



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.

SOLIDARITY

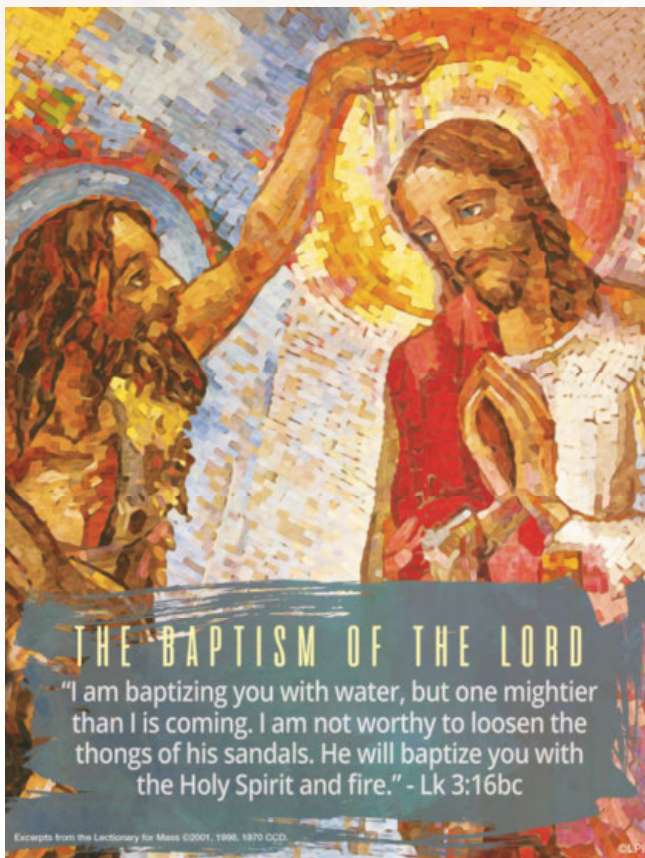
Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. Why did Jesus get baptized? Jesus was God's son, so He was sinless so there was no need for Him to receive forgiveness. John the Baptist tried to refuse to baptize Jesus saying that it was he, John, who should be baptized by Jesus. Christians believe Jesus was baptized so that He could become like one of us, in other words to be in solidarity with us, though without sin. Remember, He was born like us, but without sin. "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who was tempted in every way that we are, yet was without sin." Heb. 4:15.

On this day of the Lord's Baptism, we are called to reflect upon our own baptisms, and ask ourselves if we are truly living out its promises. Our daily life should always reflect our baptismal promises. Jesus tells John that His baptism is "fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Jesus' baptism is a symbol of His giving up His will to His Father and the beginning of His earthly ministry. Our baptisms are also the beginning of our acceptance to continue doing the will of the Father. When Jesus came up out of the water, a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." When we do the will of the Father, we also become His beloved sons and daughters.

As Christians, baptism helps us to see clearly how connected we are as brothers and sisters, even those outside of our faith. As Jesus' baptism showed that He was in solidarity with us, so we are called to be in solidarity with others. According to the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the church teaches that, "We are one human family whatever our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers, wherever they may be." Solidarity calls us to love our neighbors locally and across the world in concrete ways by acknowledging inequalities that exist and seeking justice for all. The Gospel calls us to be peacemakers, and Pope Paul VI best explained what that call means, when he said, "If you want peace, work for justice." The USCCB further explains, "Our love for all our sisters and brothers demands that we promote peace in a world surrounded by violence and conflict." (CST-Solidarity).

Although sometimes we focus more on what divides us, the pandemic and other disasters have taught us that we are far more interconnected than we previously imagined. "We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." (Martin Luther King, Jr.) The "inescapable network of mutuality" that binds all of humanity and creation together is what Catholic social teaching refers to as solidarity. Let us all be children of God, our brothers' and sisters' keepers as it was meant to be as from the beginning.

Fr. Peter Patrick



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JANUARY 9, 2022 • THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

LITURGICAL PRAYER

Monday, January 10/Weekday

8:30 AM 1 Sm 1:1-8/ Mk 1:14-20/ Comm Serv

Tuesday, January 11/Weekday

8:30 AM 1 Sm 1:9-20/ Mk 1:21-28/ Comm Serv @ St. Catherine

Wednesday, January 12/Weekday

8:20 AM 1 Sm 3:1-10, 19-20/ Mk 1:29-39/ A/S Comm Serv

Thursday, January 13/Weekday

1 Sm 4:1-11/ Mk 1:40-45

Friday, January 14/Weekday

8:30 AM 1 Sm 8:4-7, 10-22a/ Mk 2:1-12/ Comm Serv @ St. Catherine

Saturday, January 15/Weekday

1 Sm 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1/ Mk 2:13-17

Sunday, January 16/The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 62:1-5/ 1 Cor 12:4-11/ Jn 2:1-11

*Baptisms

8:00 AM Fr. Peter Patrick

9:00 AM Fr. Larry @ St. Catherine

*10:30 AM Fr. P. Drenzek

6:00 PM Fr. Peter Patrick

SPONSORSHIP AND UNDERWRITING FOR THE ST. SEBASTIAN JOY AUCTION!

Are you interested in Sponsorship or Underwriting opportunities for the Auction? Sponsors and Underwriters are critical to our fundraising efforts. With your generosity, we can cover costs related to the auction so that every dollar raised goes directly to the parish and school. Every donation is appreciated! Please consider a donation as a business or individual. Please contact Maria Watson at mwatson@saintsebs.org or (414) 453 1061 x. 127 for more information on promotional benefits for you or your business.

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Quote of the Week

“When we encounter Christ, experience his love, and deepen our relationship with him, we become more aware of our own worth and that of others. His love for each person is cause for great joy, and growing understanding of this priceless treasure motivates us to share his love with others. Our lives are often changed by the witness of others; so too, others’ lives may be changed by our witness and authentic friendship with them.”

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities

“How to Build a Culture of Life” (respectlife.org/culture-of-life)

Intercession for Life

For all Christians: May we live out our baptismal call to proclaim the Gospel of God’s love and the dignity of every human life.

FACING RACISM

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

“We place our hopes for racial harmony in our committed action and in Your Presence in our Neighbor.”

—Sisters of Mercy

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, JANUARY 10

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

7:00-8:30 PM Teosinte (MP)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

7:00-8:30 PM Bible Study (CH)

7:00-9:00 PM Fiber Friends (MP)

7:15-8:30 PM Faith Formation Committee (AF)

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 12

5:30-6:30 PM Stewardship Committee (MP)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13

6:00-8:30 PM RCIA (AF)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14

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

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR JANUARY 9, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

by: Jon Metz

One of my favorite things to do as adult faith formation minister is facilitate baptism preparation. It is such an honor and a blessing. It is this unique opportunity to have a conversation with parents about their family, their faith, and their values. I have certain questions I ask each couple like: What was it like when you first held your baby? How did you choose the name for your child? Why are you choosing baptism? These are always amazing conversations. It is not every day that someone asks you to articulate your faith or express what is really important to you. It truly feels like a privilege to have these conversations.

After we have that initial conversation, I remind families that baptism is a sacrament for the whole community. The Church is welcoming this child into the family of faith. In this way, we are all taking some of the responsibility to care for this child. It takes a village. I tell the parents that every member of our faith community now holds some responsibility for the faith life of this child. I tell them that this is why we are meeting face to face. Now I know you, and you know me. We are building a relationship rooted in faith. Now when you see me at Mass we can say hello to each other- because we know each other- we are part of the same faith family.

On this Sunday, the Baptism of the Lord, I would like to remind you all of your responsibility to the families of the newly baptized. We can pray for these families and welcome them. I also want to extend an invitation to anyone who is feeling called to minister on a baptism prep team. I would love to grow this important, life-giving ministry. If you are interested, please reach out to Jon Metz at jmetz@saintsebs.org.

- Think back on a baptism that has impacted your life. What do you remember?
- How can you personally support new baptism families in our parish?



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

PARISH LEADERSHIP

Shared Pastor: Fr. Peter Patrick Kimani.....414-453-1061
.....PPKimani@saintsebs.org
Trustee Treasurer: Richard Marcoux.....414-453-1061
Trustee Secretary: Audrey Ticcioni.....414-257-1046

PARISH STAFF

Deacon: James Peterson.....414-258-3468
Deacon: Jim Matthias.....414-651-7392
Director-Liturgy & Music: Michael Kamenski.....414-453-1928
Adult Formation: Jon Metz.....414-453-7150
Youth & Human Concerns: Margaret Lee.....414-453-7150
Child Minister: Joe Sheehan.....414-453-7150
Cluster Finance Director: Joann Perleberg.....414-453-1061
Director of Administration: Carole Poth.....414-453-1061
Development Director: Maria Watson.....414-453-1061
School Principal: Heather Grams.....414-453-5830
PAL Program: Frank Maloney.....414-453-8944
Maintenance: Bryan Kirkpatrick.....414-453-8909

PASTORAL COUNCIL*

email: Pastoralcouncilchair@saintsebs.org
Chair: Dillon Ambrose; Vice Chair: Jacob Corr; Secretary: Edie Schwabe; Jeffrey Altenburg; Kathy Bottoni; Judy Hill; Maricolette Walsh; Dan Walker; Steve Ragatz; JoAnn Stasiewicz

FINANCE COUNCIL*

Chair: Maricolette Walsh; Katie Sanders; Dave Misky; Kevin Mullen; Edie Schwabe
* Contact information is in the Parish Directory and on the website.

ST. COLETTA DAY SCHOOL

Bill Koehn.....414-453-1850

MLK PRESENTATION NOW VIRTUAL

The presentation and discussion on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s "Letter from a Birmingham Jail" scheduled for Monday, January 17, is now being moved to a virtual event. Anyone who has already registered will receive a Zoom link to the program. If you would still like to register, please email Jon Metz in the parish office at jmetz@saintsebs.org

SAVE THE DATE!

St. Sebastian JOY Auction 2022

February 26, 2022, 7 to 11 PM

St. Sebastian School Gymnasium/Cafeteria (with Virtual option)

With JOY in our hearts and minds this Christmas season, the St. Sebastian Auction Co-Chairs, Molly & Dillon Ambrose and Melissa & Jake Corr, officially invite you to an evening filled with fun, merriment and fellowship. So EVERYONE is comfortable participating, this year the auction will be in-person, with a virtual option. Please go to the website for more information and to purchase tickets at: bit.ly/sebs-auction22

Let's embrace our JOY together as a Faith community!

SUSTAINABILITY CORNER

Need to make space for new items, or recently acquired things you will never use? Many Milwaukee shelters and organizations accept new and gently-used donations. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/2p8spnc8> for re-homing/reuse options when considering a wide variety of stuff you no longer need or never needed instead of just tossing it out.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Regular Contributions Last Week, 12-31-21.....\$ 72,203
Fiscal Year to Date, Week 26 of 52.....\$ 390,553
Compared to Same Period Last Year.....\$ 402,897
Surplus (Deficit).....\$ (12,344)

Building Improvement Fund Collected Since July 1.....\$ 28,970
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

CORPORAL WORK OF MERCY: FEEDING THE HUNGRY

Did you know:

- St. Catherine operates a food pantry that is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month (and has for the last 30 years)?
- Food client volume has more than doubled since the pandemic?
- That if everyone who came to Mass brought one box or can of food each Sunday, we could deliver over 1,000 items to the St. Catherine food pantry each month?
- That \$25 Pick and Save gift cards are used when food runs out before all guests are served?
- That you can give grocery store gift cards for the food pantry through the Script program? (Benefiting both parishes!)

Please consider contributing. For more information, contact Donna Peterson at (414) 258 3468.

CHRISTMAS TAKE DOWN VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

It is time to take down all the Christmas decorations in the Church and we need your help on Wednesday, January 12, at 6 pm. We hope to have 6 volunteers to assist Teri Marsicek and her team. This will take roughly 1 1/2 hours. Any amount of time you can offer will be appreciated. Activities include removing fabrics from the altars, and taking items (artificial trees, wreaths, fabrics, and manger figurines) to the Church environment room for storage. Please contact Julia Galligan at (414) 453 1061, ext. 117 if you would like to volunteer. Mask wearing is mandatory for all persons not fully vaccinated. Mask-wearing for all others is optional (but recommended).

"THEOLOGY OF DIGNITY" DATE CHANGE

The Adult Formation program entitled, "Theology of Dignity: Part 2," with Jon Metz is being postponed until January 23 to align with the rescheduled Child Formation classes. Please consider attending this program at 9 AM in the church hall. The program will explore the theological roots of dignity through scripture and church teaching. All are welcome, and you don't have to have been at Part 1 to attend.



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