

Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH



From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

Christ at the Center

"My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." (Jn. 17:20-21).

The main reason for Jesus' coming was to reconcile us with one another and with the Father—the relationship that was broken when Adam and Eve sinned. In Jesus' last discourse, he prayed for unity, just as they are united in the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. While sometimes it might seem as if the goal is to unite all Christians worldwide or all people, I believe the focus is more on our Catholic Church. "Knowing their thoughts, Jesus said to them, 'Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand.'" (Mt. 12:25)

As I write this article, it has now been 25 days since the government shutdown. It's so unfortunate that the ordinary citizen is the one suffering; our leaders live comfortable lives, while we who are not directly employed by the government often go unaffected. Sometimes, if we are not directly impacted by something, we choose silence and stay within our comfort zone. The issues of the government shutdown and people living in fear because of immigration are not about which political party aligns with us, but about real human beings who are suffering. Where do I stand with the spirit of solidarity? How do I view the person who always sits next to me in the pew, who has different political views, yet we both receive the same Body of Christ? Is the Body of

Christ broken or divided? How do we teach our young ones to be united, while we are one in preaching the gospel of division? In a divided society, we Catholics can center ourselves on Christ by focusing on the core principles of our faith, which provide a foundation for unity, humility, and love. The challenge is to transcend political and social divisions by prioritizing our relationship with God, nurturing a spirit of solidarity, and practicing genuine charity towards all people. Jesus calls us to remove the obstacles that prevent us from becoming united members of the Body of Christ. When we allow these areas to become divisive points, they prove to be idols diverting our attention away from Jesus.

In contrast, the Trinity models the unity Christ calls us to. The Divine Persons of the Holy Trinity demonstrate a unity through a communion of love as a total gift. Division prevents us from giving our whole selves to God. Instead, we hold ourselves back, since the outward division denotes the division in our hearts, and reduces our capacity to accept the love the Trinity offers to us. Following his prayer in John 17, Jesus holds nothing back, as he freely gives himself to die for us.

In gratitude for Christ's gift to us, can we not at least honor his plea for unity and work towards this in our Church? Disunity in the Body of Christ ultimately harms us all. It prevents us from the communion the Lord desires for us, exhibited by the Holy Trinity. Suppose we can choose to put aside our differences and work toward unity with the church, solidarity with the marginalized, and

In this newsletter you will find information about:

- Mass Locations in November
- Navigating Grief
- A Call to Accompany
- November's Fish Fry
- The 2026 Cabaret
- Hymnal Placards
- Aluminum Can Collection
- A Soup and Substance on Homelessness
- St. Vincent de Paul Volunteer Opportunities
- Buildings and Grounds Updates
- Faith Formation Family Events
- Becoming a Sacristan
- The Rosebud "Blessing Bouquet"
- The Welcome Group's Next Gathering on a Theology of Inclusion
- Donating Blood
- St. Seb's 2027 Trip to Kenya
- Our New Parishioners
- Opportunities for Service through the Stewardship Committee
- Parishioner Spotlight
- The November Craft Group Gathering
- The Holly Berry Boutique
- The St. Sebastian Archive
- Bread for the World
- St. Sebastian School's Early Childhood Open House
- Spiritual Direction
- Catholic Social Teaching with St. Vincent de Paul
- Catholic Cemeteries

Continued on next page

a lived expression of faith that is not swayed by partisan politics, among so many other areas. In that case, we can begin to honor Christ's desire for unity in his Body that also allows us to share in the Trinitarian communion of love. Let us allow the pierced Heart of Christ, from which his blood and water flowed at the crucifixion, be our aim in putting aside these needless differences so that we may work towards unity in Christ's Church.

We Christians are called to be ambassadors for Christ, sharing the message of reconciliation and forgiveness with others. Our lives should serve as a testimony, reflecting Christian values and the transformative power of faith to draw others to Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, we are expected to demonstrate godly qualities like love, joy, peace, and kindness in our daily interactions. This example of righteous and humble living is meant to encourage unbelievers to consider the Christian faith. Let us make a difference in the world. In a couple of weeks, we will reach the end of the liturgical year and begin a new year. We need to ask ourselves how the year has been spiritually and what areas we want to grow in the near future. Happy All Saints Day and Happy Thanksgiving. Safe travels and stay healthy. Welcome to our new parishioners.

~Fr. Peter Patrtick

MASS IS ON THE MOVE!!

Our new church sound system will be installed starting Monday, November 17, so Masses will be held in the following locations:

- The weekday Mass on **Monday, November 17** will be in the **Adult Formation Room**.
- The All-School Mass on **Wednesday, November 19** will be in the **Church Hall**.
- On **Sunday, November 23**, the **8am and 6pm Masses** will be in the **Church Hall**. There will be a **Cluster Mass at 10am at St. Catherine**. There is no 10:30am Mass at St. Sebastian that day.
- The weekday Mass on **Monday, November 24** will be in the **Adult Formation Room**.

Our hope is that the installation will be completed in time for us to begin the new liturgical year with our new system up and running on the first Sunday of Advent, on December 1!

Questions? Contact Patrick Schley at pschley@saintsebs.org.



NAVIGATING GRIEF PRESENTATION: NOVEMBER 9

This time of year, Masses of Remembrance and All Souls Day remind us of the loved ones who have left us, perhaps through illness or death or from a soured relationship or a far-away move. At St. Catherine and St. Sebastian, we want to start a conversation around grief, to help determine if our joint communities could benefit from a grief ministry with regular outreach to our parishioners.

Join us in this conversation on Sunday, November 9, with Navigating Grief, a presentation and discussion for members of both parishes that will run from 10:30-11:30 am, in the Fr. Jack Kern Center in the lower level of St. Catherine, immediately following the 9 am Mass at St. Catherine. St. Catherine parishioner Gael Garbarino Cullen, author of *Owning Grief. Widowed Young, How I Discovered Gifts in Loss*, and her daughter St. Sebastian parishioner, Kathleen Cullen Ritter, MSW, and Grief Guide, will discuss tangible ways to find faith and hope in the face of great loss. At the end of the talk, we'll seek your input and ideas as to how we can create a community of care at St. Sebastian and St. Catherine. Please join us! Coffee and refreshments will be served.

See next page for flyer.

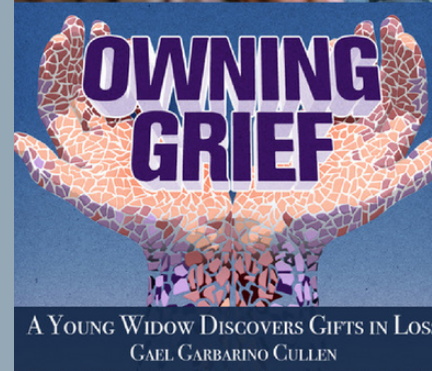
*St. Catherine and St. Sebastian
Parishes
invite you to attend*

NAVIGATING GRIEF

Living your life and finding
hope after loss.

**With Gael Garbarino Cullen, Author
and
Kathleen Cullen Ritter MSW, Grief Guide**

November 9, 2025
10:30-11:30 am
(following 9am Mass
at St. Catherine)





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.

A CALL TO ACCOMPANY

Did you know that the Catholic parish is responsible for sponsoring catechumens preparing to join the Church? We also receive requests from families who may not have an active Catholic network as they seek baptism for their children. If you would be open to walking alongside an individual seeking to join the parish or being added to an "on-call" list for baptisms, please contact Jessica Quintanilla at jquintanilla@saintsebs.org for more info.



FISH FRY: FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

St. Sebastian's 2nd grade families are hosting fish fry on Friday, November 7, from 4:30 to 7:30 pm in the school cafeteria. Dine in and carryout are available. We invite you to join us for some delicious fish and fellowship. We hope to see you there.

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 (9 am 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!

GIVE THE GIFT OF MUSIC THIS CHRISTMAS!



This Christmas season, consider a gift that will last a lifetime and bless our parish for years to come. St. Sebastian is offering the opportunity to sponsor a new hymnal for just \$25.

Each sponsored hymnal will include a beautiful dedication placard inside the front cover, placed *in honor of or in memory of* a loved one. Imagine the joy of opening a hymnal at Mass and seeing the name of someone dear remembered in prayer and song!

Sponsoring a hymnal is a meaningful way to celebrate family, honor a friend, or memorialize a loved one while supporting the music ministry of our parish. It's also a unique Christmas gift - one that will inspire faith and worship for years to come.

Hymnal sponsorship forms are available at the kiosk in the Gathering Space. You can also submit your sponsorship digitally through our website by clicking on "Give."

Thank you for helping us lift our voices together in praise of the Lord this Christmas and beyond!

NOVEMBER CRAFT GROUP MEETING

The Craft Group will be meeting on **Tuesday, November 4 at 7 pm** in the **Multipurpose Room**. This month we will be working on Bows and Ribbon Swag. All supplies will be provided. If you have special ribbon you want to work with, please bring it along. 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.

**November 4th JoAnn
Bows & Ribbon Swag**



November 18th Finish Up

December 5th Set Up

December 6th Boutique

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 4th and 6th. Please drop off bags of clean, crushed cans on the school playground between 8:30 - 9 am (after morning school drop off). Spring can drive will be in May 2026. Questions? Contact Denis Hauf at, fourhaufs@msn.com.

FACING RACISM PRESENTS: SOUP AND SUBSTANCE: NOT GETTING COMFORTABLE WITH HOMELESSNESS

Some people live in cars, vacant buildings, and in tents, only a few miles from us. But why?

Facing Racism welcomes two people who have experienced homelessness, as well as the outreach supervisor to Milwaukee County's homeless population to give a presentation in **St. Sebastian's Church Hall on Tuesday, November 11 from 6 -7:30 pm.**

This is a soup and substance event so please sign up to bring soup.

Sign up to bring soup, bread, or dessert to share using this link: <https://tinyurl.com/AdultForm-signup>.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEAL PROGRAM



St. Sebastian will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, January 9**. 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, January 9 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.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATE

Masonry Restoration

The restoration work on the church is currently focused on the arches, steel lintel beams, coping stones, and tuckpointing along the East and West elevations. This process mirrors the recent restoration efforts completed on the south elevation. Construction for this phase is expected to conclude by early December, at which point the scaffolding will be removed and full access to the church building will be restored.

Restoration activities will resume in spring 2026, with scaffolding set up on the west gable elevation (north of the bell tower) and lifts and ladders positioned on parts of the east elevation. If weather conditions are favorable, masonry work is anticipated to be finished by early fall 2026. Photos included in the update show progress made so far. Notably, the steel columns and beams on the east elevation are in better condition than those found on the south elevation, which is encouraging. While the masonry on the east elevation is also in slightly better shape, it still requires substantial restoration.

2025 Stop the Auction

In August, maintenance was performed on the school playground and parking lot, including patching, seal coating, and striping. The remaining funds from this project—approximately \$7,000—are being allocated to install new circuit breaker panels in a portion of the church hall's stage area, replacing outdated equipment. Additionally, a new bank of switches will be installed to control the church hall lighting, eliminating the need to operate the lights via circuit breakers.

Church Sound System Replacement

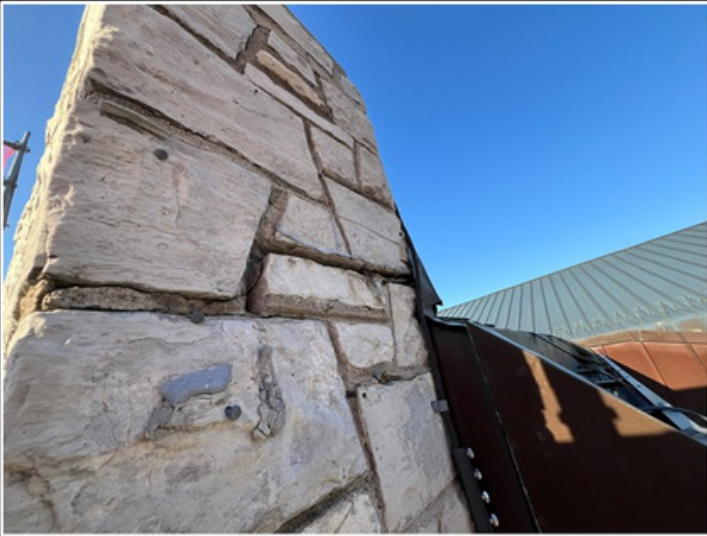
The contract for replacing the church sound system has been finalized, and the necessary components have been ordered. Work is scheduled to begin on **November 17, 2025**, with an expected duration of five to ten days. The team aims to complete the installation in five days or less to minimize disruptions to church services, though the exact timeline will depend on conditions at the site. The goal is to have the sound system operational before the Christmas season. The project is being managed by Patrick Schley, Michelle Klotz, Bryan Kirkpatrick, Fr. Peter Patrick, and Rocky Marcoux.



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATE, CONTINUED



Typical conditions on the upper portions of the East gable elevation



Damaged lannon stone on upper wall removed- exposing roof support beams which are in good condition

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATE, CONTINUED



View looking into the “attic” space between the top side of the plaster Ceiling of the church and the underside of the church roof



Typical order of work executed in sections to prevent wall failure:

- Removal of existing stone
- Restoration & painting of steel beam
- installation of new stone(mortar will cure to same color as existing)



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



★ 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!

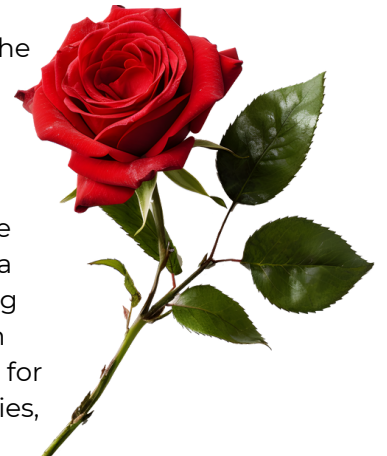
This is a rewarding ministry where your quiet service helps the whole parish enter into worship.

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

Come be a part of the joy behind the liturgy!

THE ROSEBUD PROGRAM "BLESSING BOUQUET"

Nearly two years ago, the Friends for Life committee started the Rosebud Ministry. The Rosebud Blessing Bouquet is there to offer prayer and support during the joys, challenges and sorrows of family life. The Rosebud Ministry helps our parish identify and pray for special intentions. It is our way of showing dignity and respect for the dignity and worth of all life! The Rosary Group from St Sebastian and St Catherine parishes offers weekly prayers for all those who have a special intention on one of the roses that they would like us to pray for. The Rosebud Blessing Bouquet is found on a table on the westside in the church by the large statue of the Blessed Mother holding Jesus and St. Therese "the Little Flower" with Roses and petals all around them. Each colored rose represents a specific intention the person wants us to pray for. Yellow is for those desiring to conceive or adopt, Pink is for honoring pregnancy and unborn babies, Red is for celebrating births and adoptions, White is for grieving the loss of a child through miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion or newborn death, Purple is for supporting grandparents with their concerns for grandchildren, Blue is for those experiencing troubled times. Whether a parishioner or a visitor, anyone can take a Rose and write their specific intention and for whom they would like prayers for.



ST. SEBASTIAN WELCOME GROUP: THEOLOGY OF INCLUSION

Join us for a thoughtful evening of faith and dialogue on Tuesday, December 2 at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room as we explore how the theology and lived experiences of LGBTQ Catholics can deepen our understanding of God's presence and enrich the spiritual life of the Church. This session will be led by Zac Karanovich, Ph.D., a former attorney and assistant professor of Theology at Mount Mary University, where he also serves as first-year seminar director. Zac is a member of the St. Sebastian office staff and brings both academic insight and pastoral sensitivity to this important conversation. Contact Barb Haig for more information - BarbH1836@gmail.com

BLOOD DRIVE



Stronger Together

Donate
Blood

Saturday
November

8

8:30AM - 1:00PM

Helpful tip:
Make sure to eat a
healthy meal and drink
plenty of water before
donating.

877-232-4376



FAITH IN ACTION COMMUNITY BLOOD DRIVE



LOCATION

INVISIBLE REALITY MINSTRIES
2700 N 54TH Street, Milwaukee

PROMOTION

Calling all Madison football fans! Donate and be entered for a chance to win free tickets to Wisconsin's favorite hometown college football team. Brought to you by Steinhafels.

APPOINTMENTS PREFERRED

Call 877.232.4376 or visit versiti.org/WI

blood provider for Children's Hospital of Wisconsin

*NO PURCH. NEC. WI residents only; 18+. Ends 11/10/25. 1 drawing (WI). Enter by blood donation or online. See Official Rules at versiti.org/WIFootball. Sponsor: Versiti, Inc., 638 N. 18th St., Milwaukee, WI 53233.

Three churches, one mission - to save lives.
Join us as we come together in faith and fellowship to host a community blood drive. Your donation is a true act of love and compassion, helping patients right here in Wisconsin
St Paul COGIC, St. Catherine, Invisible Reality Ministries



versitiTM
Blood Center of Wisconsin

KARIBU! WELCOME! JIUNGE NASI! JOIN US! ST. SEBASTIAN TRIP TO KENYA



August 2027 is our departure! Members of St. Sebastian Choir and the St. Sebastian community are going to Kenya — and you, too, are welcome to come along and be part of this extraordinary adventure of faith, music, and friendship!

Whether you've sung with the adult choir for years or would love to join the special "Kenya Choir" just for this tour, we welcome you — and your spouse or significant other — to come along.

Just imagine it — celebrating Mass in vibrant **Nairobi**, going on **safari**, performing in concert, exploring the breathtaking shores of **Lake Navaisha**, and experiencing the warmth and richness of Kenyan culture, faith, and hospitality.

The estimated cost of **\$5,500** includes airfare, housing, in-country transportation, two/three meals a day, and admission to planned tours and excursions.

Spots are still available, and we would love for you to be part of this once-in-a-lifetime journey! To express your interest or ask questions, please reach out to **Michelle Klotz, Director of Liturgy and Music via email (mklotz@saintsebs.org) or phone (414-453-1928).**

There will be another information session, held virtually, on November 13 from 4 -5:30 pm. Follow this link to join the meeting: [Kenya Virtual Meeting](#).

In January, ALL are invited to a Kenyan dinner here at St. Sebastian! Watch and listen for more details and plan to attend with your whole family.

Together, let's make this dream come alive — for our choir, our parish, and our brothers and sisters in Kenya. Your voice, your presence, and your prayers will make all the difference

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

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

Lynne Hartmann and daughters, Ameera and Soraya Nur

Theresa Peltier-Griswold

Azure Hall

Nick and Kendra Steger

David and Stefani Canedo and son Leo

Emma Runnoe

Mariella Maduzia

Carolyn Rogge

Diego Diaz Martinez and Carolyn Lee and daughter Maria Lucia

Pete and Molly Holsen and son Gunnar

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

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 November, 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>.



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!



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

MONTHLY SPOTLIGHT: MEET OUR PARISH FAMILY!

The Weger Family - Lisa and children, Jaydon and Noella

Joined St. Sebastian: April 2013

What first brought you to St. Sebastian?

When I was in middle school my best friend's dad, Ed VanAacken, helped run the St. Sebastian fish fry, and I used to come in and help with Thursday night prep. Still have fond memories of being allowed in the kitchen as a kid to help with filling to-go tarter cups. During this time, I also attended Sunday evening youth group sessions with my friend as well, so the parish has always held a special place in my memories.

Years later, when I was exploring different school options for my daughter, I remembered St. Sebastian and decided to attend a Mass with my kids. They immediately loved Fr. Dick because he looked like Santa Claus, and I was struck by how his homily seemed to speak directly to me. When I found out there was an opening in the first grade classroom for my daughter, I knew we were home.

What do you enjoy most at St. Sebastian?

What I enjoy most about St. Sebastian is the sense of community and belonging. It truly feels like a family here! People know each other, care for one another, and show up when someone needs help. I've loved being a part of the parish choir and getting to worship through music. I also appreciate how our parish lives out its mission of stewardship and service, both within our walls and beyond. It's a place where faith is lived, not just spoken, and I'm grateful to call it home.



The Keller Family - Brian and Abiola and children, Olamina and Gabriel

Joined St. Sebastian: September 2025

What first brought you to St. Sebastian?

We recently moved to Wauwatosa and were looking for a vibrant and welcoming faith community that celebrated diversity and advocated for social justice.

What do you enjoy most at St. Sebastian?

Several people in our network recommended St. Sebastian and the few times we visited we felt very welcomed and appreciated all the opportunities for each member of our family to engage.

We look forward to learning more about St. Sebastian.





ANNUAL HOLLY BERRY CHRISTMAS BOUTIQUE

Saturday, December 6th, 9:00am

Join us to get an early start on your Christmas shopping! Here you'll find unique handmade items such as crafts and knits, Christmas ornaments, homemade bakery, and vintage treasures.

The event culminates in a noon women's luncheon served by the men of our parish, known as the "Hello Dolly (singing) Waiters." After the luncheon, there is a Miracle Mile Raffle with a wide variety of higher-end items.

The fun does not stop there! Boutique weekend also includes family activities on Sunday, December 7th. There will be breakfast, activities for kids, and St. Nick is known to make an appearance! Crafts, knits, and 'New to You' are available. Various parish groups will also have items for sale. A one-stop shop for Christmas presents!

NOON LUNCHEON

Reservations required by November 21st for luncheon (or until capacity is reached)

Save your seat by registering at <https://saintsebs.org/events/holly-berry-boutique>

Contact Jen Sveda at boutique@saintsebs.org or
414-241-0442 with any questions or dietary restrictions.

Luncheon tickets: \$35 / \$33 for seniors and staff.

Pork loin with au jus, rice pilaf, glazed carrots (GF) or vegetable lasagna, glazed carrots.

All meals come with bread, butter, salad, and a brownie dessert.

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION!

<https://saintsebs.org/events/holly-berry-boutique>



5400 W. Washington Blvd. Milwaukee, WI 53208





New to You: Shop our gently used but ever-popular section of treasures! Contact Cathy Boehme: 414-702-1792 or Sue Zimmer: 414-475-6950 for information on when and where to donate items.

Floral Corner: Poinsettias, amaryllis bulbs, and paperwhites! Parishioner Maggie Pieper will be selling beautiful floral displays. **Krafty Korner:** The CWSS Craft Circle delights us with unique, finely crafted items. If you have an original, hand-made item you would like to donate, contact JoAnn at joannstaz@gmail.com.

Really Knit Stuff: St. Seb's Yarn Friends have been "needling" beautiful gloves, scarves, hats, and dishcloths. Contact Ann Shanley Jones at asjdzynse@gmail.com to donate your handmade treasures.

The Heights Cafe: Enjoy Valentine coffee, hot cocoa, or tea. Purchase a Christmas mug to enjoy your beverage! If you have Christmas mugs to donate, contact Theresa at theresagraff2121@gmail.com.

Personalized Ornaments: Handmade ornaments by Mary Grant.

Sweet Shoppe Bakery: Drop off cookies, cakes, bread, pies, and candies in the Church Hall between 6:00pm - 9:00pm on December 4th and 9:00am - 9:00pm on December 5th. Contact Joy at 414-475-5995 with questions.

Miracle Mile Raffle: Consider donating high-quality, high-end items for the raffle at the Saturday Boutique Luncheon. Contact Julie at 414-530-6157 or daleidense@aol.com to organize dropping off raffle items.

Bake for Boutique: A Boutique favorite is the bakery booth stocked with home-baked goodies of all kinds - and especially Christmas cookies. Plan ahead to make your favorite holiday treat to donate to the Boutique Bakery.

Hello Dolly Waiters Needed: Our luncheon has always been graced by the service of our talented waiters. Gentlemen of the parish, if you would like to volunteer, contact Annalisa at 414-778-0260.

FROM THE ST. SEBASTIAN ARCHIVES

1929 St. Sebastian Chronicle | Everyday Courage

Courage may be displayed in everyday life as well as in historic fields of action. There needs, for example, the common courage to be honest, the courage to resist temptation, the courage to speak the truth, the courage to be what we really are and not pretend to be what we are not, the courage to live honestly within our own means.

1936 The first year the Women of St. Sebastian decided to have a Christmas Luncheon was 1936. In 1966, they celebrated their 30th Anniversary. In 2025 the Christmas Sale, now a yearly Holiday Boutique will mark 89 years. That's something to celebrate!

1941 The February minutes of the Christian Women & Altar Society listed street-by-street Prefects, those neighborhood contacts offering support and outreach. The member list at the time was 754.

1943 Due to wartime fuel restrictions, there will be no breakfast meetings.

1943 In January, Confirmands totaled 235.

1950s When deceased parishioners were buried from St. Sebastian, their celebration of life was a three-part service. The Vigil, the Mass of Resurrection held on the next day, and the cemetery interment. The historical and unique part of the two-day service was that after family and friends left the service, the casket remained in the church, "Where God will cradle and protect him overnight."

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



BREAD FOR THE WORLD: OFFERING OF LETTERS

Globally, almost 45 million children suffer from severe hunger, and nearly half of all preventable deaths among children under five are attributed to malnutrition. In the U.S., millions of children live in households facing food insecurity. In 2024 the WIC program served nearly 7 million participants per month; participation in WIC is associated with reduced risk of premature birth, low birthweight, and infant mortality.

Child nutrition programs ensure millions of children have enough food, in the U.S. and around the world. People have a right and a duty to participate in society, seeking together the common good and well-being of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Ask your senators and representatives to fully fund and strengthen the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) and to protect and provide robust funding for food aid and global nutrition programs.

Visit or stop by the Bread For The World - Offering of Letters table in the Gathering Space after Mass on Sunday, November 2 for more information.



EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN HOUSE & INFO NIGHT



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5TH, 2025

4:30 PM - 6:00 PM

Join us to meet the
Early Childhood staff, to take a school
tour & to learn more about the
K3, K4, and K5 programs
at St. Sebastain Catholic School

RSVP:



414.453.5830



SCHOOL.SAINTSEBS.ORG

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 AND ST. SEBASTIAN'S ST. VINCENT DEPAUL CONFERENCE

Serve one another with the gifts you have received. *1 Peter 4: 8-11*

Our conference of the St. Vincent DePaul Society at St. Sebastian Parish was first established in August 1917. We make home visits to our neighbors who mainly live north and east of Washington Park within a mile or two of St. Sebastian.

The heart of our mission is to provide some sense of hope and comfort amidst their struggles, whether it is loss of a job, moving because of domestic abuse, bed bugs or landlords who do not keep up their properties, or moving from a homeless shelter into a flat or apartment. We listen, converse about each other's lives, their families and how, in some small way, we may help them. We provide a resource sheet which highlights many of the community outreach groups who try to help our neighbors in need. On our part, we write a voucher for one of their major needs at this time, whether it be an appliance, some beds, a kitchen table or some clothing. In the end, we ask our neighbor if they want to pray for their family. We thank our Lord for bringing us together and ask our Lord for peace, for guidance. In the end we pray the Our Father together.

We thank our benefactors, you the parishioners of St. Sebastian, who aid us in our mission to help our neighbors in need. Your donations are 100% given to those we visit. Reconstructed stoves and fridges cost \$350; Full beds \$189; twin beds \$153, kitchen tables \$95. During the past year, we visited 113 homes; helped 363 people and spent \$42,500.

There are many ways you can share your gifts with others. One way is to donate clothing, household items and furniture to one of our three stores:

GREENFIELD 4476 S. 108 St. 414-377-9077
LINCOLN 2320 W. Lincoln Ave. 414-672-2040
BRADLEY 8010 N. 76 St. 414-363-8099
Donations Pick-Up Line 414-462-7863 Ext. 113

Unfortunately, our conference at Seb's does not have the capacity to accept items, but our vouchers, which we provide our neighbors, may be used to acquire the items you donate to our stores. Another way you can assist us is to make a monetary donation by cash or writing a check to SVDP St. Sebastian. Monetary donations can be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the poor boxes in the church. If needed, SVDP envelopes are available in the kiosk in the Gathering Space. You can also donate online saintsebs.org/give

Thank you.
Tom Doyle SVDP St. Sebastian's



CATHOLIC CEMETERIES:

PLACES OF PEACE, FAITH, AND ETERNAL HOPE

From preplanning to remembrance, Milwaukee's Catholic Cemeteries accompany families in faith and compassion.

Our Catholic faith reminds us that life, in all its stages, is sacred — and that even in death, we remain united in the Communion of Saints. **The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholic Cemeteries** serves families with reverence and compassion, offering sacred places of rest where love, memory, and hope in the Resurrection endure. Whether planning ahead, mourning the loss of a child, or seeking a resting place for cremated remains, Catholic Cemeteries walk with families in faith and care.

The Peace of Preplanning

“Preplanning is definitely important for peace of mind for yourself and your loved ones,” says Mary Thiel, Director of Cemeteries for Catholic Funeral and Cemetery Services – Milwaukee Resource Center. Advance planning ensures your wishes are known and helps your family during times of grief.

Key reasons to plan ahead include:

- **Preserve Your Faith Wishes** – Your Catholic burial ensures a resting place within a community united in the Resurrection.
- **Togetherness** – Planning with loved ones expresses care and unity.
- **Emotional Control** – Decisions made calmly, free from grief, are thoughtful and faith-filled.
- **Financial Advantages** – Secure today's prices with flexible payment plans and potential mausoleum discounts.
- **Greater Availability** – Choose your preferred location rather than settling later.
- **Peace of Mind and Love** – Prearranging burial, memorialization, and funeral needs expresses love for your family and trust in God.

Advance planning is both practical and spiritual, honoring your faith and giving witness to the hope of Resurrection.

[Download A Full Life Planner.](#)

Let the Children Come

Burial of the Pre-Born

Every life, however brief, is precious in God's eyes. Hospitals may use clinical terms, but Catholic Cemeteries see children. Rather than disposal, we offer compassionate burial. Even in their smallness, pre-born children and infants are cherished as children of God.

Cooperative Burials

Pre-born babies under 20 weeks gestation or less than 12 ounces are interred at **Holy Cross Cemetery, Pinelawn Memorial Park, or All Saints Cemetery**. Each is recorded by name and location, and families may attend services or arrange private burials.

For children older than 20 weeks or infants up to 12 years, charitable burial options are available based on family needs. Families are encouraged to contact a **Family Service Advisor** for guidance.

These burials bring comfort and dignity, affirming that every life is remembered and loved in the hope of eternal life.

[Learn more at www.cemeteries.org.](http://www.cemeteries.org)

Continued on next page

Gather Them Home

Caring for Cremated Remains

Families sometimes keep cremated remains at home, intending to provide a final resting place "someday." In keeping with Church guidance, Catholic Cemeteries invites families to **gather them home** in consecrated ground.

Through the **All Souls Remembrance Ministry**, cremated remains can be interred in a sacred community space at:

- **All Saints Cemetery** (Pleasant Prairie)
- **Holy Cross Cemetery** (Milwaukee)
- **Mount Olivet Cemetery** (Milwaukee)
- **Resurrection Cemetery** (Mequon)
- **St. Adalbert Cemetery** (Milwaukee)
- **St. Joseph Cemetery** (Waukesha)

While a special November service is observed, Catholic Cemeteries accepts cremated remains **year-round**. This ministry is free of charge and ensures loved ones rest in prayerful, consecrated ground. Families may also retrieve remains for private interment within five years; afterward, unclaimed remains are interred in a shared grave.

"Burying the dead honors the body as the temple of the Holy Spirit and affirms the hope of Resurrection," reflecting the Church's care for every life.

Contact your local Catholic cemetery for year-round interment options.

A Ministry of Presence and Hope

The Archdiocese of Milwaukee Catholic Cemeteries stand as a visible sign of faith — where sorrow meets hope, and love endures beyond the grave. Every life, however brief, and every body, however broken, is held in the promise of eternal life.



ADULT FAITH FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES



There are several Adult Formation events coming up, including a Young Adult Conference hosted by Brew City Catholic, and a presentation by one of Pope Leo's former teachers, Sr. Dianne Bergant (hosted by Marenda). Find out more about each opportunity at <https://tinyurl.com/AF-LookingAhead>.

