

Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH



From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

Peace Be with You

Occasionally, I like to revisit this story because we all need reminders of who we are and what God calls us to be. A young boy looked at the world, saw all the evil around him, and said to God, "If You had given me the chance, I could have created a better world." God replied, "That is exactly why I made you, to help make this world better."

That simple story reminds us that each of us has a responsibility to make a difference. Rather than complaining about the darkness around us, we are called to become lights that bring hope, kindness, and peace to others.

One of the most beloved prayers in Christian tradition is the Prayer of St. Francis. Although it is commonly attributed to St. Francis of Assisi, historians agree that he did not write it. The prayer first appeared in a French publication in 1912, was published in Italian by L'Osservatore Romano in 1916 during the pontificate of Pope Benedict XV, and was translated into English in 1927. During World War II, Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York distributed millions of copies to encourage prayer for peace. Although St. Francis did not compose the prayer, it beautifully reflects the way he lived, bringing peace through humble service, compassion, and love. We are all called to become instruments of God's peace.

This year, Pope Leo XIV has invited the Church to commemorate the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's death. It is a fitting opportunity to renew our commitment to peace in a world that is

often marked by fear, anxiety, violence, and uncertainty.

In his message to the 50th Steubenville Summer Youth Conference, Pope Leo XIV encouraged young people not to lose hope in difficult times. He shared what he called "the secret" to facing life's challenges with joy: "If we firmly believe that God cares for us as His beloved children, we will remain calm and hopeful, even in difficult situations."

Speaking about St. Francis, the Holy Father suggested that if we had met him walking through the streets of Assisi in the thirteenth century, he would probably have greeted us with a warm smile and the words, "Pace e bene", "Peace and all good." The Pope challenged everyone to ask themselves a simple but profound question: ****Do I truly desire peace for every person I meet? ****

St. Francis was able to bring peace wherever he went, not because of his own strength but because Christ lived in his heart. The same is true for us. We cannot give what we do not possess. When we welcome Christ into our hearts, He fills us with His peace and sends us out to become instruments of that peace in our families, workplaces, schools, neighborhoods, and throughout the world.

This is exactly what Jesus did after His Resurrection. When He appeared to His frightened disciples, who had locked themselves behind closed doors, His first words were not words of reproach but words of comfort: "Peace be with you." Then He showed them His hands and His side, proving that His peace came through His

In this newsletter you will find information about:

- New Parishioner Welcome
- Pastor's Message: Welcoming Our Youngest Parishioners
- Baptism for 26-27 First Reconciliation/Eucharist
- St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program
- Senior Lunches
- Historic Milwaukee Doors Open
- Confirmation Orientation Meetings
- Facing Racism Book Discussion
- Catholic Charities Adult Day Care
- Cursillo Retreat Opportunities
- Sister Parish Reflection
- St. Seb's Archives
- Saturday Masses and New Cluster Mass Schedule
- Human Concerns Donations
- Sebsfest
- St. Maximilian Kolbe
- August Baptismal Preparation Meeting
- Teosinte Repatriation Celebration
- Craft Group Meeting
- Holly Berry Boutique
- Women's Retreat Save-the-Date
- New Parish Giving Platform
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sacrifice and victory over death. Once again, He repeated, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19–23). His gift of peace transformed fearful disciples into courageous witnesses of the Gospel.

Every time we celebrate the Eucharist, we pray for peace and exchange the Sign of Peace. It is more than a friendly greeting; it is a reminder that Christ calls us to be reconciled with one another and to carry His peace into the world. For those who prefer not to shake hands because of health concerns, a smile, a nod, or a simple wave expresses the same spirit of Christian charity.

As we continue to enjoy these summer days, let us ask ourselves: Am I bringing peace wherever I go? Do my words heal or wound? Do my actions build unity or division?

May each of us become an instrument of Christ's peace so that others may encounter His love through us.

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek
to be consoled as to console,
to be understood as to understand,
to be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.



See you at Mass.

~ **Fr. Peter Patrick**

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

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

Edward and Elizabeth Erhart with son, Zachary

Michelle Gilgannon with son, Derek

Gordon Meyer

Ryan Lau and Laura Lemna with daughter, Brooke

Maria Perleberg and CJ Wollenzien

Andy and Emily Berens with daughters, Fair and Elizabeth (Bonnie)

Ashlie Albrecht

Jack Maloney

Natalie Leonardelli

WELCOME

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.

A PASTOR'S MESSAGE: WELCOMING OUR YOUNGEST PARISHIONERS

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, some parishioners have expressed concerns about noise and distractions from young children during Mass. I appreciate your honesty and understand these challenges.

I invite us to consider an important perspective.

I sincerely thank the parents and grandparents who bring young children to Mass. This commitment requires patience, perseverance, and sacrifice. Most parents are attentive to their children's behavior and may feel embarrassed or discouraged when their children are restless.

Some parents have shared that they hesitate to attend church due to concerns about disapproving looks or comments. This is deeply concerning, as no family should feel unwelcome in the house of Jesus.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these" (Matthew 19:14). Children are not a distraction from the life of the Church; they are a sign that the Church has a future. The sounds of children are often signs of life, hope, and growth.

This does not mean that parents should ignore their children's behavior. Parents have a responsibility to teach their children how to pray, to participate in the Mass, and, when necessary, to step outside briefly if a child becomes inconsolable. Most parents are already trying to do exactly that.

As a parish family, we share responsibility. Instead of disapproving looks, let us offer a smile, encouragement, or patience. Many of us were once parents of young children, and all of us were children ourselves.

A parish without children may be quiet, but it is not growing. Let us be a community where young families feel welcomed, supported, and loved. Thank you for your understanding, kindness, and prayers. May we continue to build a parish where everyone, from the oldest to the youngest, knows they belong at the Lord's table.

A mother's perspective with children young children: <https://relevantradio.com/2019/03/loud-kids-at-mass-advice-for-parents-and-parishioners/>

With gratitude and prayers,

Fr. Peter Patrick, *Pastor*



BAPTISM FOR STUDENTS PLANNING 2026 - 2027 FIRST RECONCILIATION/EUCHARIST



Is your First Grade student planning to receive the sacrament of Reconciliation and First Eucharist next year? If they have not yet been baptized or they were baptized in another Christian denomination, now is the time to take action! In order to prepare and receive the sacraments with their classmates, we must be notified of your desire to have them baptized or convert to the Catholic faith before they begin Second Grade. Contact Jessica Quintanilla at jquintanilla@saintsebs.org for more information, or sign up for a baptismal preparation class at <https://tinyurl.com/AdultFormSignUp>.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEAL PROGRAM



St. Sebastian will once again be helping with the SVDP Meal Program on **Friday, September 11**. Volunteers are needed to help cook or to serve the meal. Cooks meet in the church hall kitchen at 8 am and 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 **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, September 11 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 May 8 where we served **100 meals** that evening with plenty of leftovers to feed more the following days that they were open. All who were served were very appreciative and thankful for our efforts.

**In the past we have asked for apples or oranges. SVDP seems to have plenty of apples so we are going to focus on oranges this time (oranges, mandarin oranges, or Cuties). SVDP also made a specific request for donations of juice...large cans, powder, or juice boxes.*

SAVE THE DATES | SENIOR LUNCHES

Save the dates! Senior Lunches have moved to **Friday afternoons on dates with no school**. Parking will be easy! Mark your calendars if you are 50+ and want to join us for food, formation and fellowship.

Friday, August 14th is our next gathering. We meet in the **church hall at Noon**.

Future dates will be **October 2nd, February 12th, April 16th and June 11th**.

Contact Margaret Lee (mlee@saintsebs.org) with questions or ideas!
Also be on the watch for senior news in the weekly bulletin and monthly newsletters.



HISTORIC MILWAUKEE DOORS OPEN RETURNS!

In September of 2025 St. Sebastian participated in the Historic Milwaukee's Doors Open event. And what a turnout. Over 200 people came to see and learn more about the history, architecture and beauty that surrounds and lies within and behind our stunning stained glass windows.

Over 20 parishioner greeters and docents helped to give mini tours by absorbing elements of the St. Sebastian story to share with an engaging public of past parishioners, alumni, neighbors and lovers of architecture.

The 2026 popular and widely attended event is scheduled for **Saturday, September 26**. The Archive Team offers training, scripts for specific areas and time for docents to learn and ask questions; plus, the day is broken into two-hour segments.

If you participated last year and would like to return, or if you'd like to join our docent team this year, **contact Mary Voell at sebsarchives@saintsebs.org**.

CONFIRMATION ORIENTATION MEETINGS

Youth in grades 11 and 12, who would like to prepare for the **sacrament of confirmation** this catechetical season, **must attend one of two scheduled orientations. Sunday, August 16th (9 am) or Wednesday, August 19th (6 pm) in the in the Adult Formation Room.** A **parent must also attend**. Registration and calendar for the candidates will be on the parish website soon.

Contact Margaret Lee at mlee@saintsebs.org with any questions or for additional details.



FACING RACISM BOOK DISCUSSION | AUGUST 6TH

Facing Racism invites everyone to a **book discussion on Thursday, August 6th**. The chosen book is by **Heather McGhee**, titled ***The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together***. The author is an economic researcher and she intelligently spells out what racism costs us financially in the US. Consider obtaining a copy, reading through it and joining us to discuss your thoughts.



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.

PARISH TRUSTEE-TREASURER ANNOUNCEMENT

We extend our sincere gratitude to **Rocky Marcoux** as he concludes his six-year term as Parish Trustee-Treasurer, which ended on June 30, 2026.

Throughout his years of dedicated service, Rocky generously shared his knowledge, expertise, and steady leadership with our parish. He played an instrumental role in the success of our Love One Another Campaign and the many building restoration projects completed over the past several years. Rocky has always been known for his sound judgment, fairness, and deep knowledge of our parish's history.

If you see Rocky, please take a moment to thank him for his faithful service and many contributions to our parish. We are grateful that he will continue to share his gifts as a member of our Finance Council and Building and Grounds Committee.

We are also pleased to announce that **CJ Murray** has accepted the position of Parish Trustee-Treasurer, effective August 1, 2026.

CJ has been a parishioner of Saint Sebastian for nearly 20 years and is the proud parent of three Saint Sebastian School alums. Most recently, he served as Co-Chair of our Love One Another Campaign, helping to lead many improvements that have strengthened our parish community. We are grateful for his willingness to accept this important leadership role and to continue serving our parish with generosity and commitment.

Please join us in expressing our heartfelt thanks to Rocky for his years of faithful service and in warmly welcoming CJ Murray as he begins this important ministry. We ask God's blessings upon both Rocky and CJ as they continue to serve our parish community in different ways.



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:

Men: September 24-27, 2026

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.



SISTER PARISH OBSERVATIONS: A REFLECTION SERIES

This past January, eight parish members journeyed to our sister city, Teosinte in El Salvador. It was a meaningful trip for each delegate. 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. Over the coming months, we'll share their reflections here. We invite you to read, imagine, and travel alongside them, one story at a time.

Teosinte Reflection

by Joe Cayen

My visit to El Salvador and Teosinte is frankly hard to describe; it was both happy and sad, encouraging and discouraging, enlightening, fun and emotionally draining. Being immersed in a setting with recent and not so recent (1970 & 80's) injustices was incredibly depressing, especially knowing the United States, the world's supposed beacon of freedom, trained and provided the weapons for those that murdered Archbishop Romero, the nuns and laywomen, the six Jesuits at UCA and others. Yet, the people of Teosinte, despite the economic and social injustices they face daily, are people of hope and hard work. They truly appreciate the support we and others provide, in prayers and financial support. They have done amazing things in the years since our last visit including an almost finished water system and community center. Maybe I can summarize by saying simply "it was definitely a trip to remember."

Photos from the Parish Delegation to El Salvador can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18EL66uO8XgzdAftgAuHA4a63kVb3-ss1/view?usp=sharing>

HELP US BUILD THE ST. SEBASTIAN ARCHIVES AND YOUR FAMILY STORY

In 2019, a dedicated group of volunteers developed the St. Sebastian Archive Team a.k.a. the A-Team, a ministry that gives attention to the who, what, and when of parishioners and alumni alike. The A-Team has categorized and systemized thousands of documents and images into a manageable and accessible format.

It is evident that the stories of parish involvement give one a window into the life of family members. Times when young'uns 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 researcher's identity, and the archive team, much like librarians, conduct the actual research.

How can you help us build our story?

What parish documentation or pictures can you pass on from your family archives? By dropping off your files, binders, or boxes of related materials, you will help us build our resources.

Be a parish archivist. We welcome folks who love history to lend a hand. Onsite and 'home' projects available.

How can we help you build your story?

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

The Archive Team of St. Sebastian

SATURDAY MORNING MASS!



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

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

2nd/4th Saturday: St. Catherine

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

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**.



HUMAN CONCERNS OUTREACH DONATIONS

Through your contributions to St. Sebastian Parish, Human Concerns Outreach donations were made to the following organizations during the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Parishioners who would like more information on the Human Concerns ministries or who might be interested in joining the committee can contact Annalisa Ragatz at annalisa.ragatz@gmail.com.

Bread for the World
Hope House
Life Navigators
MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary
MICAH - Milwaukee Inner-City Congregations Allied for Hope
Nourish MKE
St. Catherine Food Pantry
St. Vincent de Paul - St. Sebastian Conference
St. Sebastian Senior Ministry



SAVE THE DATE | SEBSFEST | SEPTEMBER 13

Mark your calendars now for one of our most joyful parish traditions! On **Sunday, September 13**, we'll come together under the big tent for our **Outdoor Mass and Sebsfest**, a festive celebration of faith, community, and service. **Mass begins at 10:30 am, followed by Sebsfest from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm.** We'll also be calling on all our wonderful parishioners to help bring this day to life by volunteering! Stay tuned for sign-up information and more details in the weeks ahead!

SEBSFEST

Sunday, September 13

10:30 AM: MASS
11:30 AM - 1:30 PM: SEBSFEST

FEATURING

LIVE MUSIC • GAMES •
FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE FOR SALE •
ROASTED CORN • BOUNCE HOUSE •
50/50 DRAWING • MINISTRY INFO

SAINT SEBASTIAN
PARKING LOT

SIGN UP TO VOLUNTEER OR
BRING A SIDE DISH HERE.
[BIT.LY/SEBSFEST2026](https://bit.ly/sebsfest2026)

COME CELEBRATE
ALL THINGS SEBS!

Limited seating available. B.Y.O.C

billy

FROM THE FRIENDS FOR LIFE COMMITTEE: ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE

St. Maximilian Kolbe: A Patron Saint for the Pro-Life Movement

St. Maximilian Kolbe (January 8, 1894-August 14, 1941) was a Polish Franciscan Friar. Due to his work resisting the Nazis, he was sent by the gestapo to the concentration camp in Auschwitz. When a fellow concentration prisoner, Franciszek Gajowniczek, who had a family received a death sentence, Father Kolbe offered to take his place. After being starved for two weeks in a bunker, Father Kolbe was killed by a lethal injection. He was 47 years old. Gajowniczek attended the canonization of Father Kolbe in 1982. St Maximilian Kolbe was canonized by Pope John Paul II and his feast day is celebrated on August 14.

A Simple Prayer to St. Maximilian Kolbe

O Lord Jesus Christ, who said, "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends," through the intercession of St. Maximilian Kolbe who gave up his life for a stranger, we ask that you grant us the courage to always act with unselfish love.



CORRECTION! BAPTISMAL PREPARATION AUGUST 10TH

Last week's bulletin included an announcement for Baptismal Preparation. Unfortunately, the date was incorrect. **The August session is scheduled for Monday, August 10th, from 5:30-7:00 pm at St. Sebastian.**

Additional dates have also been added for September and October. Go to <https://tinyurl.com/BaptismPrepSignUp> for more information and to sign up!

CELEBRATE IN SOLIDARITY WITH TEOSINTE!

Our sister community of Teosinte, El Salvador will be celebrating the **38th Anniversary of their Repatriation** this month. You are invited to join in the celebration at mass on **Sunday, August 23, 2026**. Special gifts will be presented during offertory, at each mass, symbolizing the journey they continue to travel.

We will continue the celebration with the premiere of **Delegation Journey 2026: Teosinte and St. Sebastian United in Faith**. This slide presentation, of our most recent delegation to Teosinte, will be shown in the Adult Formation Room after the morning masses. Several delegates will be present to share their experience.



CRAFT GROUP 2026!

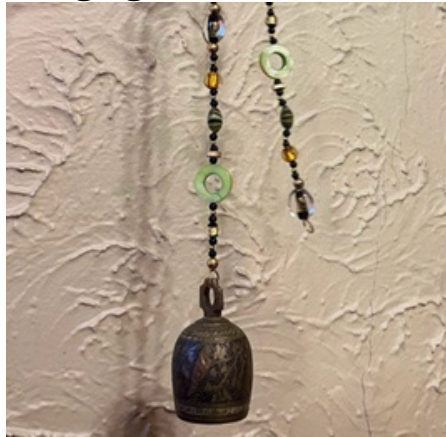
The Craft Group will be meeting **July 7 at 7 pm in the Multipurpose Room**. Our project this month is making **icicle earrings**. Everyone is welcome to join us for an evening of fun and project making. Supplies will be provided. The items we make will be sold at the Holly Berry Boutique in December. 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 for an evening. Any questions, I can be reached at: joannstaz@gmail.com.

July 7 - Jackie & Sam
Crystal Tree Earrings &
Icicle Earrings



August 4 - Laura
Hanging Bell



September 1 - Jo Ann
Door Hanger



October 6 - Jackie & Sam
Book Ornament
& Magic Wand



November 3 -
Lisa & Annalisa
CandyJar & Music Pyramid



Craft calendar continues on next page

Additional Projects

Laura Bonnie

Chocolate Espresso

Stir Spoon



Scissors Holder



November 17th Finish Up

December 4th Set Up

December 5th Boutique



HOLLY BERRY BOUTIQUE: WE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU!!



For many years, our parish has been blessed by a special event that has brought women together in faith, friendship and service. It is more than just a date on the calendar - it is a tradition filled with laughter, connection, and a shared sense of purpose.

Today, we have an opportunity to ensure this cherished event continues for years to come...but we can't do it without you.

We are inviting women of our parish to come together and join our committee dedicated to carrying this tradition forward. Whether you have been part of this event in the past or are simply looking for a meaningful way to get involved, your voice, your ideas, and your presence matter.

You do not need special experience - just a willing heart and a desire to connect. Every contribution big or small, helps create something beautiful for our parish community.

This is more than volunteering - it's about building friendships, sharing our gifts, and being part of something that is important to the parish,

If you have ever thought, "I'd love to get more involved," this is your moment".

Please consider joining us. Together, we can honor the past while creating something wonderful for the future. Interested? We would love to hear from you! **Please contact Jenny O'Neil with a text at 414-403-7419 or email at Jso172252@gmail.com**



HOLLY BERRY BOUTIQUE

DECEMBER 5, 2026



The Holly Berry Boutique is fast approaching! Make sure to **mark your calendar for December 5, 2026**. Even though it is only August, we are already hard at work behind the scenes to ensure this year's Boutique is truly memorable.

We are currently looking for our parishioners' support in two key ways:

Gift Basket Raffle Donations: Would you and your friends be willing to collaborate on a themed gift basket? Some ideas include a movie night, sports, board games, or gardening theme, with each person contributing one item. Baskets should consist of high-interest, NEW items. Since these need to be finalized by late October or early November, please start brainstorming your ideas now!

Gift Card Contributions: Do you have unused gift cards gathering dust at home? We are collecting cards for movies, coffee shops, restaurants, fast food, gaming, events, and more, and would gladly take them off your hands! Additionally, purchasing gift cards through Scrip is an excellent way to support the parish.

After careful consideration and several years of ongoing discussion, we have decided to discontinue serving wine at the luncheon. While we constantly look for opportunities to increase revenue and reduce expenses, financial constraints did not influence this choice. Instead, a significant decline in wine consumption over recent years has resulted in substantial waste. Whether this reflects shifting preferences or changing times remains uncertain, but our commitment to being responsible consumers played a major role in this conclusion. As always, you are welcome to bring your preferred beverages to your table. We recognize that this decision may be controversial, but please be assured it was not made lightly.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Jenny O'Neil at jso172252@gmail.com or Chris Marcoux at marcouxcf@gmail.com.



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>

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Anyone who needs to complete safe environment training can attend a session at St. Sebastian on one of the following dates:

- **Sunday, August 16 | 12-3pm**
- **Saturday, August 29 | 9am-noon**
- **Tuesday, September 8 | 5:30-8:30pm.**

All sessions held in the Multipurpose Room. This training is for parents who might want to chaperone field trips, catechists and ministers working with children, coaches, etc. **You must register through the archdiocese's Safe Environment office: <https://www.archmil.org/safe-environment>.**

Please contact Margaret Lee (mlee@saintsebs.org) if you have any questions.

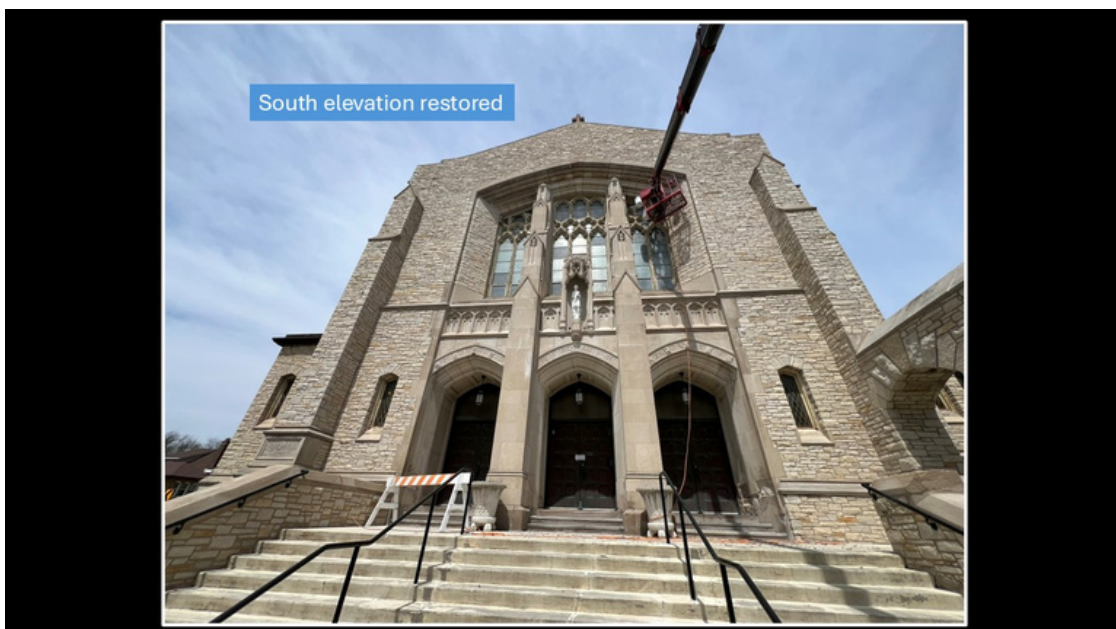
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS UPDATES

Completing Our Masonry Restoration

After several years of careful, phased restoration, our church's masonry project is now complete. Work resumed on March 20, with crews repairing the lower east facade and rebuilding the gable wall corners where deteriorated steel had been exposed and treated. Crews then worked on the lower west elevation and west gable wall. The Gathering Space exterior brick and limestone were cleaned and new sealants installed in all the cut limestone joints. The masonry at the front of the Parish House was also cleaned. The damaged limestone at the east door of the south elevation has been replaced.

Replacing Our Church Heating and Cooling Systems

In late April, the two rooftop heating and cooling units (RTU's) were removed, and roof replacement began beneath them, as well as on the connector roof between the church and school and the roof at the church's southeast entrance. Extensive damage to the roof deck on three of these roofs required full deck replacement before new insulation and roofing membranes were installed. This delayed installation of the new rooftop units which were lifted in place on June 3 and were fully operational June 9th.



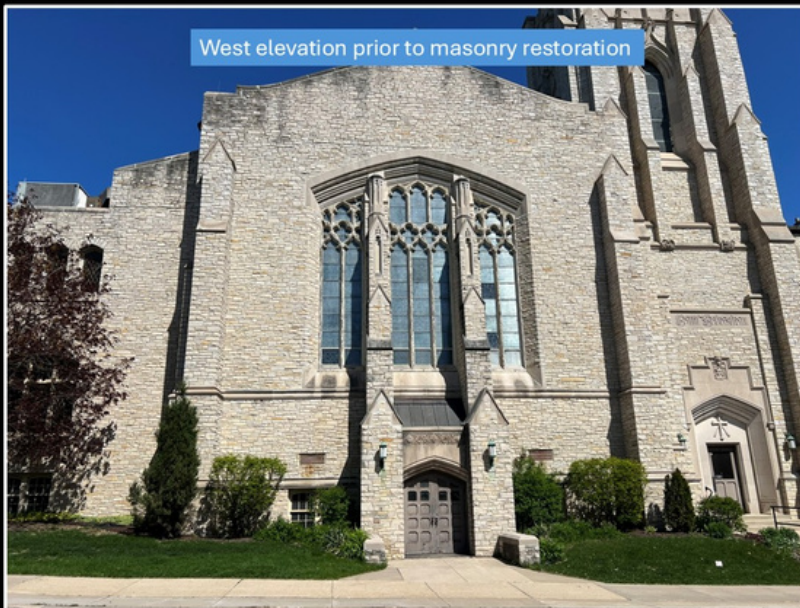
East elevation prior to masonry restoration



East elevation restored



West elevation prior to masonry restoration



West elevation restored



Restoration viewed from Washington Boulevard and North 55th Street



East roof replacement



West roof replacement



Southeast roof replacement



New cut limestone replacing damaged stone at the east doorway of the south elevation



