NOVEMBER 2026

Monthly Newsletter

SAINT SEBASTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH



From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

A Month of Remembrance and Hope

November is traditionally a month of remembrance in the Catholic Church. We pause to remember those who have gone before us—our parents and grandparents, spouses, children, relatives, friends, parishioners, and all whose lives have touched ours. Their absence is still deeply felt, but our faith reminds us that death does not have the final word.

It is fitting that November falls at the end of the Church's liturgical year. As the leaves fall and the natural world prepares for winter, the Church invites us to reflect on the end of earthly life, the promise of resurrection, and our hope for eternal life with God.

The month begins with the Solemnity of All Saints on November 1, when we celebrate those already sharing in the glory of heaven. On November 2, All Souls' Day, we turn our attention to the faithful departed. We pray especially for those who have died in God's grace and entrust them to God's loving mercy as they await the fullness of life with Him.

Praying for the dead is a beautiful expression of our Catholic faith. Through the Communion of Saints, we believe that death does not sever the bonds of love that unite us in Christ. We can still pray for those who have died, offer Masses for them, and remember them in our personal prayers. As Jesus tells us, "He is not God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive" (Luke 20:38).

When I celebrate Mass in November and see the names of our deceased parishioners and loved ones, I am reminded that each person has a story, a family, a place in our community, and a place in our hearts. We give thanks for the gift they were to us and commend them to God. But November is not only about remembering those who have died. It also invites us to reflect on our own lives and mortality.

We sometimes live as though this earthly life is all that matters. We work, make plans, worry about tomorrow, accumulate possessions, and become caught up in the demands of daily life. There is nothing wrong with enjoying the life God has given us. But as Christians, we know this life is not the end.

The question for each of us is simple yet important: How well am I preparing for the day I will leave this world and meet my Creator?

Am I making peace with those who need my forgiveness? Am I loving the people God has placed in my life? Am I making time for prayer? Am I living my

In this newsletter you will find information about:

- End-of-Life Planning
- Fish Fry
- Together in Holiness Marriage Conference
- Call for Photos of the Deceased for November
- Youth Mass Volunteers Needed
- Holiday Food Boxes
- St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program
- Senior Lunches
- Welcome to New Parishioners
- Facing Racism Book Discussion
- Poinsettia Fundraiser for Kenya Choir
- New Sensory Kits for Mass
- The Story of the New Advent Pillars
- Call for Basketball Coaches
- A New Publication on Milwaukee's Catholic Churches
- Craft Group Meeting
- Holly Berry Boutique
- New Giving Platform and Church Management System
- 2027 Seb's Cabaret

faith or merely carrying the name “Christian”? Am I ready to meet the Lord?

Remembering our mortality isn't meant to scare us. It is meant to help us live more faithfully today. Each day is an opportunity to love more deeply, forgive more freely, pray more sincerely, and return to God. St. Paul reminds us, “For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep” (1 Thessalonians 4:14).

That is our Christian hope. Death is not the end. Because Christ died and rose again, we believe that our earthly death can become the passage to eternal life.

As November ends, we will enter Advent and begin a new liturgical year. The Church will once again invite us to prepare for Christ's coming. May this month of remembrance help us prepare not only for Christmas, but ultimately for the day when Christ calls each of us home.

Let us pray for our beloved dead, cherish their memory, and thank God for the lives they shared with us. And may their memory remind us to live well, love generously, forgive readily, and keep our hearts close to God.

May all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

~ Fr. Peter Patrick



NOVEMBER 6 | FISH FRY IS BACK!



Join us for the St. Sebastian Fish Fry!

Mark your calendar for **Friday, November 6** and join us for a delicious meal and a fun evening of fellowship at the St. Sebastian Fish Fry. This month's fish fry is proudly hosted by our 2nd Grade families.

Whether you dine in with friends or grab a carryout meal for home, your support helps strengthen our parish community!

We're always happy to welcome new volunteers to our fish fry team. If you'd like to get involved, please contact **fishfryvol@saintseb.org**. We hope to see you there!

TOGETHER IN HOLINESS | FEBRUARY 20, 2027



Together in Holiness is a marriage conference that offers powerful presentations from national and local speakers, Mass, Reconciliation, Eucharistic Adoration, on-site childcare, and practical tips and insights for spouses and parents. **For more information, visit their Facebook event.**

REQUESTING: PHOTOS OF THE DECEASED FOR ALTAR

As we remember those loved ones who have gone home to God, **we invite parishioners and friends of St. Sebastian to bring framed pictures of those who have died to be placed at the altar for the month of November**. Please label your pictures to ensure their safe return. Pictures should be no larger than 8x10 inches and may be dropped off in the sacristy or parish office. A special candle for each of those who have died this last year will also be placed at the altar. May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace.



CALLING ALL YOUTH!

Step up and be part of St. Sebastian Youth Masses! **We're looking for students to read, serve, sing, play instruments, and welcome others as greeters.** There's a place for YOU! Youth will lead Mass ministries monthly from October through May, starting October 11 at the 10:30 am Mass. Invite a friend and get involved! Contact Margaret at **mlee@saintsebs.org**or Michelle at **mklotz@saintsebs.org** to participate. All are welcome—let your faith shine!

St. Sebastian YOUTH MASSES!

October 2026 – May 2027

Youth will lead Mass ministries each month!

Read • Serve • Sing or Play Instruments • Greet



October 11	|	**10:30 am**
November 29 *First Sunday of Advent*	|	**10:30 am**
December 13 *Third Sunday of Advent*	|	**10:30 am**
January 24	|	**6 pm**
February 14 *First Sunday of Lent*	|	**10:30 am**
March 7 *Fourth Sunday of Lent • 2nd Scrutiny*	|	**6 pm**
April 11	|	**10:30 am**
May 9 *Feast of the Ascension*	|	**10:30 am**

Get your youth involved!

Margaret: mlee@saintsebs.org
Michelle: mklotz@saintsebs.org

All are welcome to participate!

HOLIDAY FOOD BOX DONATIONS

Please consider filling a Holiday Food Box to help low income families with Thanksgiving and Christmas dinners. Again this year we will assist the Capuchins with their holiday food drive.

The empty boxes are located in the Gathering Space. Items needed to fill the boxes are listed on the box. Please return the filled boxes by **November 15 for Thanksgiving** and **December 13 for Christmas**.

Contact Margaret at mlee@saintsebsorg with any questions or if you need assistance.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEAL PROGRAM



St. Sebastian's will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, November 13**. 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 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, November 13** before 4:00pm.

F**or 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 **September 11** 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 bottles, powder, or juice boxes.*

SAVE THE DATE | SENIOR LUNCHES

Our next Senior Lunch is **Friday, February 12**. We will meet at **Noon** in the **Church Hall**. More details will be provided soon, so keep an eye out in the monthly newsletter, Sunday buletin or weekly newsletter. **Please join us, by RSVPing to Margaret at mlee@saintsebs.org.**

Our future dates will be **February 12, April 16, and June 11**.



WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

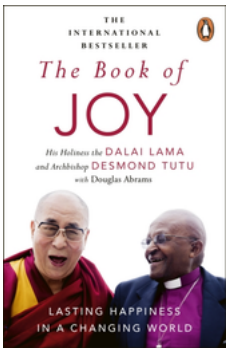
We warmly welcome all those who joined our Saint Sebastian parish family in **October!**



Lindsey and David Clark
Sam Guenther
Olivia Smrz
Aaron Winn with sons, Levi and James, and daughters, Joanna and Esther
Ingrid Kallgren and Jake Ringelstetter
Averie Tenor
Rafael Alvarez-Reyes
Mary Cappon

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.

FACING RACISM: BOOK DISCUSSION



Please join us for a heartfelt and timely discussion on **Friday, November 20 at 6:30pm-7:30pm** of *The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World* by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. This book looks at how two spiritual figures who have endured exile and apartheid found hope, resilience and true joy in the face of suffering.

BRIGHTEN YOUR HOLIDAYS & SUPPORT OUR KENYA CHOIR!



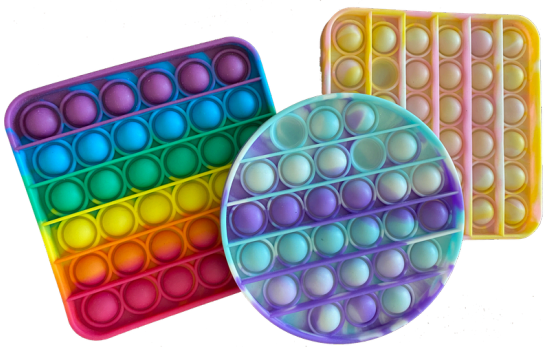
Bring some holiday beauty into your home while helping our St. Sebastian Choir prepare for their journey to Kenya in 2027! **Order beautiful holiday poinsettias** for pickup at St. Sebastian on December 12 or 13, or purchase a $25 voucher for Shady Lane Greenhouses, with 25% of each voucher sale supporting our fundraising efforts. Vouchers are good through December 28, 2026, and can be used for fall mums, holiday greenery, and more!

Use this link to order:
https://saintsebs.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/107/responses/new

Thank you for helping our choir share the gift of music, faith, and fellowship in Kenya! Your support makes a difference!

NOW AVAILABLE: SENSORY KITS

Thanks to the generosity of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, we now have sensory kits available for children who may benefit from a little extra support during their time at church. The kit includes items such as fidgets, noise-reducing headphones, and sensory tools. Please feel free to use the kit whenever your child needs and return once done for the next child. The sensory kit is located near the first aid station at St. Sebastians and inside the library at St. Catherines.



A LABOR OF LOVE:
THE STORY BEHIND OUR NEW ADVENT PILLARS

Beautiful craftsmanship, generous hearts, and a little trial and error came together to create a lasting gift for St. Sebastian.

Sometimes, all it takes to make something beautiful is for someone to notice a need and ask, “Can I help?”

That’s exactly what happened last Advent, when parishioner Denis saw an opportunity to improve the pillars used in our church’s liturgical environment. The existing pillars were functional, but Denis knew they could be something more. He offered to create a new set, hoping to have them ready in time for Advent. And, true to his word, he delivered!

But these pillars are more than a woodworking project. They are a testament to the generosity, creativity, and collaboration of people who share a love for St. Sebastian.

A Gift of Wood and Generosity

The story begins with Bill Pauers, a lifelong member of St. Sebastian and a longtime collector of wood from a variety of sources. Denis had worked with Bill on a previous project, so he reached out to discuss his plans for the new pillars.

Bill had just the thing: some beautiful old-growth pine he had been saving for a possible project for one of his children. After checking with his family, Bill generously offered the wood to Denis.

Old-growth pine comes from trees that have grown in forests that have not been previously harvested. These trees can reach enormous sizes, yielding wood with remarkable character and beauty. Bill’s donation provided the perfect foundation for the project.

Denis is quick to emphasize that the pillars would not have been possible without Bill’s generosity. In fact, Bill’s name is inscribed on the bottom of each pillar—a small but meaningful way to honor the person whose gift helped bring them to life.

Learning, Creating, and Perfecting the Details

With the wood in hand, Denis got to work. He enlisted the help of Joe at All Hands Boatworks, a member of another Milwaukee Catholic parish, to create the curved details, known as coves, that give the pillars their distinctive shape.

Making coves was a first for Denis, so Joe constructed a jig to ensure that each curve would be identical in height and length. With that assistance, Denis continued assembling the pillars, completing the tops and bottoms before Bill added the finishing details.

Of course, beautiful woodworking sometimes requires a little patience—and a willingness to try again!

One of the biggest challenges was finding just the right stain. The pine contained both heartwood, from the center of the tree, and sapwood, from the outer portion. Because these two types of wood absorb stain differently, achieving a consistent color took some experimentation.

The first attempt? A little too orange!

After three different iterations, Denis finally achieved the rich, balanced color that brings out the natural beauty of the wood. The result was well worth the effort.

And because these pillars are meant to serve the parish for years to come, Denis also added a protective vinyl layer to the tops to help preserve their surfaces.

Thirty Hours of Love for St. Sebastian

Each pillar required approximately 30 hours of work. That's a considerable investment of time, skill, and care, but Denis approached the project simply as another way to contribute to the parish he loves.

When asked about the project, he was humble about his own work and eager to make sure Bill received the credit he deserved. Denis knows that the beauty of the finished pillars begins with the generosity of the person who donated the wood.

As for Denis, those who know him might smile at the suggestion that this is his only contribution to parish life!

Denis and his wife, Jan, have been members of St. Sebastian since the mid-1980s. Over the years, Denis has shared his time and talents in countless ways. You'll find him in the pews, serving on various committees, helping with the parish auction, supporting the Emmaus Ministry for the bereaved, working with Collettascope, and volunteering at the Fish Fry.

The pillars are simply one more expression of a generosity that has become part of his life at St. Sebastian.

A Gift That Welcomes Advent

The next time you see the beautiful new pillars in church, take a moment to appreciate the story behind them. Think of the old-growth pine Bill so generously donated, the craftsmanship and perseverance Denis brought to the project, Joe's assistance with the curved details, and the many hours spent making everything just right.

Most of all, see in them a reflection of what makes a parish community special: people who notice a need, share their gifts, lend a hand, and work together to create something beautiful for the glory of God.

Thank you, Denis, Jan, Bill, and Joe, for sharing your time, talents, and generosity with St. Sebastian. Your work is a beautiful reminder that preparing our church for Advent is about more than creating a lovely space. It is also about the loving hands and hearts that help make it ready to welcome Christ.



BASKETBALL

ANNOUNCEMENT!!

Calling all basketball gurus!

We are in need of a few basketball coaches to coach for the **YAC 2026-27 season** at various grade levels and both genders.

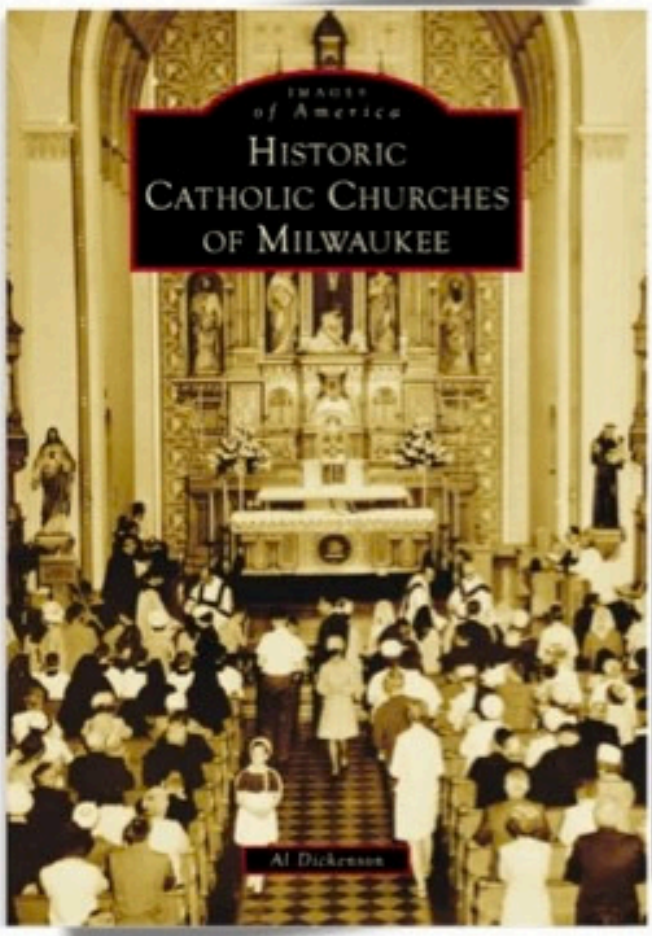


Please reach out to

basketball@saintsebs.org

if you would like to volunteer!

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Historic Catholic Churches of Milwaukee

Want to learn more about Milwaukee's historic Catholic churches? Check out this new book in Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series!

Milwaukee author Al Dickenson has written an encyclopedia-like book about parishes established between 1838 and 1940, the first of its kind.

Use code
MILWAUKEECHURCH
for 15% off!

CRAFT GROUP 2026!

The Craft Group will be meeting **November 3 at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room**. Our project this month is making **decorative jars and origami pyramids as holders for Christmas candies—perfect for gifts or your own holiday table.** 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.**

November 3 - Lisa & Annalisa
Candy Jar & Music Pyramid



November 17th Finish Up

December 4th Set Up

December 5th Boutique

Additional Projects

Laura Bonnie

Chocolate Espresso Stir Spoon



Scissors Holder



COUNTDOWN TO THE HOLLY BERRY BOUTIQUE DECEMBER 5, 2026

Holly Berry Boutique
Questions? We are here to assist! The information below is a handy guide with all the details required to make this year's boutique a resounding success. Donation drop-off windows for New to You, Knits, and Bakery items will be opening shortly, so please review the timetable below for specific dates and hours.

Reservations
Registration launched on **November 1st and continues through November 20th**, or until we reach maximum capacity. Because this event routinely sells out every year, we highly recommend booking your spot as soon as possible to ensure you don't miss out! You can register here: saintsebs.org/events/holly-berry-boutique

Gift Cards & Raffle
We extend our heartfelt thanks for all the gift cards and raffle item contributions received. Please be advised that we are no longer taking additional donations for these booths.

Donation Drop-Off Schedules
New to You: Guidelines for accepted items can be found on the Sebs website under the EVENTS tab. Drop-off hours are as follows:
Sunday, November 29th following the 8:00 and 10:30 masses
Tuesday, December 1st from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Wednesday, December 2nd from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
Thursday, December 3rd from 5:00 PM – 8:00 PM
The absolute last chance to drop off items is Friday, December 4th from 9:00 AM – Noon.

Knits: We are excited to receive your beautiful crafted items! Drop-off hours are:
Wednesday, December 2nd from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
Thursday, December 3rd from 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM
The absolute last chance to drop off knit items is Friday, December 4th from 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.

Bakery: Kindly deliver all baked items on Thursday, December 3rd between 6:00 PM and 9:00 PM, or on Friday, December 4th between 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM.

Luncheon Details
Bunzels will be catering our delectable meal, featuring your choice of vegetable lasagna in a rich white béchamel sauce or classic meat lasagna in a savory red sauce. Meals include Italian bread, salad, and cheesecake. Please note that wine will not be served at this year's luncheon; however, water and coffee will be available, and you are welcome to bring your own beverage of choice. **Tickets are $35 per person, with a discounted price of $33 for seniors and St. Sebastian staff members.**

Come celebrate the season with us for a delightful day of shopping, dining, and holiday festivities!

Volunteers
We are still actively seeking women AND men to assist with different facets of the Boutique. Hello Dolly waiters are the wonderful gentlemen who help create an unforgettable dining experience by serenading guests and serving lunch. Additional volunteer opportunities include staffing our various booths in 90-minute shifts.

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, please contact Chris Marcoux at marcouxcf@gmail.com or Jenny ONeil at jso172252@gmail.com. We look forward to connecting with you!

SOMETHING NEW IS BREWING AT SAINT SEBASTIAN!

Over the past several months, we have been gradually rolling out new software to better serve our parish and school communities. This includes a new **Giving Platform and Church Management System (ChMS)**.

We began implementing these systems in January 2026. The first piece many parishioners encountered was our new Giving Platform, Pushpay. We invited parishioners who make electronic donations to transition to the new platform, and school families used it to pay their 2026–2027 registration fees.

School families have also been completing their School Commitment Forms through the ChMS, helping us establish family accounts and build our parish and school database. Parent-funded families have set up tuition pledges through the Giving Platform, and many have established recurring payments.

The new system is already helping us in many other ways. We have moved our calendar and room scheduling to the ChMS and have implemented ministry scheduling through the platform as well. We also plan to use it for volunteer scheduling at Fish Fry and other parish events. We also used it for Summer PAL registration. Students have been assigned to grade groups, which will allow teachers to communicate more effectively with families through email and text messaging.

An app will soon be available, giving you convenient access to parish and school information right from your phone.

Many parishioners have already logged in, and some have even personalized their profiles with photos. You can also review and adjust your privacy settings at any time.

This is only the beginning, and we look forward to sharing more features and opportunities with you in the coming months.

If you have not yet logged into the ChMS, we encourage you to do so. Follow the link on our website to get started à https://saintsebs.ccbchurch.com/goto/login

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2027 SEBS CABARET

Hooray! It's time to start getting ready for the 2027 Cabaret!

Wait. You don't know what Cabaret is? The Saint Sebastian Cabaret Theatre is a showcase of adult parish talent from musicians, singers, dancers, comedians to set lighting and sound designers who work together annually to put on a one-of-kind, unique to Saint Sebastian show!

Join us for an initial gathering on Sunday, November 8 at Noon (details below).

2027 Show Type: Variety Show
UPDATED Performance Dates: March 12 and 13 (7 pm in the Church Hall)
Initial Gathering: Sunday, November 8 at 12 Noon (in the Saint Sebs cafeteria)*
*If you cannot attend the initial gathering but still want to participate that's okay! Just email us!
Rehearsals: Most Saturdays (9am to Noon) and Sundays (Noon to 3 pm) in the Church Hall from early January until the performance in March.
Interested? You know you are! **Email: saintsebastiancabaret@gmail.com**
Disclaimer: We are a fun-loving group of people from Saint Sebastian, Saint Catherine and the Community who enjoy performing on stage and being silly. And shenanigans. Sillyness and Shenanigans are fun!

Come join us! You'll be glad you did!