father will find courage in the example of St. Joseph and offer loving, life-affirming support to the mother of his child. We also pray for all Fathers' that they be a guiding light in their child's (children's) life and be a good example to all fathers who trust in God.

Excerpts from *Familiaris Consortio* ("On the Role of the Christian Family in the Modern World"), nos. 25 and 59, (1981).



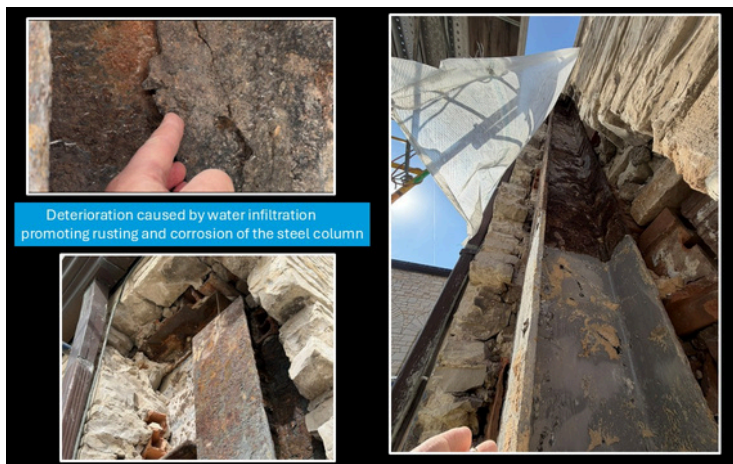
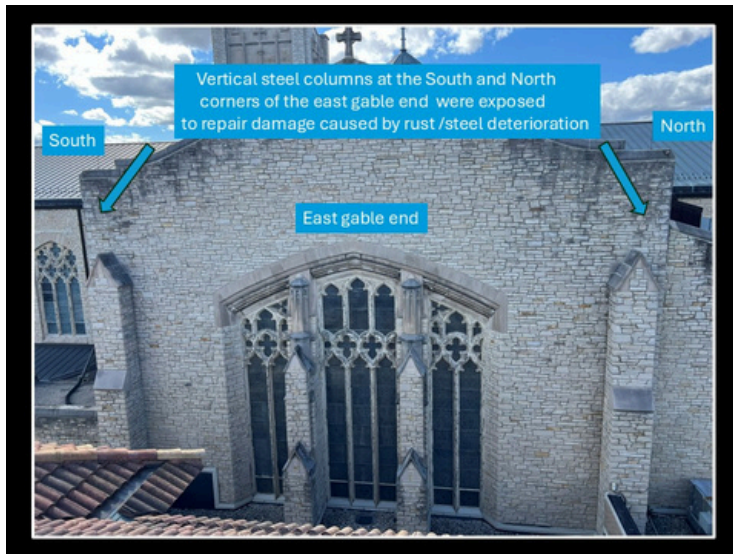
BUILDINGS & GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

Completing Our Masonry Restoration

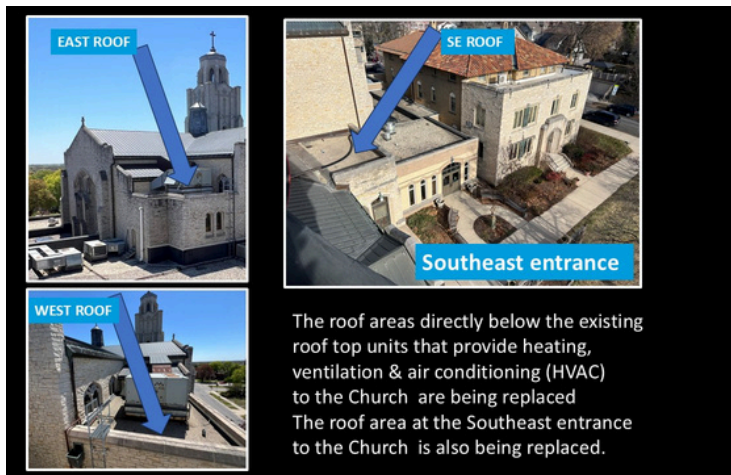
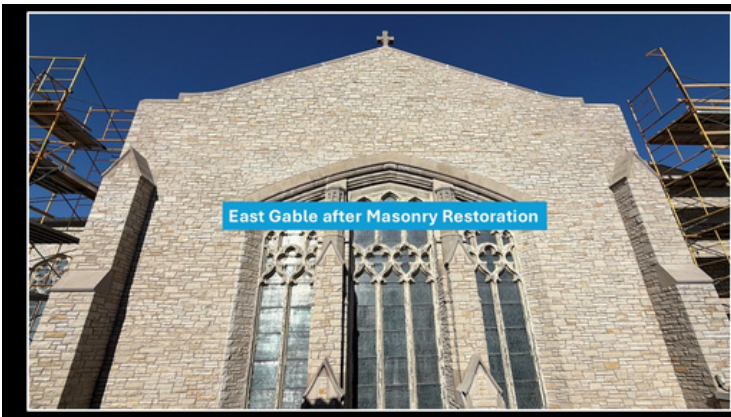
After several years of careful, phased restoration, our church's masonry project is now in its final stage. Work resumed on March 20, with crews repairing the lower east facade and rebuilding the gable wall corners where deteriorated steel had been exposed and treated. Crews are now working on the lower west elevation and west gable wall. We expect the project to be completed by early summer. Once finished, these repairs will help preserve our church for generations to come.

Replacing Our Church Heating and Cooling Systems

In late April, the two rooftop heating and cooling units were removed, and roof replacement began beneath them, as well as on the connector roof between the church and school and the roof at the church's southeast entrance. Extensive damage to the roof deck on three of these roofs has required full deck replacement before new insulation and roofing membranes can be installed. This has delayed installation of the new rooftop units. The new units are now scheduled to be lifted into place on June 3 and should be fully operational by June 9.

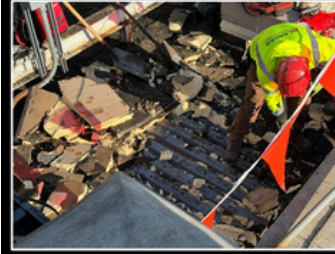
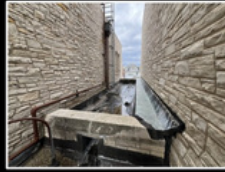
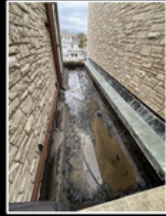


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Roof area between the church and school
Is being replaced



Removal of existing membrane and failed insulation
on the East roof followed by installation of new insulation
and rubber membrane



Failure of the existing roof deck structure
required a new roof deck to be constructed
at the West roof. Similar conditions at the SE roof
will also require roof deck replacement



Significant deterioration of the masonry
on the west gable is being addressed
through partial reconstruction of wall sections,
repointing of failed mortar joints and cleaning of
the limestone

