



ST. SEBASTIAN

CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

Member of the Milwaukee Westside Catholic Parishes along with Saint Catherine

MISSION STATEMENT

Proclaim Christ and grow believers through the sacramental life of the church in an inclusive and responsive Catholic community.

WENT IN HASTE

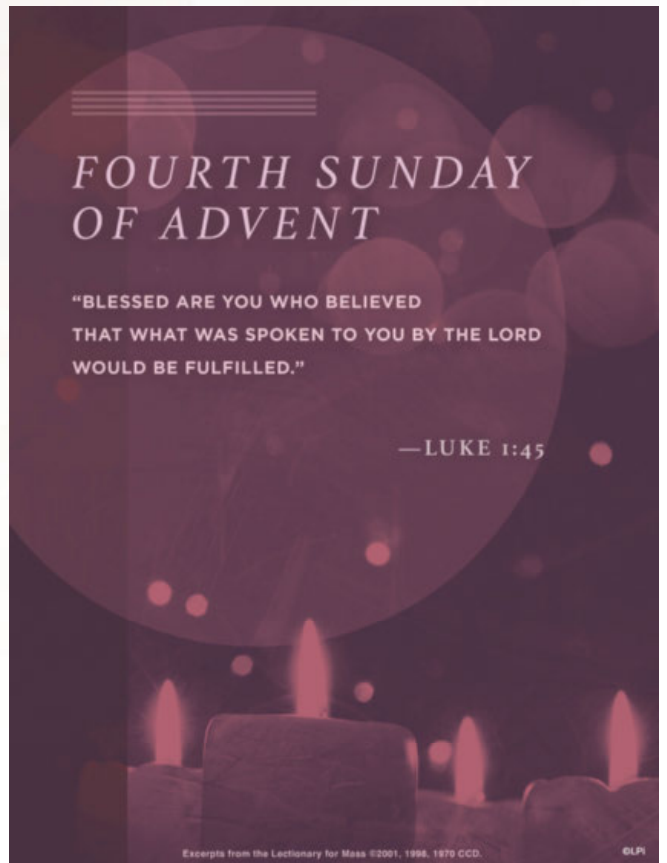
According to the dictionary, “haste” means “excessive speed or urgency of movement or action; hurry.” Haste can be used in two different ways, positive and negative. In a negative way, we can judge others without full information or knowledge of them. In a positive way, we can help others in an urgent need.

In today’s Gospel, we hear Mary going in haste to visit Elizabeth after she received a message from the angel Gabriel that Elizabeth was pregnant. For Mary, going in haste to visit Elizabeth, had a two-fold reason. First, since she was very young when she received the message from the angel that she will conceive a baby, she was looking for counsel. Second, Mary was sensitive to the needs of Elizabeth, her older cousin, who had miraculously become pregnant in her old age. Luke tells us how two seemingly insignificant women met to celebrate the kindness and fidelity of God. For Luke, discipleship consists in listening to God’s word and then carrying it out--and Mary does both, to become the most perfect disciple.

As Christians, it is like we are all pregnant, carrying Jesus within us. We need to carry Jesus to others as Mary did. Christmas is the ideal time for us to be filled with the spirit of Christ, allowing his rebirth within us. Once Christ is reborn in us, he enables us to share his love with all whom we encounter by offering them humble and committed service, unconditional forgiveness, and compassionate, caring love.

When Mary received the good news from the angel, she went in haste to share her joy with Elizabeth. What about you and me? Do we share the good news of God with others? When we encounter Jesus through his words, it should prompt us to serve others with love just like Mary did to Elizabeth. As Jesus told his disciples, he came to do His Father’s will before it became too late. The same applies to us: “While it is daytime, we must do the works of Him who sent Me. Night is coming, when no one can work.” (Jn. 9:4). I would like to challenge the parents, godparents and guardians. How have you shared your faith with your children? Do you let the media, school, friends and others teach them about faith? If we believe we have the right faith, then we must share it with our children. Yes, they will, in the future, choose their own faith. But in the meantime, our faith is their faith. When they were baptized, we made a covenant with God and the Church to bring them up according to the life of Jesus. How often do you bring them to Sunday Mass? You bless them by bringing them to Mass, and you bless us by reminding us that Christ came into this world as a child just like them. You and your entire family, no matter the age of your children, are entirely welcome here at every Mass, whether it be Christmas, Sunday, a holy day of obligation, etc. Have a blessed Christmas and always remember the less fortunate.

Fr. Peter Patrick



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DECEMBER 19, 2021 • THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

LITURGICAL PRAYER

Monday, December 20/Advent Weekday

8:30 AM Is 7:10-14/ Lk 1:26-38/ Mass

Tuesday, December 21/Advent Weekday

8:30 AM Sg 2:8-14/ Lk 1:39-45/ Mass @ St. Catherine

Wednesday, December 22/Advent Weekday

8:30 AM 1 Sm 1:24-28/ Lk 1:46-56/ Mass
5:30 PM Holy Hour

Thursday, December 23/Advent Weekday

Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/ Lk 1:57-66

Friday, December 24/Advent Weekday

4:00 PM Isaiah 9: 1-6/ Titus 2: 11-14/ Lk 2: 1-14/ Mass

10:30 PM Mass

Saturday, December 25/The Nativity of the Lord

8:00 AM Isaiah 9: 1-6/ Titus 2: 11-14/ Lk 2: 1-14/ Mass

10:30 AM Mass

Sunday, December 26/The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/ Col 3:12-21/ Lk 2:41-52

8:00 AM Fr. Larry
For Bette Phillips † by Art Fink

9:00 AM Fr. Peter Patrick @ St. Catherine

10:30 AM Fr. Larry
For Patricia Ann Schlitz † by the Schlitz Family

6:00 PM Fr. Peter Patrick

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Friday, December 24, 4 PM Mass (maximum tickets - 250)

Friday, December 24, 10:30 PM Mass (unlimited tickets)

Saturday, December 25, 8 AM Mass (maximum tickets - 250)

Saturday, December 25, 10:30 AM Mass (unlimited tickets)

The Parish Safety Committee wishes to offer people choices for different comfort levels of safety: two Masses are restricted to 250 persons, while the other two Masses have no restriction on number of people. NOTE that all four Masses will still have the “mandatory mask-wearing” section. Tickets will be taken as you enter the Church. For questions, please contact Julia at (414) 453 1061 x117 or Mike Kamenski at (414) 852 1854.

Free tickets may be obtained at the following links:

December 24, 4 PM Mass: <https://tinyurl.com/4pmmass>

December 24, 10:30 PM Mass: <https://tinyurl.com/1030pmmass>

December 25, 8 AM Mass <https://tinyurl.com/8ammass>

December 25, 10:30 AM Mass <https://tinyurl.com/1030ammass>

There is a maximum ticket order of 4 tickets for the December 24 4 PM and the December 25, 8 AM Masses. Please contact Julia at the number above if you need more than 4 tickets for your family. Children aged 2 and under do not need tickets.

FACING RACISM

As part of our parish's effort to identify and confront racism in our midst, we offer this reflection.

We pray for the strength to teach our children how to resolve differences non-violently and respectfully, and the courage to model it in our own behavior.

—excerpt from USCCB Day of Prayer 2

THIS WEEK

C=Church CH=Church Hall PH=Parish House S=School
TL=Teacher's Lounge G=Gym MP=Multi-Purpose Room
AF=Adult Formation Room St.C=St. Catherine MGC=Mother of Good Counsel

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20

9:30-11:00 AM Rosary Prayer Group (C)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24

9:30-11:00 AM Rosary Prayer Group (C)

FAITH JOURNEYS

BORN TO ETERNAL LIFE

Wayne William Rick

CHRISTMAS 2021

The angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people.”
Luke 2:10

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Imagine being a lowly shepherd, watching over your sheep on a typical night, and then suddenly, your life changes forever. A bright light and a multitude of angels appear, proclaiming that “great joy” is to be had. While the message was one of celebration and awe, I can’t help but think that if it were me, I too would be a little more frightened than overjoyed in the moment.

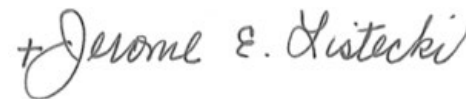
How many times have we been struck with fear in our lives? During the past year, many of us faced the fear of a worldwide pandemic, a serious health diagnosis and possibly a job loss. During difficult times, it can be hard to “fear not,” as the angels assured the shepherds.

No matter where you find yourself this Christmas – perhaps back to Mass for the first time in a long time, or in the same pew you’ve been sitting in for years – please know that Jesus loves you and wants to be in a relationship with you.

This coming year, I encourage you to reconnect, rediscover, and renew your relationship with Jesus and his Church. Here in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, you’ll discover a multitude of opportunities to encounter the love of Jesus and deepen your spiritual life.

Together, let us not fear but rejoice in the “good news of great joy!”

Sincerely yours in Christ,



Most Reverend Jerome E. Listecki
Archbishop of Milwaukee

HOLY HOUR FOR LIFE

Join us on Wednesday December 22, at 5:30 PM for a Holy Hour for Life with Adoration.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available during Adoration.

PARISH HOUSE HOLIDAY HOURS

The Parish House will be closed the following days during the Christmas season: Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Shared Pastor: Fr. Peter Patrick Kimani.....414-453-1061
.....PPKimani@saintsebs.org

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Thought of the Week

“Perhaps one of your friends has become pregnant unexpectedly. As someone who has been there, I encourage you to support your friend in her new journey of being a mother. Learn ten tips at respectlife.org/support-her.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“10 Ways to Support Her When She’s Unexpectedly Expecting”

Intercession for Life

For all parents awaiting the birth of their child:
May they look to the Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph
and follow their example of cherishing and protecting human life.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

On Monday, December 20, beginning at 4 PM, we will be decorating the Church for Christmas. It would be helpful if we had 6 - 10 volunteers to assist Teri Marsicek and her team. This event will take roughly 1 ½ hours and any amount of time you can offer will be appreciated. With your help, we can create a beautiful Christmas environment for worship. Activities include: decorating the altars, pillars and walls of the Church environment, and the Gathering Space. Please call Julia Galligan at (414) 453 1061 to volunteer. Letting her know before December 20 would be appreciated. Mask wearing is mandatory for all persons not fully vaccinated; mask-wearing for all others is optional but recommended.

SAVE THE DATE: 2022 SCHOOL REGISTRATION FAIR AND OPEN HOUSE!

Save the Date! Our Open House & Registration Fair for both new and returning families will be held Sunday, January 30, at St. Sebastian School. The event will run from 9 AM to 12 PM.

At that time, you will register for the following school year and return your registration paperwork for the following year. Tours will take place for new families. Ms. Grams will share a state of the school address to update all community members on both school accomplishments and goals yet to achieve, at 10 AM in the gymnasium.

Come visit between or after St. Sebastian Sunday morning Masses!

SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

Last-minute shopping? Consider these sustainable gift ideas:

- Purchase gifts that are fair-trade, locally made or grown, organically grown, made of natural products, durable, recyclable, and/or energy-efficient (don't forget to bring your own bags when out shopping).
- Give in ways that also support your local community.
- Make your own gifts: knit, sew, bake, build, or get creative using your own photographs or favorite recipes.
- Give your time and skill—coupons for household chores, meals, gardening, cleaning, window washing, car detailing, scheduled dog walks, or lessons in computer or smartphone use.

• Donate to a charity or service organization in the name of a friend/relative who supports that cause. See more tips for a green holiday at <https://tinyurl.com/4zykc2jk>

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Regular Contributions Last Week, 12-12-21..... \$ 14,913
Fiscal Year to Date, Week 24 of 52 \$ 291,600
Compared to Same Period Last Year..... \$ 301,772
Surplus (Deficit)..... \$ (10,172)

Building Improvement Fund Collected Since July 1 \$ 24,712
Your gifts are at work during this time of uncertainty. You allow our parish to carry out our mission and emerge solidly from this crisis.

Thank you!

ONLINE DONATIONS:

- Parish Tithing – <http://bit.ly/SebsPayParish>
- Parish Building Improvement Fund – <http://bit.ly/SebsPayBuild>
- School Foundation – <http://bit.ly/SebsPayFound>



QR code for parish tithing

YEAR-END CONTRIBUTIONS

As we come to the end of 2021, people may want to get in charitable contributions before year end. Please note because of the staff vacations, your donations must be received by Thursday, December 30, by 8 AM or in the Sunday, December 26, collection basket to be considered part of your 2021 contribution. Anything received after that point will apply to 2022. Contributions may be dropped off through the mailbox next to the Parish House front door during non-business hours (or during business hours if you are in a hurry). You may also make a contribution via WeShare which must be made by 12/31/2021. Parish Tithing – <http://bit.ly/SebsPayParish> Parish Building Improvement Fund – <http://bit.ly/SebsPayBuild> School Foundation – <http://bit.ly/SebsPayFound>
Thank you for your consideration.

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR DECEMBER 19, THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

by: Jon Metz

I remember the feeling of being a kid and waiting for Christmas. It was sometimes unbearable. I was filled with such excitement I couldn't sit still and thought I was going to burst! As a grown up, I still get excited about Christmas, but I am able to compose myself a little better. It is, as they say, a “wonderful time of year!” Here we are one week from Christmas, and we can all feel the anticipation of the coming Incarnation. I can't think of a better reading to articulate this type of joy and anticipation more than this week's reading from the beginning of the Gospel of Luke. In the reading Mary set out to visit her cousin Elizabeth. As we know, both women were pregnant. When Elizabeth heard Mary coming, the baby in her womb leaped and Elizabeth “filled with the holy spirit” cried out “Blessed are you among women...” Every time I read this Gospel I can always imagine the baby jumping in Elizabeth's womb. It is an image filled with hope and joy. It is an image of anticipation. The energy is palpable. Let us all hold this image in our hearts as we travel these last few days of advent waiting for the coming of the baby Jesus.

- How are you feeling as we approach the end of Advent?
- What in your life brings you great joy?
- How can you share this sense of joy with others?



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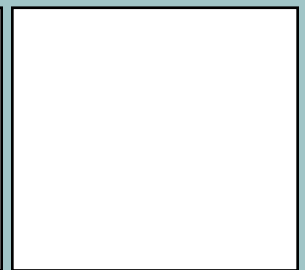


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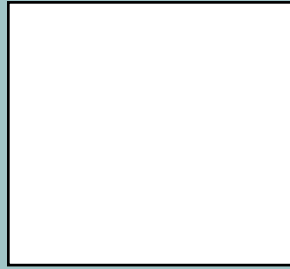
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