

Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH



From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

Love for Life

When I celebrate children's baptisms, the first thing I do is thank the parents for saying yes to life and appreciating the step they have taken in their journey. Also, when I celebrate school Masses, I end by calling all those who are celebrating birthdays that week. This is the prayer I say: "Thank you, Lord, for the gift of life and mostly for our sisters and brothers who are celebrating their birthdays this week. Thank you to their parents for saying yes to life. Bless our sisters and brothers as they begin this new year in their lives. Let it become a blessing for them and a blessing to all they encounter." Amen. Life is a gift from God, and so precious that it should be protected at all stages, from the moment of conception to natural death.

In the Catholic Church, October is known as Respect Life Month, but I prefer to refer to it as Love for Life. Once, a Moral Theology professor said something that made sense: if we love life, then we will protect it. Sometimes, you may wonder why there are different groups within the Church advocating for various causes. To me, it's because they have been forgotten, and we are being reminded of them. Respect Life Month doesn't only advocate for the unborn, but for all lives, from the moment of conception to natural death. We also have other groups that advocate for social justice issues, which they feel have been overlooked.

Last month, we held the Fall priests and parish directors' day, with the topic being Respect Life issues. The director, Deacon Jim Matthias, touched on all stages of life. He emphasized the importance of protecting

the unborn and supporting young mothers in their struggles. Toward the end, he discussed the new ministry for individuals transitioning out of jail and how to help them cope with life outside prison.

According to the Wisconsin Department of Corrections, approximately three out of every 10 men released from a state prison will be rearrested for a new criminal conviction within three years. One group is hoping to reduce recidivism by giving the formerly incarcerated a place to thrive. Here in Milwaukee, we are blessed to have Joseph's House in the Halyard Park neighborhood. At its open house in March, Milwaukee's archbishop blessed the structure and endorsed its mission. "We're supposed to be about new beginnings and new opportunities and opening a new chapter and moving beyond the past," Archbishop Jeffrey Grob said. "We have to make those tangible."

This house provides men leaving prison with a place to live, study, and recover. "This is not a flophouse," said Rev. Zach Presutti, the founder of the concept. "This is not a city shelter. This is a home." Presutti opened the first two "Thrive for Life" homes in New York City, where he's based. When he decided to open a house outside New York, he chose Milwaukee. We appreciate Rev. Presutti's effort. Everyone deserves a second chance. If you know someone coming out of prison who needs a place to stay, direct him to Joseph's House, across from St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Milwaukee.

As we continue to discuss life issues, last month, the week of September 22-28, was dedicated to celebrating National Migration

In this newsletter you will find information about:

- K of C Brat Fry 10/11
- Catholic Class
- Fall Catechesis
- Aluminum Can Drive
- Fish Fry 10/3
- Hymnal Placards
- Call for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers
- SebsFest Thank You
- Play Group 10/12
- Catholic Schools Walk 10/1
- St. Vincent De Paul Volunteer Opportunity 10/24
- Faith Formation Family Events
- Fall Women's Retreat
- '26 Delegation to Teosinte
- Call to Help the Archives
- Opening for a New Sacristan
- Archives: St. Seb's Membership Cards?
- Life Fair 10/5
- Choir Trip to Kenya
- Lost and Found
- Pet Blessing on Feast of St. Francis 10/4
- Brew City Catholics
- St. Seb's Welcome Group 10/7
- Craft Group Meeting 10/7
- Holly Berry Boutique
- Spiritual Direction
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Sacrament Preparation
- And so much more!

Week in the United States of America. "Migrants and refugees remind the Church of her pilgrim dimension, perpetually journeying towards her final homeland, sustained by a hope that is a theological virtue." —Pope Leo XIV, Message for the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees.

The history of the U.S. Catholic Church, like that of the United States itself, is deeply intertwined with the phenomenon of migration. The first American citizen to be canonized a saint, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini, embodied this. An immigrant from Italy, she adopted this country as her own. While often facing discrimination and seemingly impossible odds, she never succumbed to hopelessness. With relentless faith, she accompanied her fellow immigrants and others living on the margins of society with a great missionary zeal.

But Mother Cabrini's challenges, and the challenges of those she served, are not unique among generations of Catholics and immigrants who have come to this land. This is not just a matter of history; it is a current reality in the life of our Church and nation. Today, immigrants and refugees are living in fear in our country because of the president's immigration reforms. We should stand and speak out for the vulnerable. Let us all love life in all its stages.

~ Fr. Peter Patrick

SAVE THE DATE: KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS BRAT FRY OCTOBER 11



Knights of Columbus®



Please join the Knights of Columbus for their annual **Brat Fry** on **Saturday, October 11 from 4-6:30 pm**. Brats and drinks will be served in the school parking lot, and there will be a walk-up and drive-through option.

Come enjoy some great food, good company, and support your parish Knights!

ANNOUNCING THE 2026 CABARET!

Show Type: Custom Scripted Musical Show - "Fish Fry the Musical"

Performance Dates: March 20 and 21 at 7 pm in the Church Hall

Initial Gathering: Sunday, November 9 (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 January 3 until the performance in March.

Interested? You know you are! Email: saintsebastiancabaret@gmail.com

Disclaimer: We are a fun-loving group of people who do not take ourselves too seriously... except when it comes to learning coordinated movements. That's hard stuff for some of us.

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

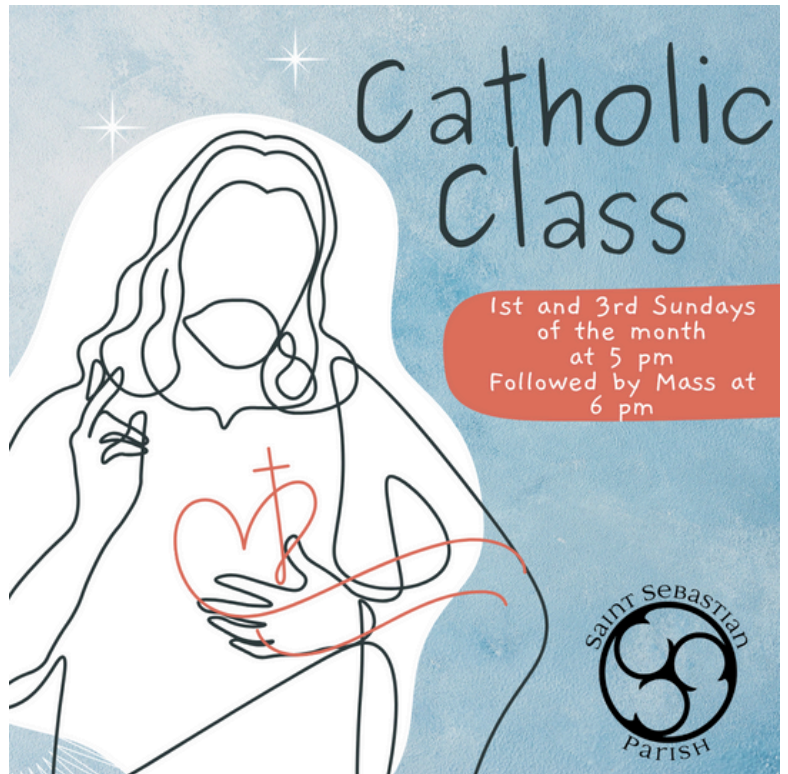
CATHOLIC CLASS!!

Introducing Catholic Class!

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

Saint Sebastian will offer Catholic Class on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month at 5 pm, **beginning on September 7**, with the option of attending Mass together at 6 pm. Come find out what being Catholic is all about!

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



A CALL TO ACCOMPANY

Do you feel called to welcome others? Perhaps you've been looking for a way to give back to the church or meet new people? **Adult Formation is looking for volunteers to help with our Family baptism preparation and Adult Initiation processes.** Please **contact Jessica Quintanilla at jquintanilla@saintsebs.org** for more info.

FISH FRY SEASON IS HERE!

You're invited to our first fish fry of the season!

Come kick off the season with a great meal on **Friday, October 3, from 4:30 pm to 7:30 pm**. Whether you plan to **dine in** with us in the school cafeteria or grab a **carryout** meal, your support makes a huge difference.

These events are a big success thanks to our incredible volunteers. We still need a few more helpers to ensure everything runs smoothly. **If you're available to volunteer for a shift, please use the link below to sign up.**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C084CAAA72BA2FBCE9-58479457-1032025>

We look forward to sharing a meal with you!



**SCAM
ALERT!**

Scam Warning Reminder

If you get an email or text that looks like it's from Fr Peter Patrick BEWARE. He will **never** send you an email or text asking for money or gift cards or making the request URGENT. Scammers are praying on your good intentions. **Do not hesitate to contact the parish house for verification, 414-453-1061 or email jperleberg@saintsebs.org** first before taking any action. Protect yourself from these unscrupulous people.

HYMNAL PLACARDS AVAILABLE!



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

INVITATION TO SERVE AS LECTORS & EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY EUCHARIST

As we prepare for the next liturgical year, we invite parishioners to prayerfully consider serving our community as **Lectors or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**. These ministries are a beautiful way to deepen your faith, share the Word of God, and bring Christ's presence to others at Mass.

Training Sessions:

1. **Lectors:** September 30 at 6:30 pm OR October 12 from 9:15–10:15 am
2. **Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** September 30 at 7:30 pm OR October 12 from 11:45 am–1 pm

Requirements for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

- Must be a fully initiated member of the Catholic Church, having received the sacraments of baptism, holy communion and confirmation

Requirements for Lectors

- Must be an active member of the Parish

By serving in these roles, you enrich our liturgy, strengthen our parish life, and grow closer to Christ through His Word and Sacrament.

All are welcome to attend the training to discern if you are being called into this role. Hope to see you there!

Michelle Klotz, Director of Liturgy and Music



SEBSFEST

Thank You

TO OUR SPONSORS

Bounce House Sponsors:



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For Faith, Scholarship and Community

PIUS  XI
CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Games Sponsors:



MARQUETTE
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HIGH SCHOOL

For Faith, Scholarship and Community

FIRST PLAYGROUP | OCTOBER 12!



All are welcome to the first playgroup of the new school year! It will be held on the **Tot Lot between Masses** on **October 12**. Come for a little while or stay for the whole time! Snacks, bubbles and chalk will be provided. Come meet other Sebs families and let your little ones get their wiggles out before or after Mass!

JOIN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WALK | OCTOBER 1!

On Wednesday, October 1 from 6-7 pm, St. Sebastian School will be holding a local Catholic Schools Walk beginning on our playground, walking a loop on Washington Blvd. and then back to the playground! Our goal is to raise \$50,000 to "Play it Forward" and update school exterior play spaces (Tot Lot surfacing, adding picnic benches, refreshing basketball hoops, replacing bike rack, adding new garbage in Seb cans etc.).

Please consider a donation to the "Play it Forward" initiative: <https://bit.ly/SebsWalk>



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEAL PROGRAM



St. Sebastian will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, October 24**. **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, October 24 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 August 22 where we served 88 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.

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



2026 Delegation to Our Sister Community of Teosinte

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

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



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

This will be a life changing experience.

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

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

The Share-El Salvador website has additional delegation information.



RESPECT LIFE MONTH STATEMENT

October 2025

Most Reverend Daniel E. Thomas
Chairman, USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities

With great joy we celebrate October as Respect Life Month amid the Church's Jubilee Year of Hope. This Jubilee Year "offers us the opportunity to appreciate anew, and with immense gratitude, the gift of the new life that we have received in Baptism, a life capable of transfiguring death's drama."¹ The life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ is the foundation of our hope. Through Christ, our sins are forgiven, death is overcome, and life is victorious. Yet, the daily headlines remind us of how desperately our world is thirsting for the hope that only God can provide. Every day we witness the overwhelming disregard for human life: through rising rates of abortion and assisted suicide; the killing of innocent school children, even at prayer; the mistreatment of our immigrant sisters and brothers as they endure an environment of aggression; and political and ideological violence inflicted against unsuspecting victims. These attacks threaten life precisely when it is most vulnerable and in need of protection. Despite these realities, the gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death. It is of the utmost importance that we work to ensure that every life, in every stage and circumstance, is protected in law. Earlier this year, history was made when Planned Parenthood and other big abortion businesses were banned from receiving federal Medicaid dollars for one year. I thank Catholics across the country who

"The gift of human life exists as a sign of hope to our world today, defying the powers of darkness and the culture of death."

have embraced a [nationwide call to prayer](#) for the end of all taxpayer funding of abortion centers, and I ask that we continue those prayers throughout the month of October. This Jubilee Year we are challenged to be agents of hope to those whose hearts are burdened by trial, difficulty, or suffering, offering them the hope that comes from Christ Jesus alone. [Walking with Moms in Need](#) and [Project Rachel Ministry](#) are just two examples of how the Church continuously reaches out with love, compassion, and mercy to those most in need of a message of hope. As we begin Respect Life Month, together we embrace the words of Pope Leo XIV, "How important it is that each and every baptized person feel himself or herself called by God to be a sign of hope in the world today."² Each of us is called to be a witness to the Gospel of Life, proclaiming in word and deed the innate goodness and dignity of every human person. For information on Respect Life Month, visit <https://www.respectlife.org/>.

¹ Pope Francis, *Spes non confundit*, 20.

² Pope Leo XIV, Vatican News, May 26, 2025: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2025-05/pope-leo-xiv-africa-day-pilgrimage-blessing-vatican-basilica.html>.

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, like small newspapers of yesteryear, 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 managed by volunteers. Privacy protections are in place to confirm a researchers' 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, we will do our best to provide you with family history information we may have in our files.

The Archive Team of St. Sebastian


WE'RE LOOKING FOR A SACRISTAN!

Are you responsible and reliable? Do you enjoy helping behind the scenes to make Mass prayerful and beautiful? We're seeking a Sacristan! This is an important role. You will be assisting the priest, guiding the servers, and preparing the church for Mass.

You might be a perfect fit if you:

- ✓ Are a practicing and confirmed Catholic
- ✓ Are curious about what goes into setting up for Mass
- ✓ Can serve two alternating Sundays a month (paid position!)
- ✓ Are willing to learn--training provided!

This is a rewarding ministry where your quiet service helps the whole parish enter into worship.

 Interested? **Contact Michelle Klotz at 414-453-1928 or mklotz@saintsebs.org.**

Come be a part of the joy behind the liturgy!

FROM THE ST. SEBASTIAN ARCHIVES: DO YOU SHOW YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD AT THE DOOR?

Excerpt from St. Sebastian's Chronicle | April 1928

By Geo J. Franke, Secretary

When the new St. Sebastian's plan was decided upon by the Parish Board of Consultors a year ago, it was done so only after careful study and thorough discussion of all the phases pertaining to the working problems connected with the plan.

The old system of pew rent payments of periodic drives for funds to cover deficits or new building programs, yearly bazaars and picnics, while they affected the desired results, was unsatisfactory and entailed a considerable amount of work for just a few.

The right of each parishioner to his individual sitting assigned to him when he paid his pew rent, was often infringed upon by others, thus causing resentments and excited tempers in a place and at a time when such mental dispositions should have been least thought of. It was an unsatisfactory situation also because too many people never rented a sitting and could not be reached in any other way to contribute toward the financial support of the Congregation.

It was therefore, first, in order to make seats available to everyone in the order of arrival, and secondly, to get the financial support of everyone attending that the membership plan and payment at the door plan and payment at the door substitute, was inaugurated.

In order that we might get everyone in the parish to contribute, an appeal was made during all to take out a membership, either at the nominal fee of \$15.00 for married people, or \$5.00 for single people 17 years of age.

CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF LIFE!



LIFE FAIR

At St. Sebastian Church

Sunday, October 5th – Respect Life Sunday

After All Morning Masses & Before the 6 PM Mass

A FREE fun event for everyone—kids, teens, and adults!

Explore interactive displays & activities

Get the facts about important life issues

ST. SEBASTIAN CHOIR TRIP TO KENYA

Want to go on a safari AND sing praise to the Lord at the same time?? Please join us for an **informational meeting regarding the 2027 Choir Trip to Kenya on Tuesday, October 20 at 5:30 pm in the Adult Formation Room.** At this meeting, we will share the itinerary, discover what the trip entails, cost details, and discuss all your questions. **Contact Michelle Klotz** for more information.



LOST AND FOUND LAST CALL!



Our Lost and Found pile is large and these items need a home. All lost and found items will be placed in the **Gathering Space** on **October 12**. Please claim your lost items. **Any unclaimed items will be donated.** Thank you!

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI PET BLESSING

In honor of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, bring your pets to receive a special blessing on **Saturday, October 4 at Noon in the St. Sebastian Prayer Garden.** All are welcome to join us in celebrating God's gift of creation and our beloved animal companions.



INVITE FROM BREW CITY CATHOLICS

Brew City Catholic invites **Catholics in their 20's & 30's** to rediscover the reality for which you were made.

Details and registration at brewcitycatholic.com



Season of Service: Stewardship at Work

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 October, 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>.

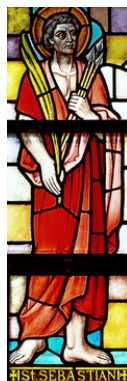


Welcome Cookies — Baking, Packaging & Delivering Joy

Our Welcome Cookie ministry continues, and our next packaging date is October 15. The idea is simple: when new parishioners join Saint Sebastian, we present them with a box of freshly baked cookies, along with a card that reads, “Cookies are Good All the Time, All the Time Cookies are Good!” Over the past year, our parish has welcomed more than 100 new members, and this little gesture has been a sweet way to say, “You belong with us.”

Volunteers bake, package, and deliver the cookies (on a quarterly schedule). If you'd like to get involved — even just for one round — please reach out to Lisa Weger, Stewardship Chairperson at lisamweger@gmail.com.

MORE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE ON THE NEXT PAGE



Saint Nick Sunday & Christmas Season Preview

Christmas is right around the corner and with it, our beloved **Saint Nick Sunday** returns! This festive event combines holiday shopping (featuring parish ministries), photos with Saint Nick, and the 8th grade pancake breakfast fundraiser for their Washington, D.C. trip.

The weekend also includes the **Christian Women's**

Boutique on Saturday, giving parishioners and visitors a full weekend of community, fellowship, and holiday spirit. Stay tuned — details for both events will be coming soon!

We look forward to celebrating these traditions with you and your families!



Stewardship Open House

Tomorrow is October 1st, and we welcome you to join us for a **Stewardship Open House**. Come learn more about what the Stewardship Committee does, meet fellow volunteers, and see how your gifts of time and talent can make our parish more lively and welcoming.

Stewardship meets monthly on the first Wednesday at 5:30 pm in the Parish House dining room. We've been hearing that our meetings are fun, encouraging, and a great way to stay connected with parish life. Whether you've been volunteering for years or are just curious — we would love to see you tonight, or at a future meeting, to support our ever-growing parish.

If you can't make it this evening but would like to learn more, please reach out to Lisa Weger, Stewardship Chairperson, at lisamweger@gmail.com.

In Closing – Serving with Joy

As we enter this season of service and community, may we remember that even small acts — a raked leaf, a warm cookie, a smile at a new neighbor — make a difference. Together, young and old, we help Saint Sebastian shine as a place of welcome, fellowship, and faith.

“Serve one another humbly in love.” — Galatians 5:13

Let's continue to serve with joy, generosity, and gratitude, keeping our parish vibrant and inviting for all.

Blessings and gratitude,
The Stewardship Committee
Saint Sebastian Parish

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

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

Andrew and Marisa Zane and son, James

Laurent and Maimounata Moyenga and children Janiya, Jayden, Zhavia and Grace

Brandi Jewell

CJ and Kristen Caponi and daughter, Giulia

Brian and Abiola Keller and children Olamina and Gabriel

Alexa and Danny Gardetto

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 WELCOME GROUP

Join the **St. Sebastian Welcome Group** as we explore what it means to show up with courage in our communities—especially for those who identify as LGBTQ+. Inspired by the Harvard Business Review article "Building Everyday Bravery," we'll reflect on how small acts of bravery—like sharing your story, standing up for others, or simply being present—can transform lives and foster support while retaining our Catholic identity. The next meeting will be led by parishioner Jesús Villa, a human resources leader and equity and inclusion advocate. In addition to having served as Administrator of the Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development's Equal Rights Division, Jesús has helped establish numerous employee affinity groups, and is a sought-after speaker and trainer on equity and inclusion topics. He currently serves as Executive Sponsor of the Wisconsin Department of Administration's Rainbow Affinity Group supporting LGBTQ+ staff. **The next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 7 at 7 pm in the Adult Formation Room.**

OCTOBER CRAFT GROUP MEETING

The Craft Group will be meeting on **Tuesday, October 7 at 7 pm** in the **Multipurpose Room**. This month we will be working on Twisted wire earrings. All supplies will be provided. If you have special beads or gem stones you want to work with, please bring them. These items will be sold at the Holly Berry Boutique on December 6 and 7. Please come and join us for an evening of being creative and having fun. As always, chocolates will be served.

October 7th Jackie
Twisted Wire Earrings



November 4th JoAnn
Bows & Ribbon Swag



November 18th Finish Up

December 5th Set Up

December 6th Boutique



HOLLY BERRY BOUTIQUE: A FESTIVE START TO THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



Once your Thanksgiving feast is behind you, it is time to prepare for Christmas. The Holly Berry Boutique, sponsored by The Christian Women of St. Sebastian, is the perfect way to kick off the holiday season. Wear your Christmas sweaters and holiday finery and enjoy shopping for handmade gifts, catch up with old friends, and make new ones. On **Saturday, December 6**, the Church Hall will be transformed into a Christmas wonderland, and women will once again come together in faith, fellowship and fun.

For women who have never attended, it is an experience that you will surely want to add to your list of holiday activities. If you enjoy shopping for unique handmade items such as crafts, knits, Christmas ornaments, and vintage items, then you won't want to miss this event. Our floral booth will carry the popular paperwhites and poinsettias and our New to You booth will feature gently used treasures.

It would not be a Christmas Boutique without delicious, home-baked cookies, breads, and candies and other yummy goodies. Please consider donating these items for the Sweet Shoppe Bakery. Donations of hand-make knits are also welcome and appreciated.

The craft sale is open to the public from 9 am – Noon. While you are shopping, you can stop at the “café” and enjoy a cup of coffee, hot chocolate or tea and visit with friends, old and new. The event culminates in a women's luncheon at Noon (reservations required) served by the men of our parish, known as the “Hello Dolly (singing) Waiters”.

Each table is uniquely decorated by the table hostess. The elaborate holiday decorations create a festive environment and give new meaning to “Deck the Halls!” After the luncheon there is a Miracle Mile Raffle with a wide variety of higher end items, perfect for gift giving or to keep for yourself if you are a lucky winner.

There are plenty of opportunities to lend your time and talent to make this wonderful holiday event happen. Men of the parish, consider being a Hello Dolly singing waiter – no try outs required! Help is needed to decorate the Church Hall during the week of the Boutique. There are many opportunities to get involved in this fabulous event!

Details on drop-off locations for donations of baked goods, knits, higher end raffle prizes or gently used treasures for the New To You booth will be announced.

Boutique weekend also includes family activities on Sunday. There is a breakfast, activities for kids, and St. Nick is known to make an appearance! Craft items and knits are also available on Sunday, and the various parish groups like Teosinte, St. Coletta's, School Spirit and 8th grade fundraiser have items for sale.

Be sure to make this holiday weekend a part of your family's Christmas tradition.

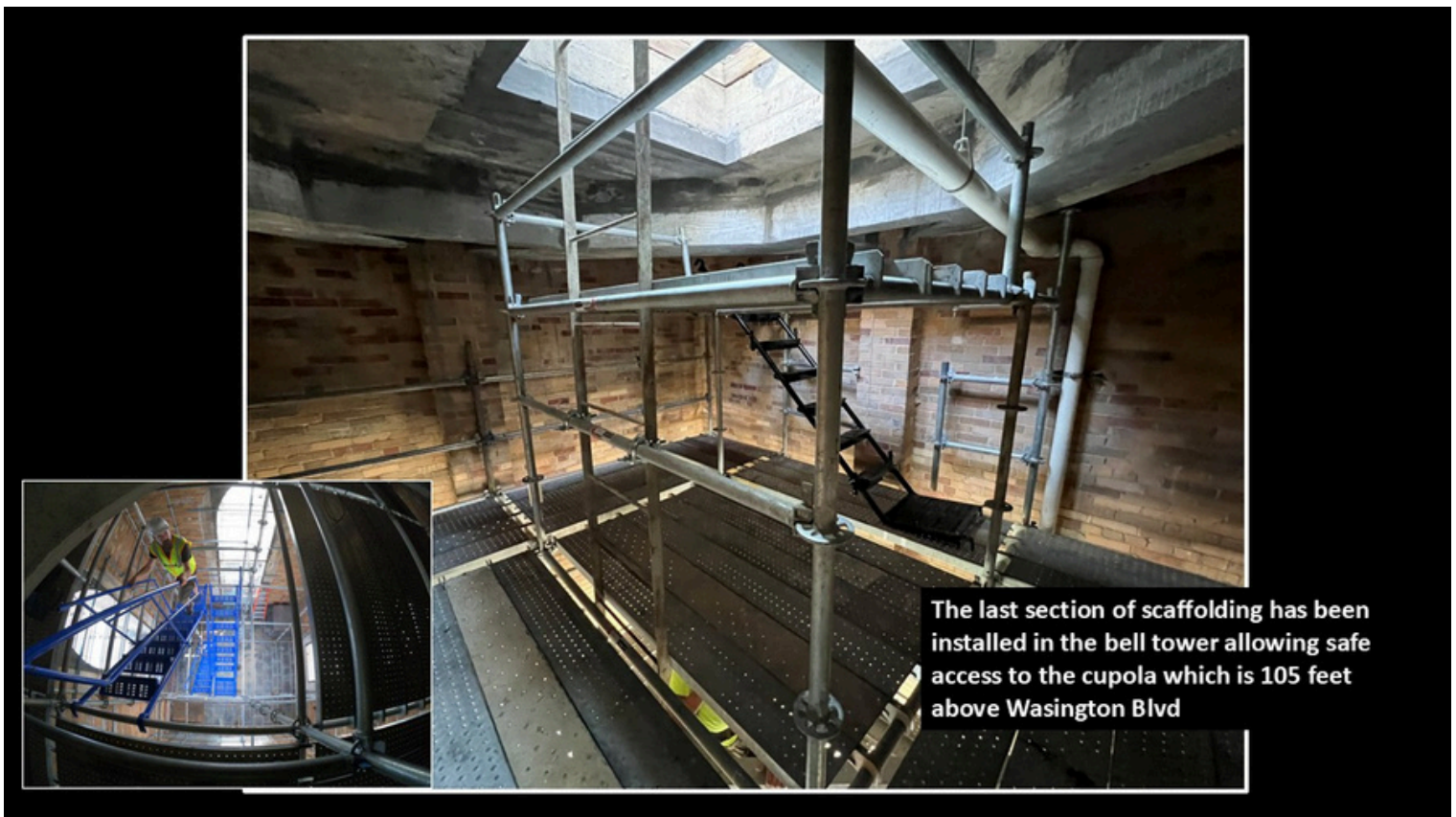
The next boutique meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 22 at 6 pm in the Multipurpose room. Please join us! If you have questions, ideas, or just want to learn more, please contact JoAnn Stasiewicz at 414-405-5303 or joannstaz@gmail.com.



UPDATE FROM THE BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Masonry Restoration East & West Elevations

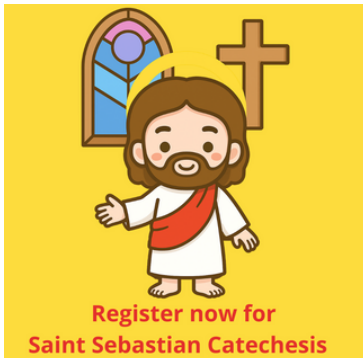
Earlier in 2025, the Finance Council, Pastoral Council and Pastor approved contracts for the remaining construction work that is being funded by the current LOA capital campaign. Included are a new floor membrane for the bell tower cupola, extending the interior bell tower scaffolding/stairs to reach the cupola and the restoration of the arches, steel lintel beams, coping stones and tuckpointing of the East and West elevations of the church, similar to the recent work on the south elevation. Work has commenced on the east elevation and the southern portion of the west elevation. Work will pause for the winter months and finish in 2026. Upon completion of this phase, the entire exterior masonry of the main church building will have been inspected, tuckpointed, rebuilt where necessary and cleaned. This restoration represents a significant investment in the longevity of this magnificent structure. Landscape restoration will take place upon completion of the exterior masonry work in 2026. The extension of the interior bell tower scaffolding to reach the cupola was recently completed.



Additional images on following pages



Scaffolding in place at the southwest elevation of the Church



FALL CATECHESIS BEGINS SOON

Please remember to register your children for Faith Formation classes on the parish website. Middle and High School Formation began Sunday, September 28. Children's Formation begins Sunday, October 5.

COLLECT ALUMINUM CANS!

There will be a twice-a-year Aluminum can collection, with proceeds supporting the St. Sebastian School Home and School. The dates are **November 4 and November 6**. Please drop off bags of clean, crushed cans on the play ground between 8:30-9 am (after morning school drop off). Spring can drive will be in May 2026. **Questions? Contact Denis Hauf:** fourhaufs@msn.com.



THANK YOU, ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL ALUMNI!

Thank you to the **455 alumni and guests** who returned home for the **St. Sebastian All-School Reunion!** It was an amazing evening filled with laughter, memories, and reconnection. We are so grateful to all who joined us in celebrating the lifelong bonds of our St. Sebastian community.

See below for pictures of the Reunion!









SPIRITUAL DIRECTION AT ST. SEBASTIAN

As Catholics, we believe that God is present and active within our lives and yet, it's all too easy to miss. Spiritual direction offers an opportunity for you to intentionally slow down and notice that which reveals itself as Sacred within the concrete particulars of your days. In this paying attention, you can begin to savor and clarify your awareness of the way in which the Spirit is moving within you and within your world and thus deepen your relationship with the Divine Mystery.

Spiritual direction is also a place in which you can consider how your upbringing, your faith tradition, the joys and sorrows of your personal history, and your present-day reality connect you to the Sacred. It can be a place where you can navigate transitions, grieve, and discern. It's a place where you can question and engage and discover. As a monthly spiritual practice, spiritual direction seeks to illuminate and enliven this relationship between you and All That Is, thus distinguishing it from counseling, therapy or life coaching.

A spiritual director offers the experience of "holy listening" in that it takes you where you are at. Grace, healing, and growth are sought through these times of active listening, reflection, and prayer during the session and in the days that follow. Consider this an invitation to explore this as a spiritual practice for yourself.

The "Spiritual Reflection Room," on the second floor of the Parish House, hosts spiritual directors trained in various lineages (Jesuit, Franciscan, and Dominican, for example) to meet with individuals desiring to explore their own unique sacred journeys. These one-on-one sessions are generally scheduled once a month and last for about an hour. Compensation, intake information, and meeting times are negotiated individually between you and your chosen spiritual director.

The following parishioners are trained guides who offer spiritual direction here at the Saint Sebastian Parish House. Please contact via email to explore the opportunity to work together.

Julia Gray - juliagraylange@gmail.com

Deacon Jim Matthias - jmatthias@saintsebs.org

Rhonda Matthias - ListeningPostMKE.Rhonda@gmail.com

Nicki Nelson - nicki@nickinelson.com

Leah Sealey - leahsealey@hotmail.com

If you would like to explore spiritual direction outside of our parish, please check out www.mkespiritualdirectors.com. In 2019, Nicki and Leah helped establish this peer group of local spiritual directors. The group's website was established so that seekers could easily access the profiles of providers in the Milwaukee area. Currently nearly 30 directors are profiled on the site. Along with their contact information, each profile shares the director's background, type of training, and specific areas of interest in their practice.

Please feel free to contact Leah Sealey if you have any questions, leahsealey@hotmail.com.

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

Each year, our Human Concerns Committee selects one principle of Catholic Social Teaching to highlight. This year, we turn to **Family, Community, and Participation**.

The Church reminds us that every human person is both sacred and social. God created us to live in relationship with one another. At the heart of society is the family, rooted in the lifelong marriage of one man and one woman. When marriages are strong and families are supported, communities flourish and the dignity of each person is upheld.

This principle also calls us to recognize the duty each of us has to work for the common good. Every person should be able to participate fully in social, economic, and political life—especially the poor and vulnerable.

Much of the information we share here comes from the **Wisconsin Catholic Conference (WCC)**, the public policy voice of Wisconsin's Catholic bishops. From the time of the Apostles, the Church has sought to relate the Gospel to the conditions of each age. Inspired by Jesus' call to serve the hungry, welcome the stranger, and care for the sick and vulnerable (cf. Mt 25), the bishops urge lawmakers to shape policies that strengthen families and protect human dignity.

Some key areas the WCC highlights include:

- **Encourage and strengthen marriage.** Lifelong marriage is essential to the stability and prosperity of families and society.
- **Respect and promote family life.** Families need the flexibility and resources to care for their children, especially in times of illness, loss, or transition.
- **Protect children.** Every child deserves safety, dignity, and love. We must safeguard them from abuse, neglect, poverty, and anything that harms their natural growth.
- **Support adoption and foster care.** When families cannot remain together, children deserve supportive, loving homes and the care needed to thrive.
- **Uphold parental rights in education.** Parents are the first teachers of their children and should have the freedom to choose the educational path best suited to their family.
- **Promote strong schools and responsible formation.** Education—academic, moral, and spiritual—prepares children for full participation in society.
- **Accompany veterans and farmers.** Families who serve our nation and those who sustain our rural communities deserve ongoing support and respect.

As a parish, we will reflect on this principle throughout the year and look for ways to put it into practice. Together, let us commit ourselves to building a community where families are strengthened, children are cherished, and all people are able to participate in the life we share.

For more on Catholic social teaching and the WCC's public policy priorities, visit faithfulcitizenship.org.

First Reconciliation & First Eucharist



St. Catherine Parish
St. Sebastian Parish

2025 - 2026

Updated July 28, 2025

- Process Details
- Schedules
- Registration Form

Sacramental Preparation

The preparation for Reconciliation and Eucharist (often called First Communion) is family-centered and shared between St. Catherine and St. Sebastian parishes. We invite children who have completed at least one year of Faith Formation, either through our parish schools or faith formation programs, to begin the formal process of preparing for Reconciliation and then Eucharist.

The sacramental process has three major elements:

1. Lessons and example **learned at home** within the family,
2. Activities and lessons **shared with other families** preparing to celebrate the sacraments, and
3. **Formal lessons** related to the sacraments which are part of the parish or school faith formation programs.

Family involvement is integral to sacramental preparation. Parents and families have an essential part in the preparation of children for sacraments:

- They make regular participation in parish liturgy and sacraments part of their family life.
- They model faith and religious practice for their children.
- They assist in the activities and lessons related to sacraments.
- They help determine whether their child is ready to participate fully in the sacramental life of the Church.

First Reconciliation Preparation – Fall 2025

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a blessing and gift of God's peace. As sons and daughters of a loving God, we are all invited to celebrate the healing grace that is offered through this sacrament.

Reconciliation is a powerful example of God's presence in our lives. Jesus taught us through parables such as the Good Shepherd and the Prodigal Son that God longs for our presence and is always waiting for and welcoming us when we lose sight of God's way.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation grows out of the act of communal reconciliation we practice each Sunday at Mass. In this sacrament we come to God with the knowledge that we sin, that our sin hurts our community and ourselves, and that God is anxious to forgive and heal any broken bonds. Our emphasis on the family's role in reconciliation grows out of the reality that it is within the home that most of us learn to love, to forgive, and to be forgiven.



First Eucharist Preparation – Spring 2026

The celebration of Eucharist is at the heart of who we are and what we believe as Catholics. Eucharist teaches us who we are and what we should become. The process through which our children come to the Table and partake in the Body and Blood of Christ is both a parish and family celebration. This “food for the journey” unites us in many ways with Christ and those who share our faith.

The Sacrament of Eucharist is an intimate communion with Christ and with those who share our table. It is also a sign for us that we are all servants to one another.

Children who celebrate this sacrament are most often in 2nd grade and are at least seven years old. The parish communities of St. Catherine and St. Sebastian invite children who have completed at least one year of faith formation, either in the parish schools or a faith formation program, and who have celebrated Reconciliation, to begin preparation for First Eucharist. *It is the policy of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee that children preparing for First Eucharist must first prepare for and celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation.*



Registration for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Families who wish to have their children celebrate Reconciliation and Eucharist are asked to follow these steps:

- **Complete the Reconciliation and Eucharist registration.**
 - ★ Sunday Faith Formation & Sacramental Preparation ([click HERE to register](#)) **OR**
 - ★ Sacramental Preparation only ([click HERE to register](#)), if attending a parish day school
 - ★ If your child was baptized at St. Sebastian or St. Catherine, we can verify it internally.
 - ★ If your child was baptized at any other parish, please attach a copy of the Baptismal Certificate in the registration form or send a scanned copy via email.
 - ★ If you need assistance with registration, please contact Patrick Schley at pschley@saintsebs.org or 414.453.1061 x149.
 - ★ *N.B.: There is no cost to receive any of the Sacraments. The parishes do ask that families cover the fees for materials, administrative costs, etc. We do not keep children from Faith Formation due to financial needs. If you have a financial concern, please contact Joe Sheehan (jsheehan@saintsebs.org) about options and scholarships.*
- Participate in Sunday Mass regularly as a family.
- Participate in faith formation in either our parish Catholic schools or a faith formation program.
- Attend the two orientation sessions (Fall and Spring), at which all materials will be distributed.
- As a family, work through the sacramental preparation book and complete the review pages.
- Attend the Parent/Guardian & Child programs together.

2025 – 2026 Reconciliation and Eucharist Preparation

St. Sebastian & St. Catherine Parishes

(All events held at St. Sebastian unless noted)

First Reconciliation Preparation:

Meetings for Children and Parents/Guardians

Orientation

Sunday, September 28 (9 am) or Tuesday, September 30 (6 pm)

Formation Session

Sunday, October 26 (9 a.m.) or Tuesday, October 28 (6 p.m.)

Reconciliation Retreat & Mass

Sunday, November 23 (8 am – 11 am) at St. Catherine

Reconciliation Service

Tuesday, December 9 (6 pm at St. Sebastian Parish) or
Saturday, December TBD (at St. Catherine Parish)

First Eucharist Preparation:

Meetings for Children and Parents/Guardians

Orientation

Sunday, January 11 (9 am) or Tuesday, January 13 (6 pm)

Formation Session

Sunday, February 8 (9 am) or Tuesday, February 10 (6 pm)

Formation Session

Sunday, March 8 (9 am) or Tuesday, March 10 (6 pm)

First Eucharist Retreat

Sunday, March 22 (8:30 am – 11:30 am)

First Eucharist Liturgies

Sunday, April 26 (9 am at St. Catherine Parish) or
Sunday, May 3 (10:30 am at St. Sebastian Parish)

For ongoing updates, stay connected to www.saintsebs.org and [our Facebook page](#).

If you have any questions, please contact Joe Sheehan (Child Sacramental Minister) at jshcehan@saintsebs.org.

