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From Our Pastor >>>

It is my sincere hope you all and your loved ones celebrated well the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Messiah. God with us. He is the reason for the season. I hope you all enjoyed the family and friends time together. We all look forward to spending time together. I would like to thank each and every one of you for the beautiful celebrations. I would like to mention just a few people or groups. The Environment Team, Children's Choir and Adult Choir for giving me a treat singing a Swahili song, Musicians, Ushers, Lectors, Eucharistic ministers, Altar servers, Sacristans, Michelle, Deacon Jim, and of course Father Larry. May the Lord give you His peace! Happy New Year!! For us as Catholics we already celebrated our new Church year on the first Sunday of Advent. This new calendar year, however, gives us yet another opportunity to give thanks for all of the ways that God has blessed us in this past year and to look forward with hope to all of the blessings to come.

Those blessings have been quite abundant in my life this past year and especially with your generosity with the Love One Another Capital Campaign. I would like to thank our Co-Chairs, CJ Murray and Sue Olson; Trustees, Rocky Marcoux and Audrey Ticcioni; our Director of Administrative Services, Joann Perleberg and all the volunteers who responded to my call. As you know we haven't met our goal of \$3,520,133. Although according to the timeline of the campaign, it states we have come to the end. We are yet to realize our goal. Before Christmas we had \$2.3M in pledge gifts from 170 families. If all families and individuals participate, we will be able to cover all the items in the list of Master Restoration. We are still open to receive your fit if you haven't done so, be counted as a member of our parish. Together we can do great! Also, I would like to thank a group of anonymous families who are matching a gift of \$1M. Please let us join the challenge.

I hope you received the gift, a book from the parish, "Beautiful Eucharist". I am asking all parishioners to read it and share your thoughts and participate in the on-going Eucharistic Revival.

Thank you as well for the generosity that so many of you show, throughout the year and particularly at Christmas with regard to your support to Saint Sebastian Parish and for your many kindnesses to me in the form of cookies, chocolates, cards and so many thoughtful (and tasty) gifts. All of God's blessings upon your new year!! Please know you will all be kept in prayer. Happy blessed 2024!

Father Peter Patrick

Human Concerns >>>

Outreach

The Human Concerns committee has assisted Ezekiel Hope (provides onsite training to minority firms and creates affordable housing), Franciscan Peacemakers (works to end human sex trafficking through service and advocacy), and the Women's Care Center (provides counseling, support and education to women facing unplanned pregnancies) with financial support this parish year, in keeping with our current focus on the Catholic Social Teaching Option for the Poor and Vulnerable. If there is a local non-profit agency you work with whose actions apply the Catholic Social Teachings through direct service, advocacy, empowerment, or justice education, please consider contacting the Human Concerns committee to see if they qualify for outreach funding.

Rosebud Blessing Bouquet

Saint Catherine and Saint Sebastian are introducing a new program that offers prayer and support during the joys, challenges, and sorrows of family life. This ministry extends its care to women, men, grandparents, and families navigating the intricacies of pregnancy, celebrating birth or adoption, grieving miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, infant or child loss, the anticipation of becoming pregnant or adopting, as well as addressing grandparent or parents' concerns during troubled times. A basket of roses and a vase will be placed on the table near Mary's side altar. We invite everyone to choose a rosebud from the basket, complete the attached tag, and place the rosebud in the vase. Next to the vase, you will find prayer cards available for personal reflection. Rest assured that the church is dedicated to praying for the intentions associated with each rosebud. For any questions or if you wish to join the prayer team, please contact Judy Ballard or Tina Davis.

Community Activities >>>

January Fish Fry

Our next fish fry is **Friday, January 5** in the St. Seb's cafeteria for dine in or carry out, open from 4:30-7:30 pm. February Fish Fry will be 2/4/2024.

Epiphany Family Event

Join the Faith Formation Team for a family gathering on **Sunday, January 7** in the church hall. You'll enjoy fellowship and fun, while you focus on the Feast of Epiphany. Please attend to celebrate and reflect on this special Feast Day. The event will beignet 4 PM and conclude in time for families to attend the 6PM Mass. There is a signup genius to RSVP https://buff.ly/3tr2fnR

Women of St. Sebastian Ladies Night Out

All women of the parish are invited to join us on **Wednesday, January 10**, for another Ladies Night Out. We will gather in the Multipurpose Room for food, fun and fellowship anytime from 6 to 10pm. We will visit, play games and plan for future activities. Wine, soda, and snacks will be provided. You are welcome to bring something to eat or drink only if you would like to. Do you have a favorite game that you'd like to play? Bring it along. This is meant to be a no stress, fun night. So come as you are, stay as long as you can, meet someone new or just hang out with friends. If you have any questions, you can contact JoAnn Stasiewicz, 414-405-5303 / joannstaz@gmail.com, or Sue Olson, 414-331-3358 / Susan-olson@att.net. Saint

Sebastian Feast Day Celebration

Come celebrate the Feast Day of our Patron Saint, Saint Sebastian. We will begin our celebration with a prayer service in Church at 5:30 pm and meet at O'Brien's at 6:00 pm on **Saturday, January 20**. Light appetizers will be provided. Please consider donating a bottle of wine or a gift card to support the Parish Mardi Gras Auction on February 10.

Volunteer Opportunities >>>

Sebs Newsletter Needs You!

If you have the know-how and time to draft the St. Sebastian monthly newsletter, your help is needed. A volunteer's responsibility includes compiling articles and photos and then sending the draft version to Joann Perleberg before the end of the month. Please contact iperleberg@saintsebs.org asap if you can help!

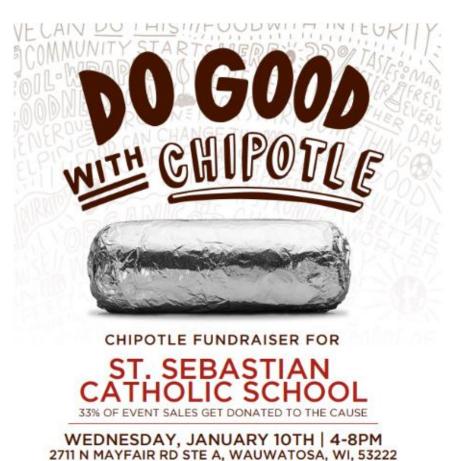
Easy Fundraising >>>

SCRIP News!

Earn big rebates for you and the parish when you buy certain e-gift card. This continues to be a fundraiser for the parish. You can purchase cards either at the Parish House during regular business hours or buy anytime online. For more information, <u>please check out our website</u>.

Chipotle School Fundraiser: Wednesday, January 10th from 4-8 PM

We are one week away from our final dinner FUNdraiser, which will be at Chipotle on Mayfair Road, NEXT WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10TH from 4-8PM. Let us take care of planning dinner that night for you! Mention the St. Seb's fundraiser to ensure proceeds go back to our school! THANK YOU for helping to support our amazing school community and bon appetit!



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Prayer and Worship >>>

Interfaith Prayer Vigil for the Holy Land

Guided by Milwaukee Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Buddhist and Sikh Voices, we will gather and lift prayerfully those lives lost and injured in the Holy Land, this **Sunday, January 7**, 4 pm at Cathedral Square. <u>Click here</u> for more information. <u>Here is a statement</u> from Interfaith Leaders from the Milwaukee area.

33rd Annual Memorial Prayer Service



THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. 33RD ANNUAL MEMORIAL PRAYER SERVICE

LOVE, LAW, AND CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

with Archbishop Listecki

Guest Speaker: Chief Judge Carl Ashley

Saturday, January 13, 2024

1:30 p.m. – Musical Prelude 2:00 p.m. – Prayer Service

ST. MARTIN DE PORRES CATHOLIC CHURCH • 3114 N. SECOND ST., MILWAUKEE, WI

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Other Updates >>>

From Jon Metz

I am not leaving but... I wanted to take this opportunity to let everyone know that I will be transitioning out of my role as Adult Father Formation Minister. I, of course, will continue to be a parishioner at Saint Sebastian and Saint Catherine. I am not going anywhere and I will continue to be very active in the parishes. That being said, I will be pursuing another opportunity this spring. I will stop a majority of the faith formation programs I facilitate in February, but I will continue to work with adult confirmation and RCIA until Easter. It has been truly life giving and an absolute pleasure to serve in these communities. Again, I am not going anywhere ... so you will see me around. Thank you for the many blessings I've received over these last four years. Peace and Love, Jon Metz

Please continue to read the bulletin; it's available online or if you would like to have it mailed to you, contact the parish office at 414-453-1061.