

Monthly Newsletter

✦ SAINT SEBASTIAN
CATHOLIC CHURCH



From the desk of Fr. Peter Patrick:

Caring for Our Common Home

Last month, I had the blessing of celebrating Mass with our teachers and staff during their retreat at the Catholic Ecology Center in Neosho, Wisconsin, just past Holy Hill. It was my first visit. I had always wanted to go, but my schedule had never allowed it. When I finally arrived, I was struck by the property's breathtaking beauty, especially in summer. Surrounded by the beauty of God's creation, it was easy to see how nature can lead us to appreciate the Creator.

The Catholic Ecology Center seeks to deepen faith and foster a stewardship ethic through hands-on encounters with creation. It is a ministry of the Laudato Si' Project. The nearly 60-acre property was once Camp Winding River, a Girl Scout camp, and is now part of a larger 225-acre preserve complex. The center also partners with Clare Gardens to grow organic produce for Milwaukee Catholic Home's senior living communities and to teach sustainable living. Its mission is to connect people of all ages and backgrounds to Christ and His Church through the beauty and wonders of the natural world.

Our school has made the Catholic Ecology Center part of its mission this year by hosting student retreats there. I am grateful for this opportunity because

our children can learn not only about creation but also experience its beauty and discover how it can draw them closer to God. If you have never visited, I encourage you to plan a visit. You will not be disappointed.

What struck me even more was what happened the following day, August 19, 2026. News arrived about the Church's growing emphasis on the Mass for the Care of Creation, which can be celebrated especially during the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on September 1 and during the Season of Creation leading up to the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on October 4. The timing reminded me that things do not always happen by coincidence. Sometimes we recognize God's divine providence only when we look back and see how different experiences fit together.

This year is also significant for the special Jubilee Year dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi, whose life and Canticle of the Creatures have inspired the Church's reflection on creation. St. Francis teaches us to see creation not merely as useful to us but as a gift through which we praise God.

This brings us to Pope Francis' landmark 2015 encyclical, Laudato Si', On Care for Our Common Home. The title Laudato Si' means "Praise Be to You," drawn from

In this newsletter you will find information about:

- Thanks, Joe Sheehan!
- Welcome Group Meeting
- St. Vincent de Paul Meal Program
- Senior Lunches
- New School T-Shirts
- Facing Racism's Just Faith Program
- Call for Volunteers for Historic Milwaukee Doors Open
- New Parishioners
- Catholic Charities Adult Day Care
- Cursillo Weekend Retreat Opportunities
- Sister Parish Observations
- 3rd Annual Women's Fall Retreat
- Call for Singers
- Saturday Morning Mass Schedule
- New Cluster Mass Schedule
- SebsFest 2026
- Craft Group Meeting
- Holly Berry Boutique
- Faith Formation Family Events
- Call for Middle School Catechist
- Sunday Appeal for St. Vincent de Paul
- St. Teresa of Calcutta
- New Giving Platform and Church Management System
- SebsFest Volunteer Call
- Safe Environment Training
- Buildings & Grounds Update

Continued from previous page.

St. Francis' Canticle of the Creatures. Pope Francis addressed the encyclical to everyone living on this planet, inviting us to reflect on our relationship with God, one another, and the earth.

Laudato Si' reminds us that caring for creation is not merely an environmental concern; it is a matter of faith and human dignity. Pope Francis addresses pollution, climate change, water scarcity, biodiversity loss, and global inequality. He emphasizes that these problems are interconnected and that the poor and vulnerable often suffer most from environmental destruction. This is the heart of his teaching on integral ecology: everything is connected.

Pope Francis was not the first pope to speak about our responsibility toward creation. Pope St. John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI also taught on stewardship, human ecology, and our duty to protect God's gifts. What makes Laudato Si' distinctive is how Pope Francis brings these teachings together and develops them through the lens of integral ecology.

Creation is ultimately God's gift, not ours. We did not create the water, soil, trees, animals, or air that sustain us. God has entrusted these gifts to us, and whatever God entrusts to us carries responsibility.

So, what can we do? We can start at home: conserve water, recycle, reduce waste, use reusable bags and water bottles, avoid food waste, and teach our children to respect and care for the world God has given us. These actions may seem small, but they help cultivate hearts of gratitude and stewardship.

From September 1 through October 4, let us make a special effort to pray for creation and reflect on our responsibility to our common home. As we celebrate the Eucharist, may we remember that the same God who gives us creation also gives us His Son.

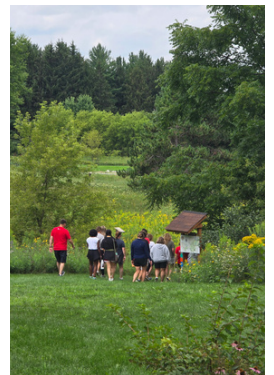
May we learn to see creation with new eyes, not merely as something beautiful but as a gift entrusted to our care. Let us receive it with gratitude, care for it with love, and hand it on to the next generation with hope. Creation is God's gift. Let us praise the Creator by becoming faithful stewards of His creation.

In other words, I would like to welcome the new parishioners and new school families who have joined our parish and school. I would also like to wish all the students, teachers, and staff a blessed 2026/2027 academic year.

See you at Mass.

~ **Fr. Peter Patrick**

CATHOLIC ECOLOGY CENTER PHOTOS



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 **6:30 pm** - or come a little early for some fellowship!

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

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.

We meet in the **church hall at Noon**.

Our 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.



NEW ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL SHIRTS!

Be like our shepherd, Fr. Peter Patrick, and represent St. Sebastian School in some fresh designs for the school year! All proceeds benefit the 8th grade class to Washington DC.

Orders taken through September 4 and will be delivered to school and church September 11-13. Each design sold in youth and adult sizes in black or red - and printed by Seb's school family-owned company, Milwaukee T-Shirt Company! Everyone wins! **Link to order yours is <https://milwaukeeetshirtco.com/store/sebsdc>**



FACING RACISM'S JUST FAITH PROGRAM

Facing Racism group is offering a Just Faith module called **Faith & Racial Justice: Changing Systems & Structures**. This training will give participants the tools they need to address racism at a systemic level. Co-facilitators will be James Napper, Mike Duffey and Mary Krolkowski.

Sessions are **every Thursday from 6:30 – 8:30 pm, starting September 3**, with the final session November 5. **Please sign up by sending an email to facingracism@saintsebs.org** expressing your interest in the JustFaith program so we can contact you with more details.

IN GRATITUDE FOR JOE SHEEHAN

We wanted to share some bittersweet news: Joe Sheehan will be starting at St. John Vianney Parish Catholic School as Assistant Principal this school year. Consequently, he will be concluding his time as Child Sacramental Minister for St. Catherine and St. Sebastian parishes.

In an email to our staff, Joe shared:

"I am especially grateful to all our families who remain committed to their children's lifelong faith, especially through the grace of the Sacraments. Your earnest commitment gives me great hope for the future of our Church."

We are grateful for the many ways Joe has shared his gifts with our children, families, and parish community. We wish him every blessing as he begins this new chapter and ask you to keep Joe in your prayers as he continues his ministry at St. John Vianney.



Joe, thank you for all you have done for our parish family. You will be missed!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: HISTORIC MILWAUKEE DOORS OPEN!

Last year, St. Sebastian participated in the citywide Historic Milwaukee's Doors Open event. As our first time participating, we were unsure what to expect, then were delighted with a tremendous turn-out. Approximately 200 toured and learned more about the history, architecture and beauty that lies within.

Over 20 parishioner greeters and docents eagerly volunteered to give mini-tours by absorbing elements of the St. Sebastian story sharing their own love of The Church on the Hill with an engaging public of past parishioners, alumni, neighbors, and lovers of architecture.

St. Sebastian is again offering tours of our beautiful church as part of the 2026 Historic Milwaukee's Doors Open initiative on **Saturday, September 26**. We need about two dozen volunteers in **2-hour shifts** from **9am - 5pm** to help build awareness of St. Sebastian parish and our mission while showcasing our nearly 100-year-old building. We are looking for two types of volunteers:

- **Greeters:** Adult and middle-school age or older students who will welcome people to the Gathering Space and show them where to go. **Register here on SignUp Genius:**
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/805054DA4A62EA5FE3-65223093-stsebastian>.
- **Docents:** Adults who will host information stations in the church. **Contact Mary Voell if you'd like to help:**
sebsarchives@saintsebs.org.

The Archive Team offers training, scripts for specific areas, and time for docents to learn and ask questions, including two Zoom sessions for returning and new docents on September 8 or September 10, both at 6:30pm.

Please sign up by September 21.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW PARISHIONERS!

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

David Johnson

Andrew Loesch and Jackie Uselding

Marijana and Michael Ekvall with daughters, Nikolina and Genevieve, and sons, Bo and Johan

Kyle Coraggio and Samuel VanDaalwyk

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.

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:

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.milwecursillo.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 parish, 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. This is our third installment.

Teosinte Reflection

by Mary Carian

The generous hospitality and sincerity offered by the Teosinte community made me realize I was participating in an important tradition that benefits St. Sebastian Parish more than Teosinte.

Visiting the 1980 assassination site of St. Oscar Romero and the UCA Jesuits 9 years later, plus hearing about current conditions deepened my awareness that the fight for justice is long and hard.

Spending eight days, with people whom I have worshipped for decades, on what felt like a justice pilgrimage deepened my appreciation of St. Sebastian Parish as Church in the full sense. It was also a lot of fun.

Watch a video of our trip [here](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PLaHWQ5xnup-7pGkoE2ka0BZI0PuA75b/view?usp=sharing).

<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



COME SING WITH US!

You don't have to be a professional singer. You just have to love to sing!

Have you ever thought about joining the St. Sebastian Adult Choir? **Now is the perfect time to give it a try!**

We welcome **college students, young adults, single, married, retired--and everyone in between.** If you can carry a tune in a bucket, we'd love to have you!

Our choir is a **low-pressure, welcoming community** where we gather to make music, pray, laugh, and help bring our Sunday liturgies to life. You don't need to audition, and you don't need to be a music expert. Just bring your voice, your willingness to learn, and a desire to be part of something meaningful.

Rehearsals are mostly Thursday evenings, and we work together to prepare music that enriches our worship and invites the whole assembly to sing.

Whether you sang in a school choir years ago, you're singing now, or you've always wanted to try--**come check us out!** You might discover that the best part of your week is making music with the St. Sebastian Choir.

Rehearsals begin on **September 3rd** at 6:30pm in the church.

Come sing with us. We're saving you a seat--and a spot in the choir!

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**.



SEBSFEST AND OUTDOOR MASS

Faith. Fun. Community.

Join us under the tent for a special Outdoor Mass & Sebsfest, as we come together in faith to celebrate our community and discover what makes us a Sebs family.

Come worship with us, connect with neighbors and friends, and enjoy a day centered on faith, fellowship, and fun. Bring the whole family and enjoy food and drinks, games, activities, face painting, a bounce house, minsitry information and so much more!

One faith. One community. One parish family.

https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E4EAFAB28A7F58-65155457-2026#

THANK YOU to our Sponsors:



For Faith, Scholarship and Community



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

CRAFT GROUP 2026!

The Craft Group will be meeting **September 1 at 7 pm 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 for an evening. Any questions, I can be reached at: joannstaz@gmail.com.

September 1 - Jo Ann Door Hanger



October 6 - Jackie & Sam Book Ornament & Magic Wand



November 3 - Lisa & Annalisa CandyJar & 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



We are one month closer to the 2026 Boutique! Be sure to mark Dec 5, 2026 on your calendar and start connecting with friends to reserve your table (we ask that tables have a minimum of 8). This is one of the St. Sebastian Community's most beloved annual events, and you won't want to miss it!

Volunteer Opportunities

We are actively looking for volunteers to assist with specific booths for 2 hours shifts:

- **New to You Area:** If you love rummaging or hunting for estate sale treasures, help us set up and sell items.
- **Raffle Ticket Sales:** We need friendly faces to sell raffle tickets from 9 am to Noon.
- **Crafts & Knits:** Join a wonderful group of women who gather monthly to create handmade items.
- **Floral Corner:** Sell various floral items or garden theme gifts from 9 am to Noon.

Gift Card Donations

Do you have unused gift cards to local establishments gathering dust in a drawer? We would be delighted to collect them for the event!

Wine Reminder

As we stated in the August newsletter, 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. You are, of course, welcome to bring your own beverages of choice to the table. Coffee and water will be provided during the luncheon.

For any questions, please contact Jenny ONeil (jso172252@gmail.com) or Chris Marcoux (marcouxcf@gmail.com).

FAITH FORMATION FAMILY EVENTS ARE BACK!



Family Events are Back! Join us **Tuesday, September 22 from 5-7pm at St. Catherine's** for Domestic Church in Action. Here we will explore how we live our faith at home and the greater community.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CATECHIST NEEDED

Do you like sharing your faith? Do you enjoy working with children? We are looking for a middle school Catechist for this year. Please contact Morgan Frank at mfrank@saintsebs.org if interested in this ministry.



ST. VINCENT DEPAUL SOCIETY AT ST. SEBASTIAN'S

SUNDAY APPEAL | SEPTEMBER 27

Our mission: To visit our neighbors who are in need. We visit our neighbors in their homes who live in our parish and in and around Washington Park.

They hear about us from various sources. They call our Milwaukee intake phone number, who in turn refer those who live in our area to us. We call them and set up a visit.

Some have lost jobs; some have become isolated from their families; some have made some bad choices and are trying to get their lives back on track; some had to move because of flooding or fires and are starting anew; some are recovering from trauma in their lives, many are single moms with children trying to keep their heads above water. Like you and I they are made in the image and likeness of God, but they need a helping hand.

We are limited in our resources, but we can always listen to our neighbors stories and provide some material needs. Before leaving, we ask if they would like to join us in a prayer for themselves and their families. They in turn join our hands in prayer. The Holy Spirit never refuses to fill our hearts with hope.

So during this month of September, the St. Vincent DePaul Society celebrates the feast of our patron saint, St. Vincent DePaul on Sunday September 27. Please help us lend a hand to our neighbors by donating online: <https://saintsebs.org/give/ways-to-give>. Under the word, "Fund" please choose the St. Vincent DePaul Society.

You may also place money in the poor boxes around the church, in the Sunday collection or drop off your donation at the Parish Office. Checks should be made out to St. Vincent DePaul Society of St. Sebastian. After Mass on Sunday September 27, we will have a table in the Gathering Space if you have any questions or wish to drop off a donation. No one in our conference gets paid. All the money goes to the neighbors we serve. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Tom Doyle - President of the SVDP at Seb's. 30doylet@gmail.com 414-302-5054.

From January 2026 - May 2026 we made 41 home visits to 17 single family homes, 7 two parent homes and 17 single homes. We visited 50 adults and 60 children.

We provided 7 stoves and 7 fridges (\$4,900), 29 beds (\$5,452), Furniture, clothing and household items from our SVDP stores (\$2,900), and 9 deliveries (\$800), food gift cards and various items (\$400). Total:\$2,890.40/month.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

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

- **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.

FROM THE FRIENDS FOR LIFE COMMITTEE

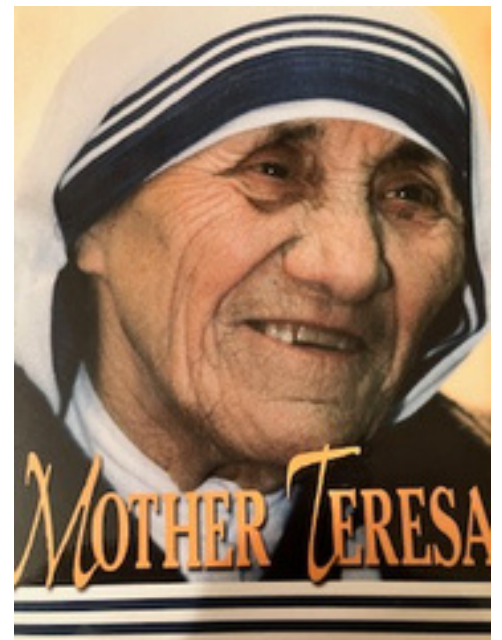
ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA

Many of us will remember Mother Teresa as she lived during our lifetime from 1910-1997. In her early life, she was Sister Agnes, a member of the Loreto Sisters order from Albania. She had spent 20 years teaching in her order's schools in India. She taught mostly middle class students and was very devoted and loved by her students. In Sept 1946, she received "a calling from God" telling her "He wanted her to be poor with the poor and to love Him in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor." With permission from the Order, she left the convent and started the Order of the Missionaries of Charity, and wore a simple white sari with a blue border. Many of her former students joined her. It was then that she became known as Mother Teresa.

As time passed, Mother Teresa, established centers of service not only in India but every corner of the world for the sick, the homeless and the unwanted. She was particularly identified with her home for the dying in Calcutta. Those she gathered off the streets received loving care and respect until they died.

Mother Teresa has been admired for her incredible mission, along with her reflective heart. For many years though, Mother Teresa cared for the poorest of the poor, both for adults and children. She and her sisters had orphanages to take care of babies and children that also had no home or were not properly cared for. Her care for the unwanted and street people went unnoticed for many years until she became the subject of documentary films and biographies: she received honorary degrees from prestigious universities and honors, including the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979. She remained very humble and unburdened by the adulation. Her saying to others was: "we can do no great things, only small things with great love." Often other people wanted to join her in Calcutta working with her, and she would tell them to find their own Calcutta meaning find God in those who live close by you.

St. Teresa of Calcutta taught others to seek Christ in every person they encounter. She recognized that each human being is created uniquely and beautifully. Each person is the face of God calling us to serve God by serving them. As Jesus said, "I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me" (Matthew 25:34-36).



When we love through the corporal and spiritual works of mercy as St. Teresa of Calcutta did, we are better able to see God more clearly in others. Imitating Christ by practicing the works of mercy also invites us to see Him more clearly in the Eucharist. Receiving Jesus in the Eucharist was essential for St. Teresa of Calcutta, as she knew Jesus was the fuel to teach her how to love others better and bring more souls into God's embrace. She recognized that Christ's love lives on in His humility of becoming our Eucharistic food and in the hearts of the poor, including the physically, mentally, and spiritually poor.

St. Teresa of Calcutta left behind a deep legacy of letting the world know just how loved and treasured we are. She witnessed suffering first-hand taking care of the poorest of the poor and also experienced feelings of desolation and dryness in her own spiritual life. Throughout it all, her joy remained. With such deep trust for God, she was consistently confident in the Lord's ability to work miracles. She was canonized on September 4, 2016! She never wanted her writing or her work to bring attention to herself, but rather, she only desired to bring hearts to Jesus Christ. Her feast day is celebrated on September 10th.

Article Written by a Member of Friends for Life Committee
Quotes from the Book (All Saints) by Robert Ellsberg

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>

2026

A CALL TO SERVE

Seb's Fest

HOSPITALITY

FOOD SERVICE

SET UP

ACTIVITIES

POTLUCK CONTRIBUTIONS

GAMES

CLEAN UP



WE NEED VOLUNTEERS!
SCAN TO SIGN UP



10:30AM OUTDOOR MASS
11:30AM - 1:30PM FESTIVAL

FORMATION TEAM UPDATE

Our Faith Formation Team helps the parish grow together in faith and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ. The team supports faith formation for children, youth, adults, families, and the whole parish community. Our goal is to create opportunities for people to learn, pray, serve, and live out the Catholic faith in everyday life. Our task is not simply to provide information, but to help each person become a mature disciple of Christ—welcomed into the life of the Church, nourished by the sacraments, formed by the Gospel, and sent into the world in love and service.

- Children and youth faith formation includes supporting K-12 th grade religious education, sacramental preparation, and retreat opportunities for young people to encounter Christ.
- Adult faith formation — Bible studies, Catholic teaching and discussion groups happen through presentations and opportunities to deepen our understanding of the faith. Our parish is committed to all stages of adult formation, young adult and senior ministries are currently being prioritized.
- Family formation — providing resources and experiences that help parents and families practice and share their faith at home through family events.

Our faith formation team roles have changed. We would like to share with you the newly designated responsibilities of each minister.

Director of Faith Formation, Margaret Lee

- will lead sacramental preparation for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. Morgan Frank will assist with the future intention of taking on this program. Jessica Quintanilla will also assist with the formation of children and parents this year. Patty Higgins will continue to partner with us in this endeavor, along with second grade teachers, Karen Kovochich and Kaitlyn Borri.
- will lead sacramental preparation for Youth Confirmation.
- remain the catechist for high school formation of youth in 9th and 10th grade.
- plan and implement monthly Sunday formation for adults.
- lead senior ministry for older adults.
- serves as the Safe Environment coordinator for the parish

Faith Formation Minister, Jessica Quintanilla

- will continue her role as the lead on baptism preparation for families.
- plan and implement Lenten Soup and Substance.
- direct the OCIA program for those seeking to join the Catholic church.

Faith Formation Minister, Morgan Frank

- will direct faith formation for children in grades K-8.
- lead family formation planning and implementation.
- will serve as our young adult minister.
- lead the weeklong Vacation Bible School.



BUILDINGS & GROUNDS UPDATES

Playground Update

The playground improvement project has made significant progress. Thank you again to all the families and supporters who made this project possible through the Fall 2025 Catholic Schools Walk. Our community raised an incredible \$24,000 for playground improvements, and we are grateful for your generosity.

Several major parts of the project are now complete:

- The extension of the existing retaining wall along N. 54th Street is complete up to the double gate.
- The new retaining wall along the Gathering Space entrance sidewalk is also complete. The area has been filled with stone and includes a new drainage system to manage water flow and reduce erosion and mud.
- The contractor reused all but one of the existing fence posts, helping reduce replacement costs.
- New fence posts have been installed.

Contractors have re-graded the playground area and installed the base material and granite for the new pathways.

The areas under and around the tree have been seeded. Temporary construction fencing will remain in place while the new grass grows. In the meantime, teachers and students can move between playground equipment areas using the new granite pathways.

We hope to open the playground for students during the week of August 31, 2026. The exact date will depend on the weather and how quickly the remaining work is completed.

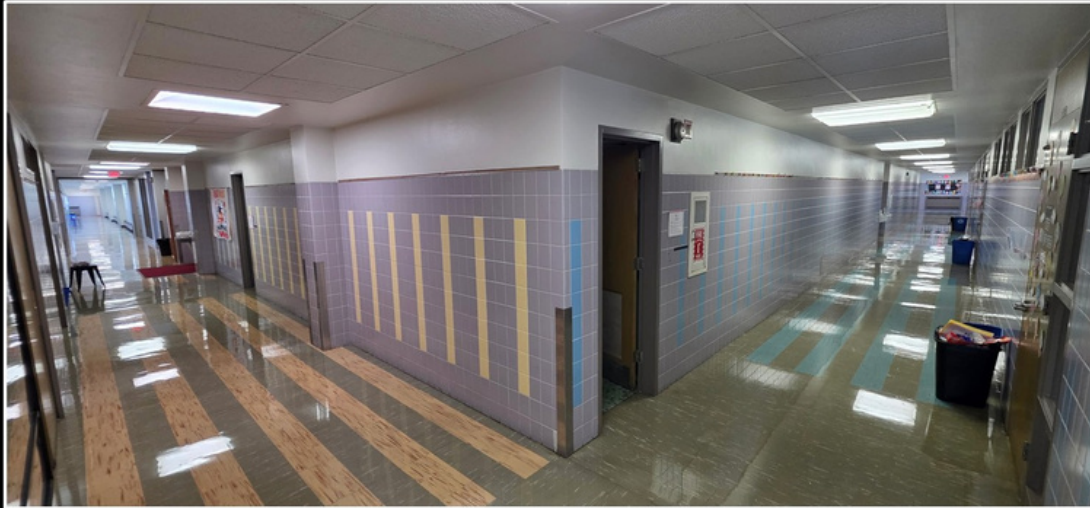
Thank you for your patience and support as we complete these improvements. We look forward to seeing students enjoy a playground that is more level, accessible, and better protected from erosion and water.

Future fundraising may support a more permanent surface for some of the high traffic areas, along with picnic tables and shade options.

Summer Cleaning

This summer, the tile floors in all classrooms and common areas, including the hallways and cafeteria, were deep cleaned and treated with five layers of protective floor finish. This annual process helps extend the life of the floors and makes routine cleaning easier throughout the school year. To clean and finish each area properly, all furnishings must be moved out before the work begins.





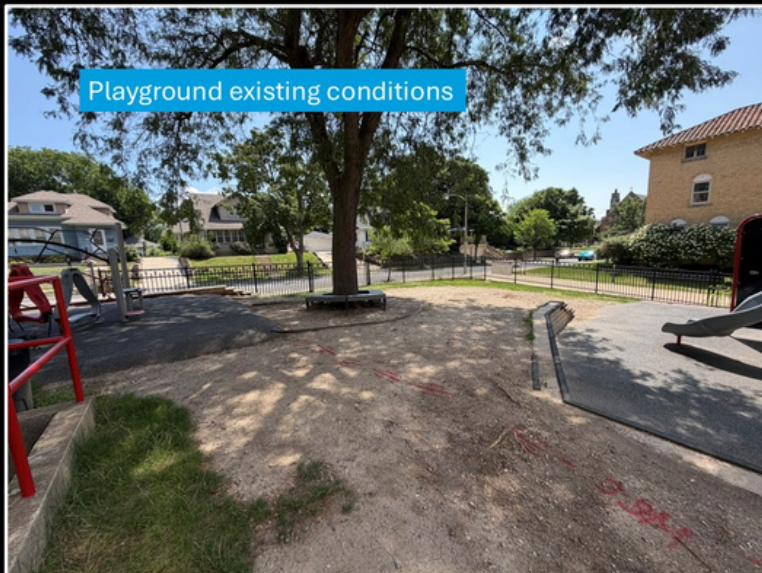
New water bottle filling station 1st Floor –East Wing



Playground existing conditions



Playground existing conditions



Playground existing conditions
after a rainstorm



All eroded surface areas have been regraded
and new topsoil placed in preparation for grass seed



Existing decorative fencing relocated
atop new retaining wall



