

ST. CATHERINE CHURCH

www.saintcatherine51.org 5101 West Center Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

Here to Stay, Here to Serve!

We are a Christ-centered community, the vital and spiritual presence of the Catholic Church in Sherman Park and beyond. Living the Gospel, we welcome, learn, serve and celebrate.

What Are You Bringing to Jesus?

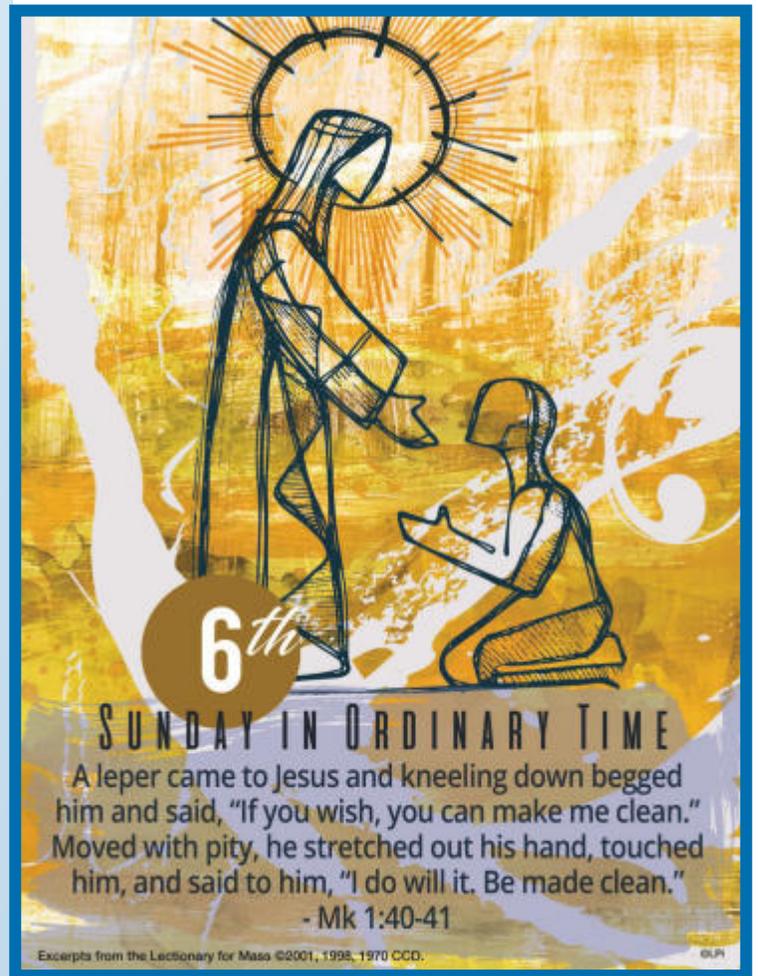
Yes! Jesus is God; he knows everything that we are going through and what we need to become better people. Jesus touches our hearts when we cry to him to be healed from our spiritual “leprosy” – just as he responded to the leper in today’s gospel.

In last Sunday’s gospel, we heard the disciples telling Jesus that the mother-in-law of Simon and Andrew was sick, and Jesus healed her. In that case, it was a collective responsibility; the caring community brought her to Jesus. Today’s gospel is different; the sick man, a leper, an outcast, comes to Jesus. Kneeling down in front of him, he begs him, saying, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” In this case it’s an individual responsibility. When we ask Jesus to make us clean, our needs are so personal that even our loved ones don’t know which kind of leprosy we are suffering from.

Today’s readings are preparing us for Lent, a time to reflect more deeply on what is separating us from God and others. In ancient society, people feared lepers because the disease was contagious. The leper’s life was a living hell. People hated the sight of them, and the lepers in turn hated the sight of themselves. Leprosy represents our sins, and unlike last week’s gospel, the leper went shouting “Unclean, unclean!” We hear, “A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him, ‘If you wish, you can make me clean.’” The leper acknowledged that he was physically disfigured, spiritually excluded even from daily worship, and socially separated from his family and the community. He was “empty” in so many ways, but Mark portrays him as “full” of faith; his prayer was faithful and true.

We too are empty in so many ways. We are called to be like the leper who had complete trust in Jesus. Jesus touched him and made him whole. Sometimes we think our sinfulness is so terrible that we cannot be forgiven. We feel that our life is so messed up, such a disaster, so destructive, that we can’t pick up the pieces and start over again. We only need to bring all the pieces to Jesus, and he will make us whole again. Jesus can repair our broken life and even make it better and more beautiful than it was before. From leper, to child of God, to preacher of the gospel – how profoundly transformative this healing is! For the leper and his community were not whole themselves until he was healed, restored to wholeness and returned to the community.

St. Paul sums it up, “We are often troubled, but not crushed; sometimes in doubt, but never in despair ... and though badly hurt at times, we are not destroyed For this reason, we never become discouraged” (2Cor 4:8-9,16). *Fr. Peter Patrick*



Member of the Milwaukee Westside Catholic Parishes with Saint Sebastian

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



February 14, 2021

Parish Office ... 445-5115 ... Fax 445-5198
 9:00 am - 12:00 pm, Monday - Friday
 secretary@saintcatherine.org - ppkimani@saintcatherine.org
 cpoth@saintcatherine.org
 St. Sebastian Office ... 453-1061

Parish Staff

Rev. Peter Patrick Kimani, *Pastor*
 Ralph & Jane Kornburger, *Deacon Couple*
 Jon Metz, *Adult & Young Adult Formation Minister*
 Margaret Lee, *Youth Minister and Human Concerns*
 Joe Sheehan, *Child Formation Minister*
 Doug Scott, *Music Director*
 Carole Poth, *Director of Administration and Operations*
 Joann Perleberg, *Director of Finances*
 Sister Pat Russell, *Parish Office Assistant*

Parish School 445-2846 Fax 445-0448
 Jade Cottrell, *Principal* Office Open 7:30 am - 3:30 pm

Parish Trustees

Toni Wagner, *Secretary* - Mary Brooks, *Treasurer*

Pastoral Council

Brendan Holahan, Kathy Kent, Mary Krolikowski, Matt Melendes, James Napper, Jessica Quintanilla, Lissete Quintanilla, Kris Reck, Brenda Scharping, Becky Troy

The Week Ahead

Sunday, February 14	9:00 am	Mass (Church)
Monday, February 15	5:00 pm	Finance Council (virtual)
Tuesday, February 16	8:30 am	Mass (Church)
Wednesday, February 17	12:00 pm	Distribution of Ashes
	6:00 pm	Mass/Distribution of Ashes
Friday, February 19	8:30 am	Mass (Church)
Saturday, February 20	9:00 am	Food Pantry (FKCC)
Sunday, February 21	9:00 am	Mass (Church)



Ash Wednesday Schedule

12 Noon - Prayer Service/Distribution of Ashes
6 pm - Mass and Distribution of Ashes

Prayer for Ash Wednesday

During this time of sacrifice, prayer and good words, may we prepare our hearts, our souls, our minds and bodies for the greatest feast in the Church, the Resurrection.
 May we follow in your footsteps as we journey with you to Jerusalem. At each Mass, may we be reminded of the Last Supper and your gift of Eucharist.
 May we continue with you to Calvary, accepting the crosses that are given to us each day.
 May we stay with your mother Mary as she stands by your cross.
 Grant us the perseverance to strive each day of this holy season to become better Christians.
 Make us one with the Risen Christ every day of our lives.

Regular Contributions through Week31	\$106,144
Prior YTD Amount	<u>102,679</u>
Surplus/Deficit vs. Prior Year	\$3,465

Mass Intentions & Scripture Readings

Sunday, February 14 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am † Bonnie Dougherty (Lieb Family)
 Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-5, 11/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Monday, February 15

8:30 am Mass at St. Sebastian
 Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 16

8:30 am Thanksgiving For The Service Of Our Presidents
 Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2-4, 9c-10 /Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 17

12:00 pm - Prayer Service & Distribution of Ashes
 6:00 pm - Mass & Distribution of Ashes
 Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-17/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, February 18

Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25

Friday, February 19

8:30 am Conversion of Heart
 Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15

Sunday, February 21 First Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Living and Deceased Members of St. Catherine
 Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-9 /1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Liturgical Ministers

Sunday, February 14 - Fr. Peter Patrick

Lector Harry Beal

Wednesday, February 17 - Fr. Larry

Lectors Bernadette Davel (noon) Ron Ranallo (6 pm)

Sunday, February 21 - Fr. Larry

Lector Brendan Holahan

Reflections on this Sunday's Readings

"Be made clean."

In the first reading from the book of Leviticus, we are reminded of the Old Testament understanding that an illness like leprosy was connected to the "cleanliness" of one's soul. It was clear that someone with this condition was to be "cast out" from the community and disregarded. The leper was to announce his presence by shouting "unclean, unclean!" This was so all others could avoid any contact with the leper.

This is yet another example of how Jesus flipped the script. In the reading from the Gospel of Mark, Jesus does not avoid the leper. Instead, when the leper engages Jesus, Jesus does not reject this man; rather, Jesus accepts him and even grants his request. Jesus declares to the man, "Be made clean." This was obviously life changing for the man. It reminds us of Jesus' incredible ability to change the unchangeable. Jesus came into the world and changed the whole story. Jesus offers us new beginnings when there appears to be only endings. Just as the man cured of leprosy found a new reality, so can we find a new reality in our lives through Christ.

- Is there a situation that you assume is impossible or unchangeable?
- Have you witnessed new beginnings in what seemed to be a hopeless situation?
- To what or to whom do you attribute these new beginnings?

Jon Metz

Pray for Our Sick

Maryl Barrett, Michael Barton, Carol & Joe Brien, Tom Cavanaugh, Annie Coleman, Chuck Cooney, Ellie Cunningham, Barb Haig, Ernest Herre, James Krutina, Evelyn Martinez, Bev Narus, Diane Neicheril, Steve O'Connell, Andréa Olds, Tom Plakut, David Pleskatchek, Ron & Trudy Ranallo, Don Richards, Margaret Schmidt, Sr. Mary Ann Schmidt, Doug Scott, Carmel Stage, Bill Steger, Larry Teufel, Nancy & Eduardo V, Kathy Zambo

School News

Parent teacher conferences took place last Wednesday and Thursday for trimester two. We are making extra effort to be in close contact with our students and their families during this challenging time to assure that learning is continuing.

Senior Ministry

"During the pandemic, we have all spent more time in our houses, often feeling isolated. This experience has brought a new perspective. We've learned that bricks and mortar, wood and nails do not make a home. People & connections are what really matter. As we grow older, the purpose of life is different and our needs change. After job and child-rearing responsibilities are reduced, we have more time to concentrate on our inner life, moving our focus from material things to matters of the heart. We have less need for space and more need for community, to spend less time taking care of our surroundings and more time tending to our spiritual well-being." *Robert Best*

Sustainability Tip

Winter means shoveling snow. To avoid injury, remember to warm your muscles with some light exercise before heading out with a shovel, push rather than lift the snow where possible, bend your knees and use your legs when you do lift snow, pace yourself and take frequent breaks, and make sure to stay hydrated. More: travelers.com/resources/weather/winter-storms/snow-shoveling-tips

Facing Racism

"Human progress never rolls in on wheels of inevitability; it comes through the tireless efforts of men willing to be co-workers with God, and without this hard work, time itself becomes an ally of the forces of social stagnation."

Martin Luther King, Jr. Letter from a Birmingham Jail



Savor the Soups!

Today we would have gathered for our traditional "Souper Sunday." Since we are unable to celebrate together, we are inserting a sheet of soup recipes submitted by some of our parishioners. Perhaps making one or two of the soups at home will bring us together "virtually." Enjoy!

Give a Poinsettia a New Home

Next Sunday, we will invite you to take one of the poinsettias which have decorated our church since Christmas. They make lovely house plants and can be put in your garden in spring.

Recovery Groups-All groups meet in the Community Ctr.

AA: Sunday	11:00 am	AAA: Thursday	7:00 pm
Tuesday	7:00 pm		
Friday	6:30 pm		

Lenten Small Group Discussion of "The Search"...

begins this week. You may join an in-person or virtual small group for the Lenten season based on the book. We are offering an in-person, socially distant group here on Tuesdays, after 8:30 Mass. To register, please email jmetz@saintsebs.org and specify your preference for in-person or virtual and indicate what days and times you would prefer.



Stations of the Cross - Friday Mornings

The Way of the Cross, or Stations, is a prayer form that invites us to deeply reflect on the passion, crucifixion and death of Jesus. This Lent, we invite you to join us, in person or virtually, as we reflect on the Way of the Cross. Stations will be offered in person at both Sts. Catherine and Sebastian Friday morning of Lent in church at 9:15am.

Reconciliation During Lent Before Sunday Mass

The sacrament of Reconciliation will be offered during Lent, 30 minutes prior to Sunday Mass when Fr. Peter Patrick is the celebrant. Please see the bulletin or the schedule online for the dates & times of Fr. Peter Patrick's Masses, beginning Feb.28.

Men's Retreat - March 5 - 7

The Redemptorist Retreat Center in Oconomowoc will welcome the men of the parish for a weekend. Explore how you can be a person of hope even during days of worry. Enjoy a few days of rest in a beautiful setting with inspiring reflections *and* great food. For more information, contact Ron Ranallo at 517-1826. Can't make that weekend? Retreats are available all year.

Lenten Mission: The Gift of Sunday

The Archdiocese is hosting Lenten Missions at 18 parishes on March 3, 7-8:30 pm. There will be a prayer service that will highlight the importance of Sunday Mass in living out our faith on a daily basis. Fr. Jim Volkert will be the presenter for the Mission to be held at St. Sebastian. We urge you to attend.

The Centennial Celebration Committee . . .

welcomes your help in this momentous celebration. Do you have pictures of parish events? Memories to share? Stories of some of the priests who have served the parish? Or parishioners who made our community what it is today? Send them to secretary@saintcatherine.org with the subject line, Centennial.

St. Sebastian's Virtual Auction February 14-20

Join us this week for fun and festivities as we "Let the Good Times Roll. Visit bit.ly/SEBS21AUCTION, or St. Seb's website; click on Community Life, Parish Auction to bid.

Eucharistic Liturgies are celebrated on Sundays at 9:00 am. Weekday Mass is at 8:30 am in church, T & F; at St. Sebastian, 8:30 am, M.

For an **Infant's Baptism**, contact the parish office during the prenatal time to begin preparation.

Those discerning a call to **Marriage** should contact the parish office at least six months prior to the wedding date.

For **Non-Infant Baptisms, First Communion, First Reconciliation, Confirmation** and **Information about the Catholic Church**, call the parish office.

Confessions/Reconciliation – Schedule with Fr. Peter Patrick



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