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CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY

Member of the Milwaukee Westside Catholic Parishes along with Saint Catherine

MISSION STATEMENT

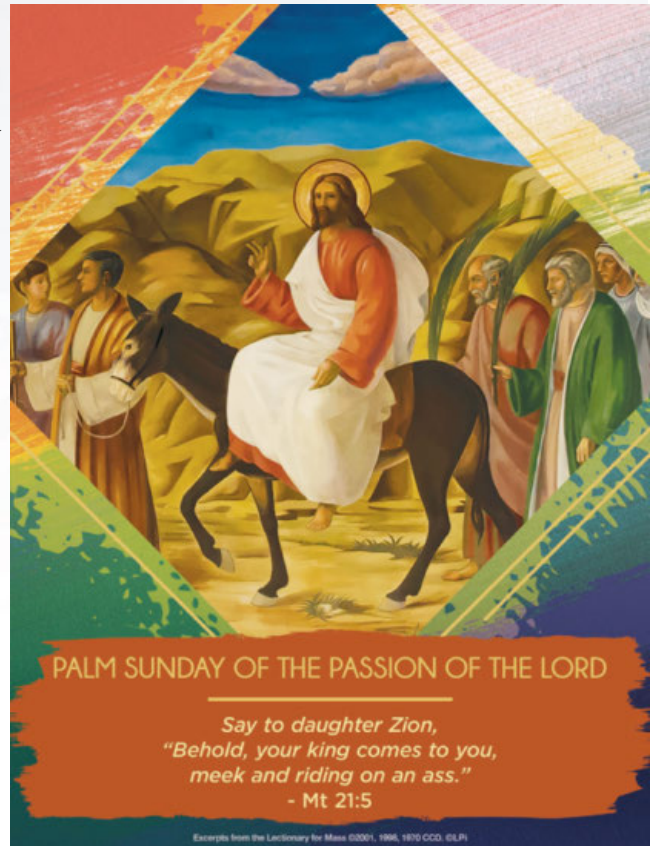
Proclaim Christ and grow believers through the sacramental life of the church in an inclusive and responsive Catholic community.

REMEMBRANCE

Today we celebrate Palm Sunday. The Gospel we heard at the beginning of Mass describes when Jesus entered Jerusalem in triumph, with people singing, "Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest." Matt. 21:19. This joy is short lived because we hear later in the Gospel of His passion; He was betrayed, tortured, denied, mocked, crucified and killed. Jesus' suffering is physical, psychological, spiritual and personal. He is rejected by His disciples, and unfairly condemned by the religious and civil leaders. What a turn of events! Sometimes in life we find ourselves going through the same emotions and things change in a blink of an eye. In our everyday lives, are we able to relate with Jesus' suffering? We all experience pain in many different ways, but we try as best as we can to avoid it. We take pain pills. Some use alcohol or drugs to escape the pain. Some pain we can never avoid or escape. We are called to look and see the pain Jesus went through and He was the Son of God. He didn't try to avoid it. He faced the reality of sin and paid His Life for us, because he loved us. We all have moments in our life we would rather forget. Maybe it's a painful divorce you went through after an abusive marriage. The memories of that relationship linger in your mind along with many things that remind us of what we had to endure when things were reaching the breaking point. Or even more painful, we lose a very special person to death after a long illness. It's still painful to recall what they went through in their struggle for life. Even now we may have some who are going through those painful events. We find ourselves hopeless and helpless, just like Mother Mary when she saw her Son Jesus suffering and dying. We have someone who we can run to for comfort, Mother Mary. She knows and understands.

Remembering is at the core of our Christian faith. Today we remember the cost of our salvation. Today marks the beginning of the Holy Week. A week filled with different events with different emotions: the Last Supper, Good Friday and Easter Vigil. These three days form one liturgy, referred to as Triduum, the paschal mystery. Jesus' suffering, death and resurrection accomplish the will of God and the reason for His coming. We understand His life did not end on the cross because He overcame even death itself. We live the paschal mystery each day of our lives, fully embracing the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus. Lent is the time of the year that we are being called to rid ourselves of those habitual sins and vices that keep us away from God and each other. Holy Week is not only simply the "price paid for our redemption," but a historical moment endured by our God in Jesus Christ. The memories of Holy Week give witness that real love demands a cost, a sacrifice, a death to self to live for something and someone greater. Remembering brings alive God's faithful love and brings courage to our own sacrifices. Our Pass-over is not only a story. It is an ongoing act of God's saving His people.

Fr. Peter Patrick



5400 WEST WASHINGTON BLVD

MILWAUKEE, WI 53208

PHONE: 414-453-1061 • FAX: 414-453-9449

WEBSITE: saintsebs.org

EMAIL: saintsebs@saintsebs.org

APRIL 2, 2023 • PALM SUNDAY

LITURGICAL PRAYER

Monday, April 3/Monday of Holy Week

8:30 AM Is 42:1-7/ Jn 12:1-11/ Mass

Tuesday, April 4/Tuesday of Holy Week

8:30 AM Is 49:1-6/ Jn 13:21-33, 36-38/ Mass @ St. Catherine

Wednesday, April 5/Wednesday of Holy Week

8:20 AM Is 50:4-9a/ Mt 26:14-25/ School Mass

Thursday, April 6/Holy Thursday

7:00 PM Ex 12:1-8, 11-14/ 1 Cor 11:23-26/ Jn 13:1-15/ Mass

Friday, April 7/Good Friday

1:00 PM Is 52:13—53:12/ Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9/ Jn 18:1—19:42/ Mass @ St. Catherine

7:30 PM Tenebrae Prayer Service

Saturday, April 8/Holy Saturday

8:30 PM Gn 1:1—2:2/ Ex 14:15—15:1/ Is 55:1-11/ Bar 3:9-15, 32—4:4/ Rom 6:3-11/ Mt 28:1-10/ Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 9/Easter Sunday

Acts 10:34a, 37-43/ Col 3:1-4/ Jn 20:1-9

8:00 AM Fr. Peter Patrick

10:00 AM Fr. Peter Patrick @ St. Catherine

10:30 AM Fr. Larry

HOLY THURSDAY & GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES

On April 6, **Holy Thursday** Mass of the Lord's Supper will begin at 7 PM at St. Sebastian Church, immediately followed by a procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the Altar of Repose in the church hall. All are welcome and encouraged to participate in prayer and adoration until midnight!

Good Friday services will be held at 1 PM at St. Catherine Parish on Friday, April 7. A Neighborhood Stations of the Cross, led by Fr. Peter Patrick, will follow Good Friday services.

In the evening, we will hold a Tenebrae Prayer Service at 7:30 PM at St. Sebastian Parish. Tenebrae, which means "shadows," is an ancient service in which scripture and psalms are shared. After each lesson, a candle is extinguished until the assembly is in total darkness. A loud, sustained noise or commotion is created, called the strepitus, representing the convulsion of nature following the death of Christ; the chaos of the world without a savior. Suddenly, the Christ light is reignited, the strepitus ends, and all depart in silence. This service is a powerful experience. All are welcome.

PRAYER FOR VOTING

God who makes all choice possible, hear my prayer.
 Guide all voters to choose with care,
 to remember there are bigger things than the cost of eggs.
 Like justice. Like mercy.
 Help us vote for the person most likely to do what is right,
 who will not be swayed by power or profit.
 Help us remember the needs of the many,
 not merely our own.
 Thank you for the blessing of this opportunity,
 the chance to be heard.
 Let us not misuse it.
 Guide us, O God.
 Amen.
 —Sisters of Providence

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, APRIL 3

9:30-11:30 AM Rosary Prayer Group (PHD)
 5:30-7:30 PM Pastoral Council (MP)
 7:00-8:30 PM Sacristan Meeting (C)

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

9:30-10:15 AM Adult Formation (St. C)
 7:00-9:00 PM Craft Group (PHD)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

4:00-5:30 PM Friends for Life (AF)

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

4:00-5:30 PM Friends for Life (AF)

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

9:30-11:30 AM Rosary Prayer Group (AF)
 4:30-7:30 PM Fish Fry—Carry Out Only (SC)

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

10:30-11:00 AM Blessing of Easter Food (GS)

EASTER SERVICES

Easter Vigil...we wait in darkness for the new light of the Easter Candle to illuminate our church, our very lives! Join us for Easter Vigil at 8:30 PM at St. Sebastian. All are welcome to gather outside in the prayer garden for the lighting of the Easter Candle.

Easter Sunday—He is Risen!

Mass will be held at St. Sebastian at 8 AM and 10:30 AM (there will be no 6 PM Mass on Easter Sunday). Easter Sunday Mass at St. Catherine will be at 10 AM. All are welcome!

REFLECTION ON THE READINGS FOR APRIL 2, PALM SUNDAY

by: Jon Metz

This semester I have the privilege of teaching a class on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. The simplest way to talk about the exercises is to say that it is a tool to help cultivate one's relationship with God. The experience takes a retreatant through a four-week process. The first week looks at human sinfulness in the context of the unconditional love of God. The second week finds the retreatant accompanying Jesus on his mission. During this time the retreatant reflects on the public ministry of Jesus. In the third week the retreatant is asked to walk with Jesus to the cross. In this week, the retreatant embraces the suffering of Christ and is asked to reflect on their own suffering.

Today on Palm Sunday, let us embrace this third week. Let us choose to walk with Jesus and embrace His suffering. I do not mean to imply that we get stuck here in the third week, because the fourth week (the resurrection) is coming. I think sometimes we have a tendency at the end of Lent to jump over the hard part and go right to Easter. Easter feels good. Of course we are tempted to move to that part, but don't cheat yourself from this very important week. Take time this week to sit in the tension. Connect with Jesus' temptation to "let this cup pass." Walk with Jesus on the road to Calvary. We are blessed with the foresight to know this is not the end of the story, but to get to the resurrection, one must embrace the cross.

PALM SUNDAY

PARISH LEADERSHIP

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

RCIA EASTER SACRAMENT CANDIDATES

This Easter we welcome many new members to our St Sebastian community. **Ken Rowe** is preparing for baptism. He has also become a lector at Mass. **Kaelie Dent, Katherine Adamek, Emery Nelson** are all being welcomed into the Catholic Faith from other Christian Denominations. Finally, **Sam Cappon**, who was raised Catholic, will be Confirmed. Each of these wonderful people has been preparing all year for the Sacraments of Initiation this Easter. Please keep them all in your prayers.

A CHANCE TO SUPPORT FAMILY FARMS

To help the St. Sebastian faith community fulfill our responsibility to care for creation, our Human Concerns committee has built relationships with two family farms for which we facilitate local deliveries of sustainably farmed products. Deliveries from both farms arrive at 1314 N. 55th St.—a parishioner’s home—just a few blocks from church.

Green Fire Farm makes monthly deliveries of pastured raised beef, chicken, pork, lamb and eggs year-round. Choose what you want from their online store and pick your order up at the designated time. You can create an account and explore details of this amazing farm at <https://greenfirefarmllc.com/>

Farm Happy offers a subscription where you commit to receive a weekly delivery of certified organic vegetables during the growing season. Learn more at <https://www.farmhappyjackson.com/csa> There are a limited number of weekly delivery subscriptions so if you are interested, act soon. Deliveries start mid-June.

Please feel free to contact the farm delivery site host, Rhonda VanPembroke at (414) 640 3805 with any questions about the farms or how deliveries and subscriptions work.

FACING RACISM

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

“Make a career of humanity. Commit yourself to the noble struggle for equal rights. You will make a better person of yourself, a greater nation of your country, and a finer world to live in.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., 1959
March for Integrated Schools address

LEARN TO KNIT OR CROCHET

Join us on Sunday, April 23, from 1 to 3 PM in the multipurpose room. We will have experienced knitters and crocheters available to help you learn or refresh your skills. This day is best suited for those 10 years old and up. Yarn, hooks and needles will be available. Email or call Monica to reserve your spot: (414) 687 6831 or auntiemono@gmail.com

SUSTAINABILITY CORNER



Jesus shed his blood for us. Consider doing the same for others through a blood donation to your local blood center this Holy Week, or encourage others to do so if you are not eligible or otherwise unable. A single pint of blood can save three people’s lives, and there is always a need.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Regular Contributions Last Week, 3-26-23..... \$ 34,694
Fiscal Year to Date, Week 39 of 52 \$ 551,963
Compared to Same Period Last Year..... \$ 560,393
Surplus (Deficit)..... \$ (8,430)

Building Improvement Fund Collected Since July 1 \$53,714
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>



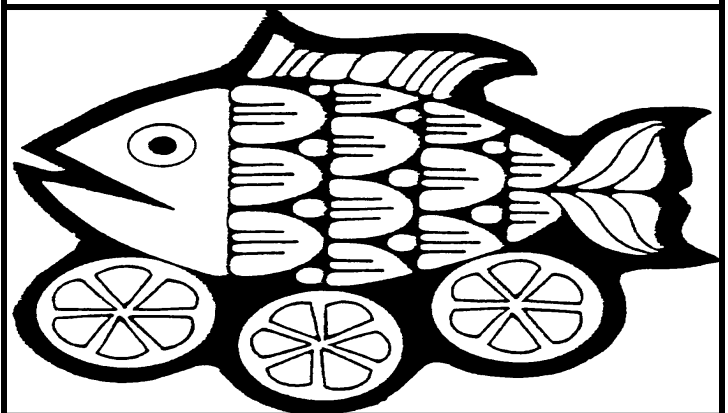
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SPRING ELECTION APRIL 4, 2023

The Supreme Court race will affect everyone in every district and for a longer time period than any of the other races. Under the First Amendment (a US Supreme Court Decision--Citizens United), networks must run TV ads even if they are not accurate or factual. Many ads are purchased with dark money (not traceable) by a few rich individuals, most who do not live in WI. Organizations with words like “Fair” or “Americans for . . .” or “. . . Justice . . .” in their titles are red flags.

Consider watching the only public debate between the candidates, announced at the last minute and run during the day when many people were at work or in school. It can be watched at <https://tinyurl.com/4dsskeu7>

ST. SEBASTIAN



FISH FRY

Carry Out Only

APRIL 7, 2023

4:30 PM –7:30 PM



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