

Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH



From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

Love for Life

Every October, the Catholic Church in the United States celebrates Respect Life Month, and the first Sunday of October is designated as Respect Life Sunday. It is a time to pause and reflect on one of God's greatest gifts: human life. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops provides resources, prayers, and reflections to help us renew our commitment to the dignity and sacredness of every human person.

As I reflect on this month, I find myself thinking that perhaps we should call it not only Respect Life Month, but also Love for Life Month.

Human life is a precious gift from God. From conception to natural death, every person possesses a dignity that does not depend on age, health, ability, productivity, independence, or circumstances. We do not earn our dignity, nor can we lose it. It is given to us by God because each of us is created in his image and likeness.

Because God has loved us by giving us the gift of life, we are called to love and care for others' lives.

Jesus tells us, "To whom much is given, much is required" (Luke 12:48). We have been given much. We have received life, faith, family, community, and so many

blessings. Our response should be a willingness to share those blessings with others, especially those who may be vulnerable or struggling.

For me, this is where Respect Life becomes much more than a slogan. Love for life must become a way of life.

It means standing with a mother facing a difficult or unexpected pregnancy. It means supporting families struggling to provide for their children. It means welcoming people with disabilities and ensuring they know they have an important place in our community. It means caring for the elderly and the sick. It means being present for those approaching the end of life. And it means ensuring that no one feels forgotten, unwanted, or alone.

This year, Archbishop Jeffrey invites us to reflect especially on the sacredness and dignity of human life as we consider the growing discussion about assisted suicide. During the 2025-26 legislative session, Wisconsin legislators introduced AB 1164 and SB 1114, proposals concerning medical aid in dying. Those bills did not advance during that session.

The Catholic Church teaches that intentionally causing the death of an innocent person cannot be the answer to suffering. But our response as

In this newsletter you will find information about:

- First Fish Fry
- Feedback Request for SebsFest
- K4 - 1st Grade Retreat
- Faith Formation Registration
- Youth Mass Volunteers Needed
- KofC Brat Fry
- Welcome Group Meeting
- St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program
- Senior Lunches
- Welcome to New Parishioners
- Adult Day Care
- Cursillo Retreat Weekend
- Blessing of the Animals
- Pregnancy Support Center Forum & Diaper Drive
- Saturday Morning Mass Schedule
- Cluster Mass Schedule
- Sister Parish Observations
- Women's Fall Retreat
- A New Publication on Milwaukee's Catholic Churches
- Craft Group Meeting
- Holly Berry Boutique
- Sensory Kits
- Care for Creation
- Electronics Recycling Opportunity
- Doors Open Milwaukee Recap
- Adult Faith Formation
- New Giving Platform and Church Management System
- 2027 Seb's Cabaret

Christians cannot be merely to say what we oppose. We must also ask ourselves: What are we willing to do to accompany someone who is suffering?

We can offer compassion. We can offer friendship and prayer. We can support hospice and palliative care. We can ensure people have access to appropriate medical care and pain management. Most importantly, we can be present. Sometimes simply sitting with someone, holding a hand, listening, praying, or reminding them that they are loved can be an extraordinary gift. We are called to love until the last breath.

As Christians, we believe that suffering and death do not have the final word. Jesus entered into human suffering and conquered death through his Resurrection. Therefore, even in life's most difficult moments, we remain people of hope. We can accompany one another with the confidence that every human life has meaning and that every person remains precious in God's eyes.

I am grateful that at St. Sebastian and St. Catherine, we have parishioners who put this belief into action through Friends for Life. This committee is dedicated to safeguarding the dignity of human life and supporting practical efforts to help those in need. During October, Friends for Life is focusing especially on organizations and centers that assist women facing difficult pregnancies and mothers who have given birth but may lack the support system or resources they need.

I encourage all of us to consider supporting their efforts this month. Your generosity can help a mother choose life and continue to support her after her child is born. Protecting life also means helping families get the support they need to flourish.

October is also the Month of the Holy Rosary. What a beautiful opportunity to entrust this important mission to Mary's care. She welcomed the gift of life, cared for Jesus, stood faithfully at the foot of the Cross, and remained close to the disciples in the days that followed. Mary teaches us to welcome life, to accompany others through suffering, and to trust God even when the path is difficult.

As your pastor, I hope this October will not only remind us to respect life but also encourage us to love life more deeply, recognize the dignity of every person, notice those who are struggling, and ask how we can be present to them.

Last month, from September 21 through Sunday, Sept. 27, the Church again observed National Migration Week, which culminates in the World Day of Migrants and Refugees. Established over a century ago by the Holy See, WDMR is celebrated globally by Catholics as an opportunity to reflect on the migration experience and related issues through the lens of faith.

Pope Leo XIV chose the theme for this year's WDMR as "Even just one of these children," a reference to Matthew 18:5: "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Although not the first time a pope has focused on children at this annual event, this emphasis challenges us to think intentionally about the particularly vulnerable situation children face in the migration context and to consider how we can respond effectively to their unique needs.

National Migration Week offers Catholics in the United States an opportunity to reflect on the realities migrant children face in our local communities and to deepen our understanding of their experiences. It also invites us, both individually and collectively, to consider how we can better welcome, accompany, and support them. What practical steps can we take to ensure that migrant children are protected throughout their journey and safeguarded from exploitation and abuse?

May our parish communities become places where every person can know:

You are loved.

You are wanted.

You are not alone.

Your life has dignity.

Your life has meaning.

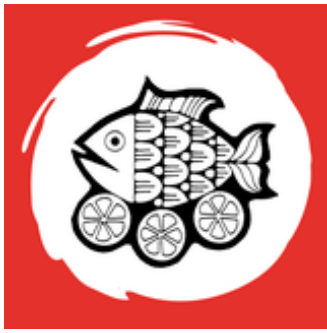
May Mary, Mother of Life, pray for us and teach us to become a people who welcome, accompany, protect, and love human life at every stage.

And may we work together, with all people of good will, to build a culture of life and a civilization of love, to the praise and glory of God, the Creator and Lover of Life.

~ Fr. Peter Patrick

OCTOBER 2 | FISH FRY IS BACK!

Join us for the first St. Sebastian fish fry of the season!



On **Friday, October 2**, the Knights of Columbus and Faith Formation families will be hosting the first fish fry of the season from **4:30 pm to 7:30 pm** in the school cafeteria. Enjoy a delicious meal, great fellowship, and support our parish community. **Dine-in and carryout** options will be available.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join our fish fry team. If you're interested in helping, please contact Katie Sanfelippo at fishfryvol@saintseb.org for more information. It is a great opportunity for students to get service hours.

We hope to see you there!

THANK YOU AND FEEDBACK WANTED | SEBSFEST 2026

We are so pleased with the outcome of the Outdoor and SebsFest that we all experienced in September.

While the weather is out of our hands, **please fill in a 3-question survey to help us plan for next year!** [Here's the link.](#)



SAVE THE DATE! K4-1ST GRADE RETREAT

Save the date! Our first K4 - 1st Grade Retreat will take place Saturday, **October 17 from 10am - Noon** at St. Sebastian. More information to come!

REGISTER FOR FAITH FORMATION!

Don't forget to register for this year's faith formation program! **Faith Formation classes for K4-8th grades will begin on Sunday, October 11.**

Please register on the parish website at <https://saintsebs.org/grow/child-formation>.



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** | 10:30 am
First Sunday of Advent

 **December 13** | 10:30 am
Third Sunday of Advent

 **January 24** | 6 pm

 **February 14** | 10:30 am
First Sunday of Lent

 **March 7** | 6 pm
Fourth Sunday of Lent • 2nd Scrutiny

 **April 11** | 10:30 am

 **May 9** | 10:30 am
Feast of the Ascension



— **Get your youth involved!** —

Margaret: mlee@saintsebs.org

Michelle: mklotz@saintsebs.org

— *All are welcome to participate!* —

KNIGHTS OF  COLUMBUS

ANNUAL BRATFRY

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 10, 2026

SATURDAY,
OCTOBER 10, 2026

4:00 PM – 6:30 PM

ST. SEBASTIAN'S
PARKING LOT

1747 N. 54TH ST, MILWAUKEE, WI 53208

GRILLED BRATS! HOT DOGS! DRINKS!
BOUNCE HOUSE! & FALL FUN!

PUBLIC WELCOME!



WELCOME GROUP: ECUMENICAL APPROACHES TO LGBTQ+ MINISTRIES

How can other faith traditions help us more fully welcome LGBTQ+ people in our Catholic community? At the next St. Sebastian Welcome Group meeting, **Rev. Rachel Young Binter**, a Lutheran minister and director of the Center for Clergy Renewal at Holy Wisdom Monastery, will draw on more than 20 years of LGBTQ+ ministry to share insights and invite us to reflect on how we can strengthen our own welcome and accompaniment. Join us on **Monday, October 19** in the **St. Sebastian Church Hall** at **6:30pm** - or come a little early for some fellowship!

Questions? Contact Barb Haig - welcomegroup@saintsebs.org.



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.

For more information or to donate food or to volunteer contact Phil Bielefeld at [414-559-0996](tel: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, October 2**. We will meet at **Noon** in the **church hall**. Following a pizza lunch, there will be a presentation from Mike Kaminski on "Confronting the many faces of grief...with faith, hope and love". He has served as a liturgical minister for more than 40+ years, taught at Cardinal Stritch and Alverno College. His knowledge of theology, liturgy, and music, along with his experience in funerals, marriage prep, and sacramental planning, will lend itself to a fruitful presentation and discussion on how we live through and beyond stages of grief. **Please join us, by RSVPing to Margaret at mlee@saintsebs.org.**

Our future dates will be **October 2, 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 **September!**

Allison and John Meuler with daughter, Isabelle, and son, Josiah

Tony Koszyczarek

Kimberly Winston and Gustavo Luna

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

CATHOLIC CHARITIES ADULT DAY CARE



Do you need help caring for an adult loved one living with cognitive or memory impairment? At Catholic Charities' Adult Day Center, we celebrate life's gifts every day. Your loved one will experience joyful connection, enriching community, and personalized professional care - while your family gains peace of mind. Flexible scheduling and payment options are available. We are located at 1919 N. 60th Street in Milwaukee/Tosa.

Call 414-771-6063 to schedule a tour, or learn more at ccmke.org.

RETREAT OPPORTUNITY CURSILLO WEEKENDS IN SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER



Is God inviting you to more? Many faithful Catholics love God and value their faith, yet still sense a desire for more; more depth in prayer, more confidence in living the faith, more meaningful Christian friendships, and a clearer sense of purpose.

Cursillo is a three-day Catholic experience that has helped many people encounter Christ in a more personal way and rediscover the joy of living their faith every day. You do not need to be an expert in your faith. You simply need to be open to what God may be inviting you toward.

Upcoming Cursillo Weekends at Schoenstatt Retreat Center, Waukesha for Women: October 29-November 1, 2026

Consider setting those dates aside now as you prayerfully discern whether Cursillo may be for you.

Learn more at www.milwcursillo.com to hear the stories of people whose lives have been touched by Cursillo.



ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH



Blessing of the Animals

Sunday, October 4
9:30 am



Prayer garden near the front of the church

In celebration of the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

Anything that runs, flies, hops, scampers, or slithers—
and their owners—is welcome!

Spectators are welcome, too!



Please keep all animal friends on a leash or in a carrier.

Join us in giving thanks for the joy and
companionship our pets bring into our lives.



YOU'RE INVITED

Pregnancy Support Center Forum & Diaper Drive

Learn what happens at the pregnancy support centers our parish supports.

WHEN

Sunday, October 25, 2026
9:00-10:15 AM

WHERE

St. Sebastian Catholic Church
Multi-Purpose Room

MEET THE CENTERS WE SUPPORT

Meet staff members and learn more about the care and resources these Milwaukee centers provide.

Women's Care Center

1441 N. Farwell Avenue • Milwaukee, WI 53202

CONTACT

414-915-5736

Women's Support Center

2051 W. Wisconsin Avenue • Milwaukee, WI 53233

CONTACT

414-934-8888

Care Net Pregnancy Center

4957 W. Fond du Lac Ave. • Milwaukee, WI 53216

CONTACT

414-962-2212



REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

SPONSORED BY FRIENDS FOR LIFE

In cooperation with the Archdiocese of Milwaukee's Walking with Moms In Need Initiative

SATURDAY MORNING MASS!



Fr. Peter Patrick has added a Saturday morning **Mass beginning at 8:30am**, followed by **Adoration** and **Reconciliation from 9 am - 10 am**. The location for Mass will alternate between St. Sebastian and St. Catherine on the following schedule:

1st/3rd/5th Saturday: St. Sebastian

2nd/4th Saturday: St. Catherine

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

NEW SCHEDULE FOR CLUSTER MASSES

After careful consideration and in continued efforts to draw our faith communities together, the Cluster Mass schedule going forward will be as follows:

When the Cluster Mass is held on a Sunday at **ST. CATHERINE**, it will be at **10 am**.

When the Cluster Mass is held on a Sunday at **ST. SEBASTIAN**, it will be at **10:30 am** and there will be **NO 8 am Mass**.



MONTHLY ADORATION

Our Adoration for October will be held on **Wednesday, October 14** in the Church from 5:30 pm -6:30 pm and all are invited to join us. We will start by reciting the World Mission Rosary and then the rest of the time is for personal quiet time for prayer.



SISTER PARISH OBSERVATIONS: A REFLECTION SERIES



A delegation of eight parish members journeyed to our sister parish in Teosinte, El Salvador last January. It was a meaningful trip for each one of them. Though they traveled the same hills, met the same faces and experienced the same enduring spirit, each returned home with distinct views, new perspectives and changed hearts. We've been sharing their reflections monthly here. Father Peter Patrick's reflection is our fourth installment.

I was fortunate to visit our sister parish in Teosinte, El Salvador, with seven other delegates. When asked why I wanted to go, I explained that I had always hoped to visit our sister parish in person before finishing my time as pastor here. I am truly grateful this wish came true.

The visit was a meaningful and humbling experience. Meeting the people of Teosinte allowed me to witness their faith, resilience, and generosity firsthand. Despite limited material resources, their sense of community, hospitality and deep trust in God were inspiring. The relationships we built reminded me that our sister parish connection is not merely a project or partnership but a true bond of faith and solidarity.

One of the most moving parts of the trip was visiting the chapel where St. Óscar Romero was assassinated. Standing in that sacred place was overwhelming. It was a clear reminder of his courage, his love for the poor, and his devotion to justice and peace.

We also went to the Jesuit-run University of Central America, where six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her daughter were killed. The visit was very emotional and sobering. Seeing the place and hearing their story made the suffering and sacrifices in El Salvador's history feel real to us.

This experience was especially overwhelming for me, given my limited knowledge of the country's history before the trip. Encountering these realities firsthand opened my eyes to the pain the people of El Salvador have endured and to the resilience of their faith amid violence and hardship. It also strengthened my appreciation for our sister parish relationship and reminded me that our support, prayers, and friendship matter. I return home inspired by their faith, simplicity, and trust in God.

I am grateful to have shared this experience with the other delegates and thankful to our parish community for making this relationship possible. I hope we will continue to deepen this connection, not only through material support but also through prayer, mutual learning, and ongoing personal relationships.

Watch an overview video (1.25 speed is best) of the trip here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PLaHWQ5xnup-7pGkoE2ka0BZI0PuA75b/view?usp=sharing>

The Women of St. Catherine and St. Sebastian Invite You to Our 3rd Annual Fall Retreat

Siena Retreat Center

5637 Erie Street
Racine, WI 53402

Saturday & Sunday October 17th & 18th

Saturday –

Registration 8 am

Welcome 8:45am

Session begins 9 am

9 am – 4:30 pm with evening activities following dinner for those staying overnight

Sunday – Morning Mass at 9 am, closing activities to follow

Optional Friday night – no planned activities, dinner on your own

Facilitator - Sr. Miriam Brown

Miriam Brown, OP, is a Sinsinawa Dominican who has been a program member at the Siena Retreat Center in Racine for twenty years offering retreats and spiritual direction. Her years of reflection and varied ministries have enriched her sense of "God Alive" in each person and in our rich and ragged unfolding as a human, earth, and cosmic community.



Checking Our Spiritual Vital Signs; Vitality, Intensity, and Spirit (VIS)

This retreat is a chance to come together to check your spiritual vital signs. How are your spiritual muscles, hearts, bones (including the funny bone), balance? We will have time for input and response, circles of sharing, quiet reflection, walk on the Siena Retreat Center grounds and down to the beach, and browsing in the bookstore. We hope, in God's good graces, we will find ourselves in good spiritual shape as we continue to grow and give to others.

Siena Retreat Center Accommodations

SienaRetreatCenter has 67 private bedrooms, each with its own private, in-room bathroom. Linens and towels are provided. We ask that silence be kept on bedroom floors. Siena Retreat Center has elevator access to all floors. Retreatants have access to a small prayer/meditation room, the outdoor labyrinth, washing machine and dryer on each floor, and Creativity Room with a variety of art supplies. In good weather, it is possible to walk the grounds (lakeshore, prairie, and woods) or sit in the screened porch or on the Memorial Patio. Visit the Siena Retreat Center website for more information. <https://www.sienaretreatcenter.org/>

Retreat Cost

October 17th & 18th is \$190 (includes overnight and 3 meals)

Saturday only is \$65 (includes lunch)

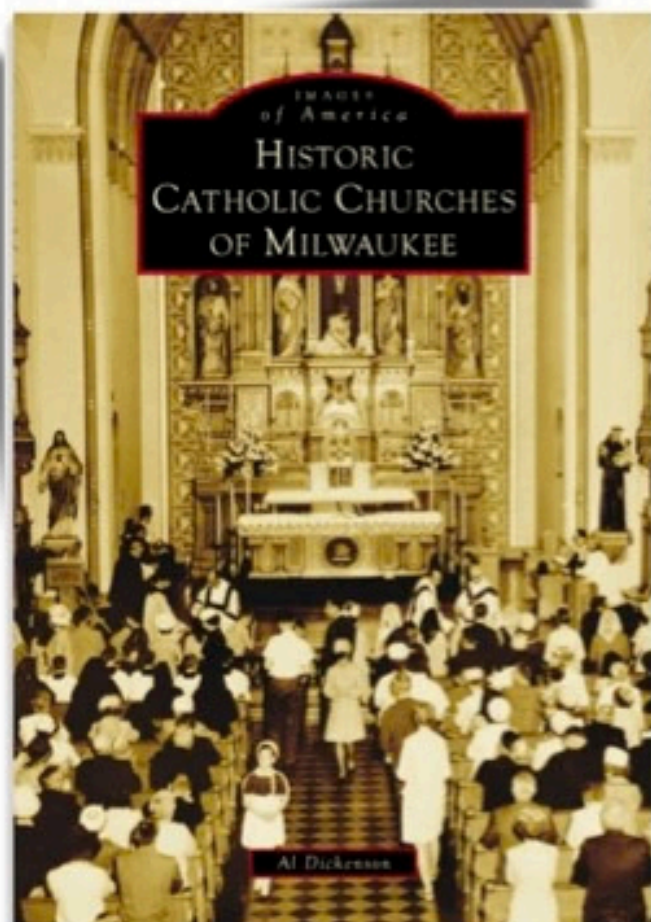
Full Weekend October 16th – 18th is \$300 (includes 2 nights and 4 meals)

Payment and scholarship information is available on the registration page

Contact Sue Olson susan-olson@att.net for additional information



Published
October 6, 2026



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 **October 6 at 7pm in the Multipurpose Room**. Our project this month is making **door hangers**. 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.

October 6 - Jackie & Sam Book Ornament & Magic Wand



November 3 - Lisa & Annalisa Candy Jar & Music Pyramid



Additional Projects

Laura Bonnie

Chocolate Espresso

Stir Spoon



Scissors Holder



November 17th Finish Up

December 4th Set Up

December 5th Boutique



COUNTDOWN TO THE HOLLY BERRY BOUTIQUE DECEMBER 5, 2026



Luncheon Reservations

Can you believe October is already here? Reservations open at the end of October, so start gathering your friends and family to fill your table! If you have fewer than 8 guests, in order to create full and festive tables, guests may be seated with other attendees to form tables of eight. This offers a wonderful opportunity to meet new people and make new connections. Reservations close on November 21st or as soon as we reach capacity—which happens every single year.

Our menu is officially set! We are excited to serve Bunzel's famous lasagna once again, with choices of red sauce with meat or a vegetarian option with white sauce. Please reach out to Jen Sveda at boutique@stsebs.org for dietary restriction information. Both meals include Italian bread, salad, and cheesecake. As a reminder, wine is no longer provided at the luncheon, but coffee and water will be available, and you are welcome to bring your own favorite beverages.

Boutique & Donations

Our boutique's success relies on the amazing talents and generosity of our parishioners. Whether you are a knitter, crafter, crocheter, or baker, you can help prepare items right from the comfort of your home. We welcome homemade holiday treats, baked goods, and knit or crocheted items closer to December, so feel free to start planning now! You could even get your table group together for a fun holiday baking extravaganza to contribute to the boutique.

We are also looking for gift card donations for our raffle. If you have any unused gift cards collecting dust around the house, we would gladly take them off your hands!

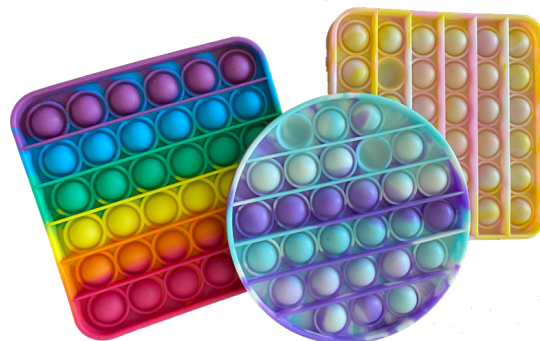
As you do your Fall cleaning, please set aside any wonderful items to enhance our "New to You" section. Please keep in mind our simple rule of thumb: if it's not something you would gift to your best friend, we can't accept it either. Guidelines for donations will be found on the Sebs website shortly.

Volunteer Opportunities

We still need volunteers to help staff our various booths! Shifts are just 90 minutes long, with roles available selling raffle tickets, assisting or cashiering at New to You, or helping out in Seb's Garden and Pet. We will make sure to place you in a role where you feel completely comfortable. **If you have any questions, please reach out to Chris Marcoux at marcouxcf@gmail.com or Jenny O'Neil at jso172252@gmail.com**

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.



CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING: CARE FOR GOD'S CREATION

The Human Concerns Committee is highlighting the Catholic Social Teaching of Care for God's Creation this parish year. Care for the earth is not just an Earth Day slogan, it is a requirement of our faith. We are called to protect people and the planet, living our faith in relationship with all of God's creation. This environmental challenge has fundamental moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored.

"Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others. Since the world has been given to us, we can no longer view reality in a purely utilitarian way, in which efficiency and productivity are entirely geared to our individual benefit. Intergenerational solidarity is not optional, but rather a basic question of justice, since the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us." (Pope Francis, On Care for Our Common Home [Laudato Si'], no. 159)

"The environment is God's gift to everyone, and in our use of it we have a responsibility towards the poor, towards future generations and towards humanity as a whole. . . Our duties towards the environment are linked to our duties towards the human person, considered in himself and in relation to others." (Pope Benedict XVI, Charity in Truth [Caritas in Veritate], nos. 48, 51)

"Man thinks that he can make arbitrary use of the earth, subjecting it without restraint to his will, as though it did not have its own requisites and a prior God-given purpose, which man can indeed develop but must not betray." (St. John Paul II, On the Hundredth Year [Centesimus Annus], no. 37)

"A true concept of development cannot ignore the use of the elements of nature, the renewability of resources and the consequences of haphazard industrialization - three considerations which alert our consciences to the moral dimension of development." (St. John Paul II, On Social Concerns [Sollicitudo rei Socialis], no. 34)

<https://www.usccb.org/beliefs-and-teachings/what-we-believe/catholic-social-teaching/care-for-creation>

<https://www.archmil.org/saint-francis-of-assisi-jubilee>

<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/vatican-city/news/2026-09/ict-document-care-for-creation-ecology-theology-church-pope.html>

<https://www.crs.org/ways-to-help/pray/catholic-social-teaching-101/cst101-care-gods-creation>

ELECTRONICS RECYCLING | OCTOBER 3



The Washington Heights Neighborhood Association Green Committee is hosting an Electronics Recycling Drive in the Washington Park Senior Center parking lot this Saturday, **October 3** from **9am to 11am**. Old TVs and many other electronics (though not Refrigerators, Freezers, Air Conditioners or Dehumidifiers) will be accepted for free.

DOORS OPEN WELCOMES VISITORS TO ST. SEBASTIAN

With 113 visitors and hundreds of wonderful conversations about the St. Sebastian community, our second Doors Open event in September was a clear success!

Young and old learned about the parish's history, saw the amazing details in the church's interior and lit candles for peace. Thanks to the more than two dozen docents and greeters (especially the middle school students!) who made our visitors feel welcome.

People came from near and far, including parishioners, past parishioners and alumni – each with a different reason for stepping inside St. Sebastian.

- A woman from Seattle, making her way from west to east among Doors Open locations, chose St. Sebastian as one of her stops.
- Visitors from Chicago included the church because it fit well with the area and other churches they planned to see. We partnered with Mount Olive Lutheran to offer a west side destination.
- A woman who wanted to visit because her father told her that he prayed at the statue of Mary every day for a week that the woman he was dating would forsake all the others and stay with him. His prayers were answered!
- A woman who 20 years ago attended the funeral of a four-year-old and promised herself back then that she would return someday to appreciate the church. Although sad, she left in tears knowing she had kept her promise.
- Several neighborhood residents – including a young couple with a baby – said they had passed the church many times but had never entered.

Others had more personal or local connections: one visitor knew Father Chuck Schramm but had never been inside the church, while a Washington County resident remembered bicycling through the neighborhood and wanted a closer look.

We'll take a few years off, then join Doors Open again in 2028 – in time for the church's 100th anniversary!



Historic Milwaukee offered signs to help visitors find our location.



Parish docents provided church tours and offered an opportunity to light a candle for peace.



St. Sebastian middle school students including Annie Remington, Coleton Claypool and Shannon Wilder volunteered in shifts to welcome attendees and provide information about the parish and school.



Outdoor volunteers including Tom Kertscher, Margie Roberts and Gary Hoffman greeted visitors throughout the day.

SAVE THE DATE: ADULT FORMATION WITH AL MCCAULEY



Al McCauley is the Director of Adult Faith Formation at St. Anthony on the Lake Parish in Pewaukee. He taught Theology and History at Pius XI Catholic High School in Milwaukee for 24 years and was a Religious Studies adjunct for Cardinal Stritch University.

Al is the creator and host of the weekly Catholic YouTube web series ***Fish on Fridays***, and he is a frequent speaker throughout the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He earned his master's degree in religious studies from Cardinal Stritch University in 2009. Al is married, has three children, and two grandchildren.

Save the date!

**He will be our Sunday morning Adult Formation presenter on
Sunday, October 25th!**

9 am in the St. Sebastian Multipurpose Room

The Fact and Fiction of Legendary Saints.

Jesus predicted that astonishing deeds would be accomplished in His name. What are we to make of the miraculous actions of Saints? In this presentation, we will discern fact from fiction in the lives of several legendary Saints.

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>

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 8th (details below).

2027 Show Type: Variety Show

Performance Dates: March 5 and 6 (7 pm in the Church Hall)

Initial Gathering: Sunday, November 8 (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 2nd 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!