

# Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN  
CATHOLIC CHURCH



## From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

### Lenten Journey

Lent is a season when we are invited to change how we live as Christians. It's a chance to turn away from sin and grow spiritually, deepening our relationship with God and with others. We are meant to follow Christ's example, but sometimes we end up following the ways of the world. St. Paul reminds us in his letter to the Romans: "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will be, his good, pleasing and perfect will." (Rom: 12:2). Lent is a time to renew both our minds and our hearts.

I always look forward to Lent. It's a time that helps me reflect on my spiritual life and see where I need to grow. As I shared in the bulletin on the first Sunday of Lent, I want to repeat part of that message: "Lent isn't about how things look; it's about what's in our hearts. As a priest, I sometimes focus on outward tasks such as preparing liturgies, preaching, or organizing parish events. But Lent reminds me that before I serve God in public, I need to meet Him in private. I need to pray not just as a priest, but as a child who needs his Father. I need to fast not just from food, but from distractions, impatience, and anything that weakens my love. I need to give not just from parish resources, but from my own time, attention, and care."

I believe this applies to everyone. We might think Lent calls for big or dramatic changes, but often the most meaningful growth happens in small, quiet ways. It could be spending a little more time in prayer, choosing kindness over irritation, letting go

of a habit that separates us from God and others, or reaching out to someone who feels alone or is hurting. God sees and values these hidden sacrifices.

You may have noticed the way the Mass readings are chosen from Lent through Easter. They trace a path that leads us from the desert to Easter. I'd like to share a brief overview of the Gospels and their themes.

### 1st Sunday of Lent – The Temptation of Jesus: Gospel of Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus goes into the desert, fasting for forty days and facing temptation from the devil. He resists the temptations of power, possessions, and pleasure by trusting in God's Word. Jesus overcomes because he remembers he is God's beloved Son. In contrast, Adam and Eve in Genesis forgot their identity as God's children and gave in to temptation. When we forget who we are, we are more likely to fall into temptation. Theme: Lent starts in the desert, where we face temptation and learn to trust God instead of ourselves.

### 2nd Sunday of Lent – The Transfiguration: Gospel of Matthew 17:1-9

Jesus is transfigured in front of Peter, James, and John. His divine glory shines, and the Father says, "This is my beloved Son... listen to Him." Theme: Lent gives us a glimpse of glory, and transformation happens when we listen to Christ.

### 3rd Sunday of Lent: Woman at the Well: John 4:5-42.

Jesus meets a Samaritan woman and offers her "living water." She moves from misunderstanding to belief and then shares her faith with others. Theme: Jesus longs for us and meets our deepest needs.

## In this newsletter you will find information about:

- Facing Racism Book Discussion
- Facing Racism Lenten Reflection Series
- Lenten Taize Service
- St. Vincent de Paul March Meal Program
- CRS Rice Bowl Program
- New Saturday Morning Masses
- Lent Soup and Scripture
- Trivia Night
- Kids Night Out
- The Welcoming Group's Latest Conversation
- Faith Formation Family Events
- Lenten Family Formation Event
- Senior Lunch
- Benefit for Hope
- Sparkle Squad
- Fish Fry Volunteer Call
- New Parishioners
- Stewardship Committee Lenten Reflection
- Buildings and Grounds Committee Updates
- Stations of the Cross
- Emmaus 90 Meeting Dates
- Call for Family Crosses
- St. Seb's History Bytes
- Craft Group Meetings
- A Call for Reviving the Christian Women Group
- Fish Fry: The Musical
- St. Joseph Feast Day
- Parishioner Spotlight
- Spiritual Direction Opportunity

## Newsletter 4th Sunday of Lent – The Man Born Blind: Gospel of John 9:1–41

Jesus heals a man who was born blind. As his physical sight returns, his spiritual understanding also grows, while others stay spiritually blind. Theme: Lent helps us see more clearly. True vision comes from faith in Christ.

## 5th Sunday of Lent – The Raising of Lazarus: Gospel of John 11:1–45

Jesus brings Lazarus back to life, showing that he is “the resurrection and the life.” Theme: Lent gets us ready for victory over death. Jesus brings hope and life where there was despair.

Here is the summary of the Lenten Journey:

**Desert – Facing temptation**

**Mountain – Seeing glory**

**Well – Receiving living water**

**Light – Gaining sight**

**Tomb – Receiving new life**

Lent takes us on a journey from temptation to transformation, from thirst to being filled, from blindness to sight, and from death to new life, all leading up to Easter. I pray that you, your loved ones, and our parish community have a blessed and fruitful Lent.

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:

- *Solito* by Javier Zamora; Mar 27 (Church Hall)
- *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.

## FACING RACISM LENTEN REFLECTION SERIES

Facing Racism is offering a 7-week study-reflection-discussion series for the Lenten season, beginning in February. It will consist of 3 emails per week with links to short videos about an aspect of racism (input) and reflection questions, and an optional Zoom discussion on Saturday to share our reflections from that week. Sign up beforehand by sending an email to [facingracism@saintsebs.org](mailto:facingracism@saintsebs.org).

## LENTEN TAIZE SERVICE | MARCH 9TH

Spend time with our St. Sebastian community in prayer this Lent. We'll be hosting a Taizé prayer service here at St. Sebastian on Monday, March 9 at 7:30 pm. Join us to spend some personal time with God through this reflective and musical style of prayer. Questions? Contact Patrick Schley at [pschley@saintsebs.org](mailto:pschley@saintsebs.org).



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## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEAL PROGRAM



St. Sebastian will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, March 13**. 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, March 13 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 January 9 where we served 70 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.*





Please take a CRS rice bowl and give a monetary donation to this important effort that helps fight global hunger. This Lent, our community is joining more than 11,000 parishes and schools across the U.S. to continue putting our faith into action to help our sisters and brothers around the world.

You are invited to take home one of these Rice Bowls and incorporate the daily reflections and actions found in the Lenten calendar each day.

As you pray, please pray for people facing hunger around the world and here at home. As you fast, please remember those for whom fasting is not voluntary. As you prayerfully discern giving alms, please consider how your gifts will support the global work of the Church through CRS Rice Bowl, particularly at this moment when so many of our sisters and brothers are experiencing hunger and poverty. This year's campaign will help those in Guatemala, Timor-Leste and Ghana.

In addition to the CRS rice bowl collections, as a parish, we will also seek donations of personal hygiene products for the House of Peace and St. Ben's Meal Program. There are bags in the Gathering Space (Sebs)/back of church (Catherine's) that list the items needed. Take a bag and fill it with hygiene products, we are asking that you bring the items back by end of April. Thanks in advance.

## SATURDAY MORNING MASS BEGINS THIS LENT!



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:

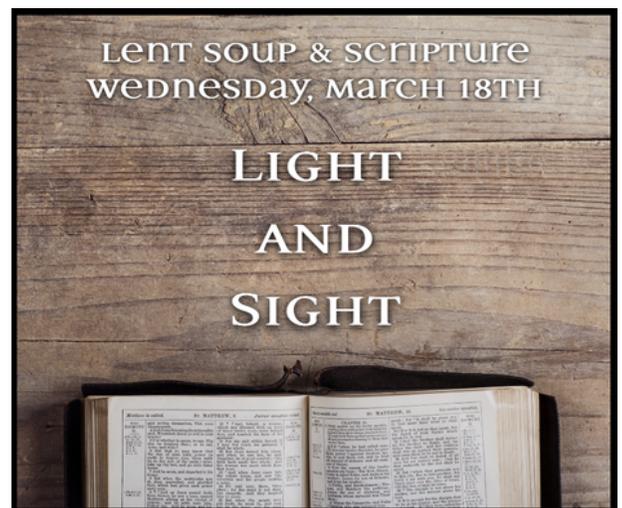
**1st/3rd/5th Saturday: St. Sebastian**  
**2nd/4th Saturday: St. Catherine**

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

## LENT SOUP AND SCRIPTURE: MARCH 18

A reminder that there is no Lent Soup & Scripture on Wednesday, March 11th. Join us for the third session, focusing on "**Light and Sight**" on **Wednesday, March 18. Gather for soup at 5:30 pm, stay for the program from 6 -7 pm.**

Details and sign-up are at <https://tinyurl.com/AF-LookingAhead>.



MAY LUCK BE WITH  
YOU AT ST SEBS ANNUAL

# TRIVIA NIGHT!

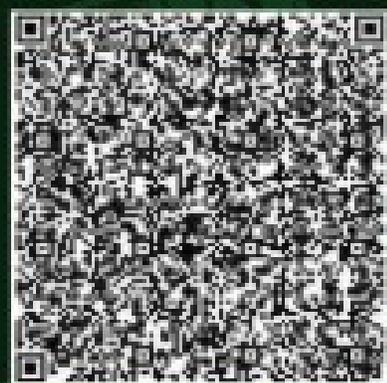
Saturday, March 14th

Doors open at 5:30 pm &  
Trivia starts at 6:00 pm in the Church Hall

Register and pay using the link below.

Need a plan for your kids during trivia? Sign-up for  
"Kids Night Out" being held the same night!

Funds will help get St. Sebs  
8th graders to Washington DC!



St. Seb's 8th Graders present:

# KIDS\* NIGHT OUT!

**Saturday, March 14th**  
**from 5:30 PM- 8:30 PM**

Register to drop off your K3 - 5th Grade child at  
Sebs for a night of fun, games, and a movie.  
Pizza included!

**Cost: \$20 per child or \$50 per family**

\*\*\*Help the 8th-grade class get to DC \*\*\*

Register by Friday, 3/6



Parents: in case you need ideas for what  
YOU might do - note that Kids Night Out  
is conveniently during St. Sebs Trivia  
Night! But - spend this time however  
YOU like!

# BRIDGING THE GAP: CONVERSATIONS THAT CONNECT

At the February St. Sebastian Welcome Group meeting, parishioner Michele Matthai, Director of Culture, Diversity & Inclusion at Dell Technologies, prepared a meaningful presentation, Bridging the Gap: Conversations That Connect. She also shared practical tools and faith-rooted approaches for engaging in thoughtful dialogue around LGBTQ+ topics within a Catholic context, with a focus on understanding, relationship-building and Christian accompaniment rather than debate or persuasion.

The presentation was grounded in Catholic Social Teaching, particularly the principles of human dignity, solidarity, subsidiarity and the common good. These values were offered as a framework for how Catholics are called to speak and listen to one another, especially when LGBTQ+ conversations are difficult. Participants were reminded that unity does not require uniformity, and that respectful dialogue can strengthen community and deepen relationships even when differences remain.

## Creating Safe Spaces

A central theme of the session was the importance of creating safe and respectful spaces for conversation.

"I wanted to introduce some basic communication ground rules that encourage dialogue over debate, assuming positive intent, listening with curiosity and practicing humility. These guidelines help shift conversations away from defensiveness and toward shared learning and mutual respect," Michele said.

The presentation also highlighted the role of intentional language, exploring ways to replace dismissive or defensive phrases with language that communicates openness, empathy and care. The emphasis was on validating lived experiences, acknowledging the emotional weight of sensitive topics and choosing words that support psychological safety – critical elements, especially when connecting with anyone in the LGBTQ+ community, including family members, colleagues and friends, she explained.

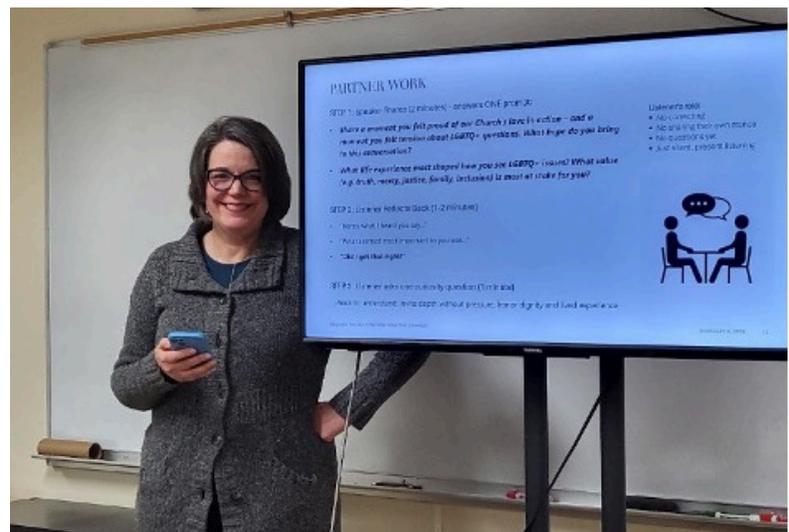
## Practicing Listening

The second part of the session was a structured partner exercise that allowed participants to practice reflective listening and curiosity-based questions to experience the impact of being fully heard.

"I hope everyone can continue practicing these skills in everyday parish, family and community life," Michele said. "It's the best way to foster a culture of compassion, belonging and faithful dialogue."

One of the many participants was parishioner Leah Sealey. "I found Michele's presentation to be so encouraging because it demonstrated that the corporate world is in being schooled on how to have productive and relaxed conversations. I was glad we had the opportunity to pair off and put into practice what she had taught us. I even shared her 'conversation guidelines' the next day in a talk I was giving to Ignatian Associates about community engagement," she said. "This meeting and other Welcome Group meetings have given me hope for our parish communities – that we can be a light for our neighbors."

Father Larry Chapman agreed. "There is a search for wisdom and understanding, with a spirit of humility and 'there is so much more to learn' that makes being a part of this group so faith- and hope-filled. I am humbled and honored to be a part of this effort and ministry," he said.



# 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



## LENTEN FAMILY FAITH FORMATION EVENT: MARCH 14TH

On **Saturday, March 14**, the formation team will host a **Family Formation opportunity** that incorporates learning about Catholic Social Teaching along with the Lenten practice of almsgiving. Join us on March 14 in the school cafeteria from **10am to Noon**. Families will be guided to do service work together! We will help with things around the parish/school, fill Easter eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt and pack up hygiene products for House of Peace and St. Ben's. Families can attend at any time during the 10-12 timeslot and help out as long as they would like. Catholic Social Teaching is the doctrine of the church, which informs us on how we are supposed to live in solidarity with others, it guides us to understand working for the common good, and instructs us on how we must always honor the human dignity of all persons. We'll provide a special resource for all ages, to use in reflecting and studying this important doctrine. Catholic Social Teaching is key to understanding love of neighbor and the basis for our knowledge surrounding faith plus works. As Catholics, we believe our faith must be a living faith, one that leads to good works. Parents are the primary source of learned faith for children and teens, therefore the intention is for families to cultivate a deep understanding of Catholic Social Teaching at home and then come practice your faith by giving time, talent and treasure to our parish and those most vulnerable in our community through acts of service on Saturday, March 14th. **Questions? Contact Margaret Lee at [mlee@saintsebs.org](mailto:mlee@saintsebs.org).**

## SENIOR LUNCH: MARCH 10TH

Join us at Noon in the St. Sebastian church hall for a meal and socializing. This time we will have a short prayerful reflection on Lent, followed by some friendly bingo fun! **Contact Margaret if you have any questions, [mlee@saintsebs.org](mailto:mlee@saintsebs.org).**



Benefit for  
**HOPE**  
An Evening with Catholic Charities

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<sup>th</sup> at the Italian Community Center, Milwaukee. 5pm cocktail hour, 6:30pm dinner.**

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





## SPARKLE SQUAD RETURNS JOIN US FOR A SEASON OF PARISH CARE!

We are excited to announce that Sparkle Squad is returning for another season at Saint Sebastian! Beginning in March, we will meet on the third Saturday morning of every month from 9 to 11 am, continuing through to our Spring Into Service event in May.

Sparkle Squad was originally created to tackle focus cleaning and beautification projects around the parish — those deeper, less-frequent tasks

that go beyond everyday upkeep. It's a chance for all of us — children, teens, adults, longtime parishioners and new friends alike — to come together, roll up our sleeves, and "make our parish shine." For students, these sessions are a great way to earn service hours. But to make this effort successful, we also need adults to help coordinate, lead, and work alongside the youth.

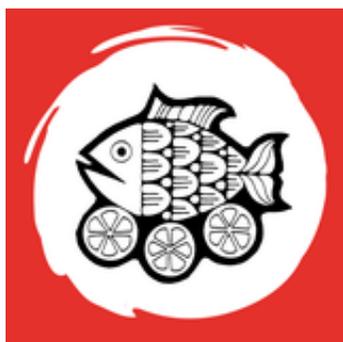
Our first gathering will be an outdoor fall cleanup: raking leaves, tidying garden beds, removing debris, and preparing our grounds for the season ahead. If you'd like to join us (or lead a subteam), please sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EAFAB28A7F58-59022441-sparkle>.



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## WANTED: FISH FRY VOLUNTEERS



St. Sebastian Carry Out Fish Fry will be available every Friday during Lent in the cafeteria from **4:30-7:30**. On **Friday, March 6**, dine in will also be available. We are always looking for additional volunteers for these events. Volunteers do not have to be associated with the grade to volunteer

Please email [fishfryvol@saintsebs.org](mailto:fishfryvol@saintsebs.org) for inquiries or interest in volunteering. It is a great opportunity for students to get service hours.

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## WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

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

**Matthew Roberts**

**Krystina La Caze with son, Antonio, and daughters, Aubree and Saraphine**

**Nicole Montgomery**

**Marian and Arnold Mettle with sons, Myles and Mason**

**Shawn and Krista Claypool with son, Coleton, and daughter, Celeste**

**Thomas and Sarah Boffeli with son, James**

**Jake and Taylor DuWell with daughter, Zara, and son, Hugh**

**Orlando Garza and Rose Hennessy Garza with daughters, Genevieve and Ana, and son, Daniel**

**Kerri Bonasch**

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

# Living Lent in Action

As we journey through this sacred season of Lent, the Stewardship Committee invites every member of our parish family to reflect on how we can give back, not only through prayer and fasting, but through generous acts of service and support for our community at Seb's.

Stewardship at St. Sebastian is all about sharing our **time, talent, and treasure** to help our parish flourish and to reach out to those in need around us. At its heart, stewardship is an invitation: to discover our gifts and use them in ways that make a real difference.

## **There are many meaningful ways to get involved:**

- Volunteer at our Lenten Fish Fry and help welcome the wider community.
- Serve in a liturgical ministry or join a parish committee.
- Complete a Time & Talent form to prayerfully consider how you're called to serve.
- Take home a Rice Bowl for daily Lenten sacrifices.
- Pick up a St. Ben's hygiene bag in the Gathering Space, fill it, and return it to support those in need.
- Attend Saturday Morning Mass, join the Friday evening Stations of the Cross, or spend quiet time in prayer; keeping Christ at the center of your Lenten journey.

As we continue through these weeks toward Easter, let's challenge ourselves to move from intention to action; offering our gifts wherever they are needed. Your participation, whether big or small, helps create a parish community that is alive with faith and compassion.

If you have questions, ideas, or would like to learn more about specific service opportunities, please reach out. We'd love to walk this Lenten journey with you.

— **St. Sebastian Stewardship Committee**



# BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE UPDATE

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.

## **Preliminary 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.

*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: 4/6/26 -Site mobilization and scaffold erection begins.

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

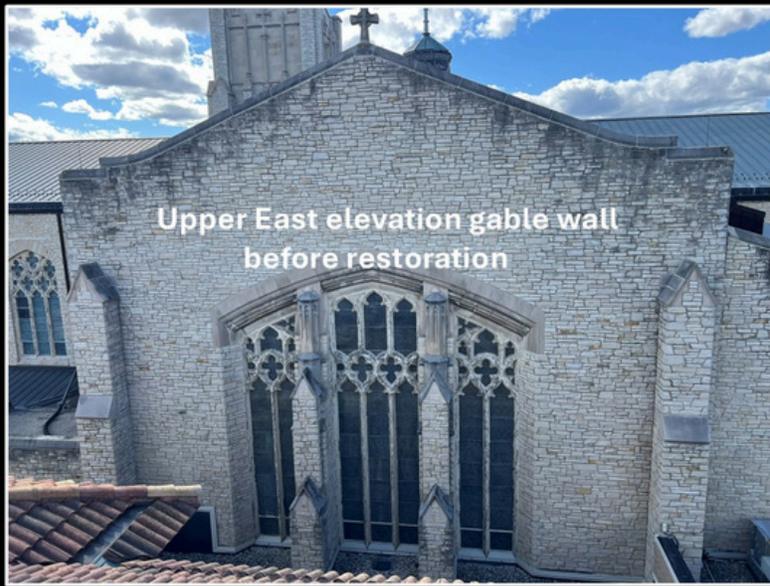
## **Church RTUs and related roofs**

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 or early May.

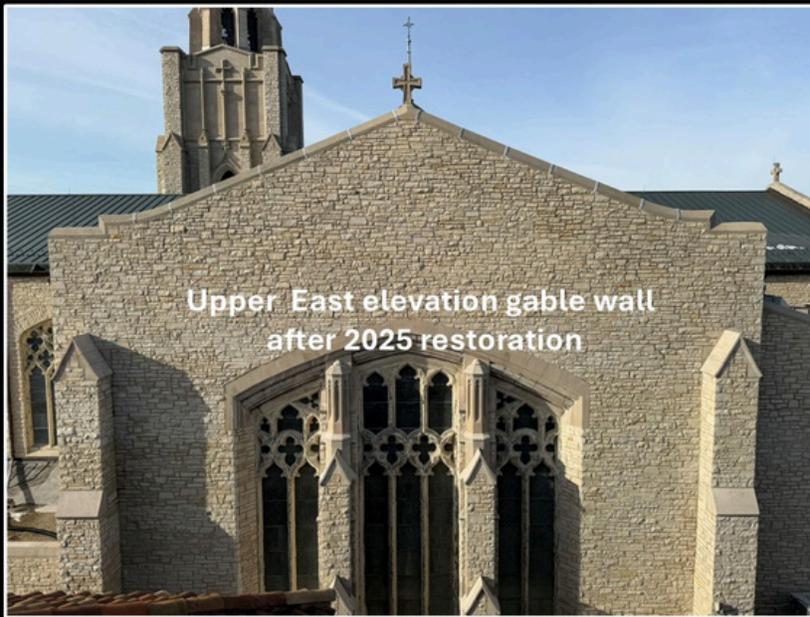
We are awaiting delivery date confirmation for the RTUs before finalizing the project start date. The work, which should last about two weeks, includes removing current RTUs, replacing roofs, and installing new RTUs. Heating will be limited and AC unavailable during this time, so outside temperatures 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 55 th 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.

Some preliminary work on the new steel structure for the connector roof can be done from underneath the roof. This work started on **2/9/26** and should conclude by **3/6/26**. 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

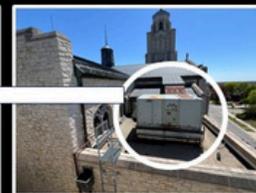
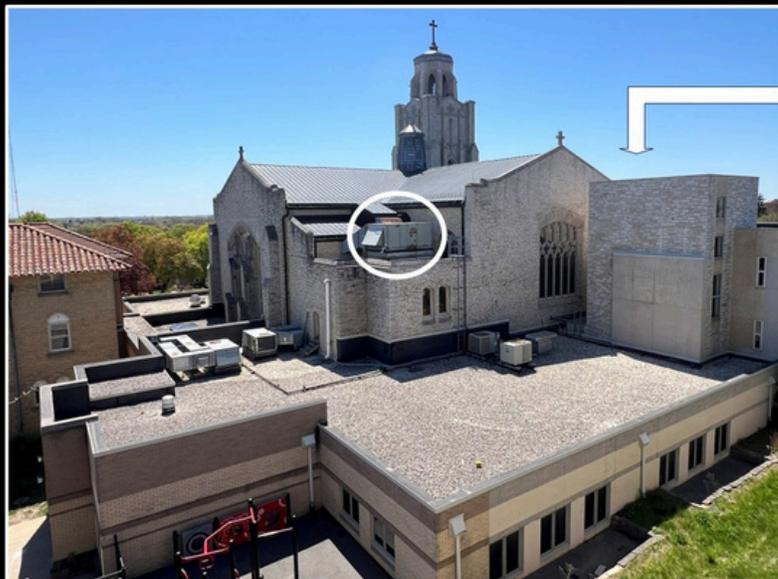
**School playground improvements**- This work is still in the planning stages but will be executed during the summer break.



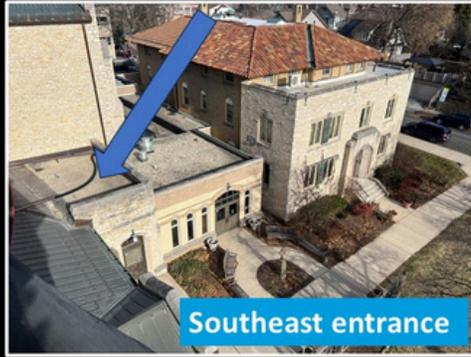
Upper East elevation gable wall  
before restoration



Upper East elevation gable wall  
after 2025 restoration

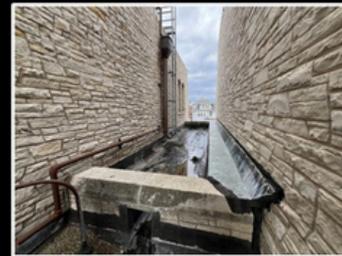


○ = Roof top units  
that provide heating,  
ventilation & air  
conditioning (HVAC)  
to the Church will be  
replaced in 2026 .



The roof areas directly below the existing roof top units that provide heating, ventilation & air conditioning (HVAC) to the Church will be replaced 2026 . The roof area at the Southeast entrance to the Church will also be replaced.

Roof area between the church and school will be replaced in 2026





## STATIONS OF THE CROSS: EVERY FRIDAY DURING LENT AT 5:30PM

The Stations of the Cross (Via Crucis) is one of the Church's most popular devotions, especially during Lent, helping the faithful make a spiritual pilgrimage through the 14 key scenes of Christ's Passion, from His condemnation to His burial in the tomb.

Join us **every Friday evening at 5:30pm in the church**. No specific prayers are required; simply move from station to station in prayerful meditation. This devotion fulfills Christ's call to "take up our cross and follow Him." It's suitable for all--publicly or privately--and can be made multiple times a day. Come alone, with family, or as a parish community to grow in faith, penance, and hope of the Resurrection.

*All are welcome!* Ends in time for Fish Fry!!

## MARCH 6TH | A WAY OF THE CROSS: STATIONS WITH THE WELCOME GROUP

The St. Sebastian Welcome Group is hosting a Stations of the Cross service on Friday, March 6 at 5:30 p.m. at St. Sebastian. The evening is directed to members of the LGBTQ+ community and their supporters, as well as to any persons who are marginalized by society and even religious communities. But it is also meant for our entire community of faith to help us all understand persons from a different life experience than our own, to deepen our solidarity with their suffering, and to pray that our community may better live with compassion our faith in the passion, death and resurrection of our Saving Lord. All are welcome to join afterwards for the St. Sebastian Fish Fry. For more information, contact Barb Haig, [barbh1836@gmail.com](mailto:barbh1836@gmail.com) or 414-617-7923.

## MARCH 27TH | A WAY OF THE CROSS: WALKING WITH TEOSINTE (IN THE ERA OF ICE)

The Teosinte Committee is hosting "A Way of the Cross: Walking with Teosinte (in the era of ICE)" on Friday, March 27th at 7pm.

## EMMAUS 90 MEETING DATES DURING LENT

Emmaus 90 is an Archdiocesan formation program designed to help Milwaukee Catholics deepen their faith as we journey toward Easter. Join us for three small group sessions on Mondays in Lent to engage with fellow parishioners in reflection and prayer.

The sessions take place on **2/23, 3/2, and 3/9 from 6:00-7:15pm in the Adult Formation room at St. Sebastian.**

Details available at <https://tinyurl.com/AF-LookingAhead>.

## Bring Your Cross to the Altar: A Lenten Devotion

Dear Parishioners,

As we journey through Lent—a sacred season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—let us fix our gaze upon the Cross, the central mystery of our redemption. The Church has long placed the crucifix as the principal ornament on the altar to remind the celebrant and faithful that "the Victim offered on the altar is the same as was offered on the Cross." It must be visible to all, positioned at the middle between the candlesticks, evoking Christ's Passion during every Mass.

This Lent, we invite you to deepen this focus by bringing a personal cross or crucifix from your home to place at the foot of the altar. These cherished family heirlooms or simple reminders of faith will surround our sanctuary, creating a powerful visual testament to our shared pilgrimage toward Calvary and Easter joy. Just as the early Church emphasized the Cross in liturgical life, this communal act will unite us in contemplating Christ's sacrifice amid our Lenten observances.

Why participate?

- Spiritual renewal: Lent calls us to "relive with Jesus the 40 days he spent in the desert," preparing our hearts through the Cross's transformative power.
- Family devotion: Share stories of your cross's significance—perhaps blessed by a loved one or carried through trials—and place it as an offering.
- Parish unity: A sea of crosses at the altar's base will symbolize the whole community's journey, echoing how "Christ's death and Resurrection does not bring the redemption of a few but of all."

Practical details:

- Bring your cross or crucifix (any size, wood, metal, or plastic) after Masses this weekend (Feb 22) or during the week.
- Items will be collected at the sacristy door and arranged safely at the foot of the altar through Holy Week.
- Label each with your name and contact info (a sticky note is fine) for return after Easter Vigil.
- Questions? Contact the parish office at 414-453-1061 or Michelle Klotz at 414-453-1928 or [mklotz@saintsebs.org](mailto:mklotz@saintsebs.org)

In this "acceptable time," let these crosses lift our spirits through fasting and penance, drawing us closer to the Lord who "makes this day holy by our self-denial." Join us—your cross belongs here, at the heart of our worship.

In Christ Crucified,

Michelle Klotz, Director of Liturgy and Music

# ST. SEBASTIAN HISTORY BYTES

## September 7, 1980 Bulletin Inserts

- St. Sebastian Ladies Bowling League looking for bowlers.
- CWSS Volleyball. Mom's night out. Come and join us playing volleyball on Thursday nights.
- CWSS. Ladies Powder Puff Mechanics at the Christian Women's Breakfast. Yes. Bring all your questions about your car.
- Attention all Ladies of the Parish. You are expected to bake an apple pie for the Fun Fest. You may bake more than one if you wish.

## July 5, 1987 Bulletin Insert

This year (1987) marks the 200th anniversary of the signing of the United States Constitution, a document which is just as relevant and vital today as it was in 1787. Although the Constitution is probably best known for its poetic preamble ("We the People ..."), the essence of the document lies in the seven articles that divide the power of the government between the president, the judiciary and the Congress; that outline the relationship between the federal and state governments; and that describe the means for legislating amendments. The Constitutional Convention took place in Philadelphia with an ambitious goal: to fashion a new government that embodied the principles and philosophy for which the Revolution was fought. After months of debate, the new Constitution was written, ratified and signed.

**Thank you to all who drop off pictures and documents from their own family memorabilia.**

## Help Us Build the St. Sebastian Archives and Your Family Story

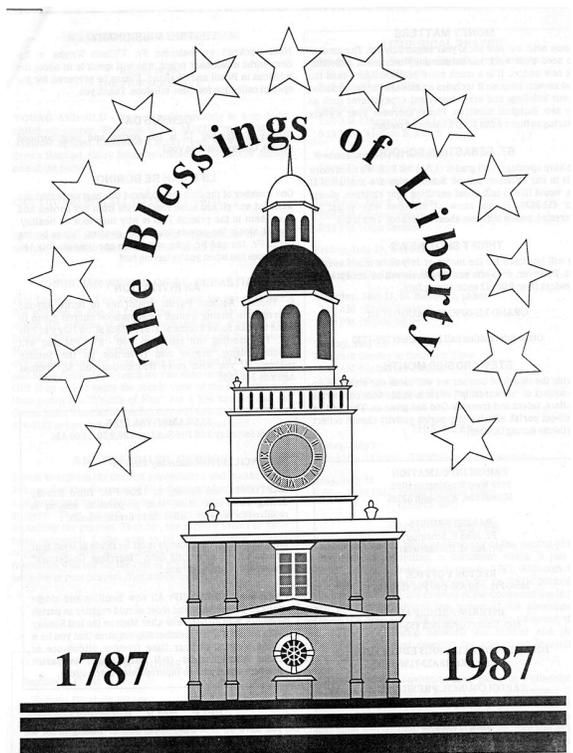
In 2019, a dedicated group of volunteers developed the St. Sebastian Archive Team a.k.a. the A-Team, a ministry that gives attention to the who, what, and when of parishioners and alumni alike. The A-Team has categorized and systemized thousands of documents and images into a manageable and accessible format. It is evident that the stories of parish involvement give one a window into the life of family members. Times when young 'n's were busy attending school, passionate parents invested in their child's school community, while others whose children had grown or joined because of the vitality of the parish, dedicated themselves to a lifetime of service to their home parish.

Parish and school resources are rich in filling in the family story gaps, but few parishes are able to develop a system that is secure, yet story filled. Privacy protections are in place to confirm a researcher's identity, and the archive team, much like librarians, conduct the actual research.

How can you help us build our story? What parish documentation or pictures can you pass on from your family archives? By dropping off your files, binders, or boxes of related materials, you will help us build our resources. Be a parish archivist. We welcome folks who love history to lend a hand. Onsite and 'home' projects available.

How can we help you build your story? By submitting your family name(s), years of membership or alumni years, and what information you are researching to [sebsarchives@saintsebs.org](mailto:sebsarchives@saintsebs.org) we will do our best to provide you with family history information we may have in our files.

**The St. Sebastian Archive Team**



# CRAFT GROUP 2026!

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 **8 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 for an evening. Any questions, I can be reached at: [joannstaz@gmail.com](mailto:joannstaz@gmail.com).

**April 7th** Lisa  
Cinnamon Ornament



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



**June 2nd** Laura  
Bath Bomb



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



**August 4th** Laura  
Hanging Bell



**September 1st** Jo Ann  
Door Hanger



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



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



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



**November 17th** Finish Up

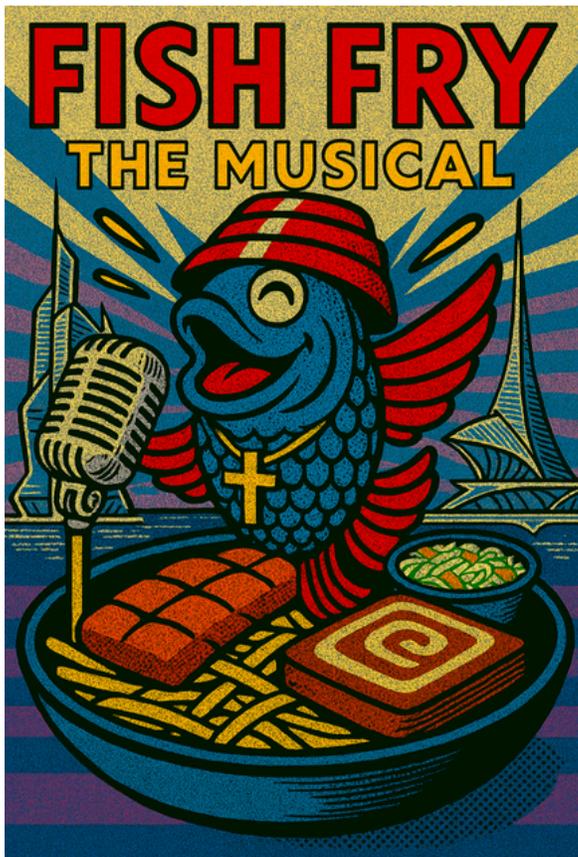
**December 4th** Set Up

**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.



## FROM THE ST. SEBASTIAN CABARET

Join us on **Friday, March 20 and Saturday, March 21** at **7 pm** for "Fish Fry the Musical," a custom scripted musical written by Marilyn Jozwik, Mary Madigan, Deb Mamerow, and Jim Zaffiro .

**Online tickets** are available at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2026-Cabaret>

Additional information will be available on the Saint Sebastian website in February.

Questions can be emailed to:  
[saintsebastiancabaret@gmail.com](mailto:saintsebastiancabaret@gmail.com).

We hope you will join us for this "unique-to-Saint Sebastian" theatrical show!

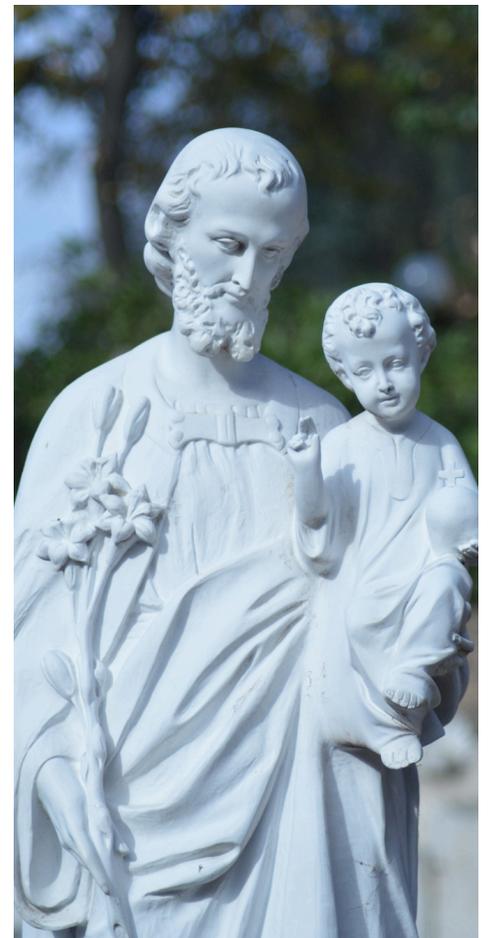
## ST. JOSEPH: THE QUIET PROTECTOR FEAST DAY | MARCH 19TH

St. Joseph is often called the "Quiet Protector" for a simple reason: he didn't talk about his faith; he lived it. When he found out Mary was pregnant, he didn't walk away or judge her. Instead, he chose to protect her. His "yes" to God was a "yes" to a child he didn't yet know, showing us that being a father means stepping up for a life even when you can't control the outcome.

We see his commitment most clearly when his family is in danger. When King Herod threatened the life of the baby Jesus, Joseph didn't hesitate. He woke up in the middle of the night and took his family to a foreign land to keep them safe. It's a powerful reminder that "respecting life" isn't just a slogan—it's an active, wide-awake choice to stand up for those who can't defend themselves.

Finally, Joseph's life in the quiet town of Nazareth shows us that every stage of life matters. Whether it was working hard as a carpenter to put food on the table or facing his own final days in the arms of Jesus and Mary, his life was a gift.

He is the patron of a "happy death" because he reminds us that the end of our journey is just as sacred as the beginning. To follow Joseph's example, we look at every person from a baby in the womb to an elderly person in their final hour and see someone worth caring for with everything we've got.



# SAINT SEBASTIAN PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

**Name:**

Noelle Henneman and Brady Hunt

**Year You Joined St. Sebastian:**

December 2025

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

We decided to join St. Sebastian because we were drawn to the commitment towards Catholic Social Teaching that is exhibited at Mass, parish events, and the welcoming environment. And of course, who doesn't enjoy a Donut Sunday?! We're so grateful for all the warm welcomes we have received!



**Name:**

Jo Ann Stasiewicz

**Year You Joined St. Sebastian:**

1979, moved away in 1980, came back in 1984, moved away in 2001 and came home in 2002. So, I left and came back twice. Seb's has always been here for me!

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

The Parishioners! I have always felt welcomed here. When reviewing my time at Seb's I feel I never joined. I feel as if I was naturally a member. My former in-laws, Raymond and Delores Stasiewicz joined St. Seb's in 1952. Their son, Tom Stasiewicz, grew up in this Parish. He was baptized here, received his First Communion and Confirmed here too. He is an Alum of 1967. Although we were married at my home parish, St. Seb's became my parish once we moved into the neighborhood. We had our first child, Jason, baptized here in 1979. In 1984 we decided to send our

children to school here as we knew they would be educated with the values my husband and I grew up with. My children grew up and moved away, however, St. Seb's is here for me to help my local community

**What do you appreciate most about the St. Sebastian community?**

St. Sebastian Parish is a very welcoming, loving and caring parish with a focus on Education. Saint Sebastian supports the local neighborhood community as well as acknowledging the needs of others state wide, nationally and globally. We care about people who need support to ensure their basic needs and rights are supported.

**Are you involved in any ministries or volunteer roles at St. Sebastian?**

I have been involved with Christian Women of Saint Sebastian since 1986, and I have Chaired the Holly Berry Boutique many times over the past 30 years. I have served as Chair of the Faith Formation Committee and then joined Pastoral Council, where I became the Liaison for the Stewardship Committee. Currently I am still part of the Stewardship Committee with a Focus On Welcoming New Parishioners. I have been a member of two Capital Campaigns for the Parish, "Giving Faith Room to Grow" and "Love One Another." I am also a Eucharistic Minister.

## 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](mailto:juliagraylange@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).**