



# ST. CATHERINE CHURCH

[www.saintcatherine51.org](http://www.saintcatherine51.org) 5101 West Center Street, Milwaukee, WI 53210

## Seek Him Every Time

There is a story about a sea captain who, in his retirement, operated a boat taking day-trippers to islands. On one trip, the boat was full of young people. They laughed at the old captain when they saw him say a prayer before sailing out because the day was fine and the sea was calm.

However, they weren't long at sea when a storm suddenly blew up and the boat began to roll and pitch violently. The terrified passengers came to the captain and asked him to join them in prayer. But he replied, "I say my prayers when it's calm. When it's rough I attend to my ship."

Here is a lesson for us: If we cannot seek God in quiet moments of our lives, we are not likely to find Him when trouble strikes. We are more likely to panic. But if we have learned to seek Him and trust Him in quiet moments, then most certainly we will find Him when the going gets rough. Seek Him mostly at your best and you'll sail peacefully at your worst. "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near." Is. 55:6.

Advent is a time to renew and deepen our relationship with God. It is a time of patient waiting for God, prayerful and trusting waiting for God. Because the season of Advent is so important, the Church gives us four weeks to celebrate it. Celebrate Advent with your heart; it is an opportunity to step back from that which preoccupies and distracts us daily and make a straight way for the Lord to receive the special grace God has planned for each one of us this Advent.

Today's second reading from the letter of Paul to the Philippians sums up what we are supposed to be doing during this time of Advent and beyond. "Brothers and sisters: I pray always with joy in my every prayer for all of you, because of your partnership for the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus. God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus. And this is my prayer: that your love may increase ever more and more in knowledge and every kind of perception, to discern what is of value, so that you may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God." Phil. 1:4-6, 8-11.

Even today, we need the voice of John the Baptist telling us when we sin or have done wrong. The gift of John the Baptist to us is that he gave voice to the Word that stands forever. The Eternal Word of God remains with us until the end of time. Ask yourself, how are you going to be that voice?

*Fr. Peter Patrick*

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we welcome, learn, serve and celebrate.*

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

*A VOICE OF ONE CRYING OUT IN THE DESERT:*

*"PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD,  
MAKE STRAIGHT HIS PATHS.*

*EVERY VALLEY SHALL BE FILLED*

*AND EVERY MOUNTAIN AND HILL SHALL BE MADE LOW."*

—LUKE 3:4-5

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1979 CCD

GLP

**Member of the Milwaukee Westside Catholic Parishes  
with Saint Sebastian**



**Second Sunday of Advent**

**December 5, 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 & Morgan Frank, *Child Formation Ministers*  
 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**

Kathy Kent, James Napper, Lisette Quintanilla, Brenda Scharping, Bill Thorn, Becky Troy, June Wessa

**The Week Ahead**

Sunday, December 5	8:45 am CGS (Atrium)
	9:00 am Mass
Tuesday, December 7	<b>5:00 pm</b> Mass of Anticipation
	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
Wednesday, December 8	8:20 am Feast Day Mass (St. Seb's)
Friday, December 10	9:00 Mass
Saturday, December 11	9:00 Food Pantry (FKCC)
Sunday, December 12	8:45 am CGS (Atrium)
	9:00 Mass -Our Lady of Guadalupe
	10:00 La Fiesta (FKCC)

**Our Lady of Guadalupe & "La Fiesta"**

We will celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Mass, **next Sunday, December 12**, with a re-enactment of the story of Juan Diego and Our Lady. After Mass, we'll continue the celebration in the Fr. Jack Kern Community Center with a taco lunch. Be sure to come!



**The Sacrament of Reconciliation**

We invite you to prepare your heart to welcome the new-born Savior by receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The sacrament will be offered **Wednesday, December 15, at 9 am** at St. Sebastian and **Saturday, December 18, at 9 am** at St. Catherine.

**Christmas Mass Schedule**

Christmas Eve Mass will be at **4 pm**.  
 Christmas Day Mass will be at **10 am**.

<b>Regular Contributions thru 11/18/21 - Week 22</b>	\$65,464
Prior YTD Amount	<u>67,980</u>
<b>Surplus/Deficit vs. Prior Year</b>	\$ (2,516)

**Mass Intentions & Scripture Readings**

**Sunday, December 5 Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 am † Bonnie Dougherty (Lieb Family)  
 Bar 5:1-9/Ps 126:1-2-6/Phil 1:4-6, 8-11/Lk 3:1-6

**Monday, December 6 St. Nicholas**

8:30 am Mass at St. Sebastian  
 Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10-14/Lk 5:17-26

**Tuesday, December 7 St. Ambrose**

**5:00 pm** Immaculate Conception - Mass of Anticipation  
 † Elaine Long-Smith (Carol Sample)

**Wednesday, December 8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception**

8:20 am Mass at St. Sebastian  
 Gn 3:9-15, 20/Ps 98:1-4/Eph 1:3-6, 11-12/Lk 1:26-38

**Thursday, December 9 St. Juan Diego Cuauhtlatotzin**

Is 41:13-20/Ps 145:1 and 9-13ab/Mt 11:11-15

**Friday, December 10 Our Lady of Loreto**

8:30 am In Honor of Mary, Mother of All  
 Is 48:17-19/Ps 1:1-4 and 6/Mt 11:16-19

**Sunday, December 12 Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 am † Joey Badora & Marie Buhler (Julie Ristow)  
 Is 35:1-10/Ps 85:9ab and 10-14/Lk 5:17-26

**Liturgical Ministers**

**Sunday, December 5 - Fr. Larry**

Lectors Harold Beal & Tony Amoroso  
 Acolyte Bill Thorn

**Sunday, December 12 - Fr. Peter Patrick**

Lectors Brendan Holahan & Jessica Quintanilla  
 Acolyte Ron Ranallo

**Reflections on this Sunday's Readings**

How is it December? For me, time is flying by. Don't get me wrong, some days crawl at a snail's pace, but overall, time is moving fast. In addition to time slipping by, the stress of the pandemic continues to weigh on people. This combined with the news of the day with court trials and parade tragedies, most people have heavy hearts.

In today's reading from the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, we hear the familiar words of John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord." It is a good reminder for us to pause at the beginning of Advent and take a moment to reflect on where we are and where we have been. Without this intentionality, we might let this calendar year slip right by. Right now is a perfect time to calm our spirit and prepare for the coming Incarnation. John the Baptist reminds us that something big is coming. We are not moving forward as usual. It is time now to prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of the Messiah. Thank God for prophetic voices like those of John the Baptist that remind us to stop and pay attention. Without them, we might not notice the miracles around us.

- Who are the prophetic voices, like John the Baptist, in your life?
- How are you preparing your heart and mind for the coming Incarnation?
- How do you plan to make this season of Advent "different" from normal life?

Jon Metz

## Pray for Our Sick

Fr. Dick Aiken, Maryl Barrett, Michael Barton, Carol & Joe Brien, Tom Cavanaugh, Annie Coleman, Maureen Crowley, Barb Haig, Ernest Herre, Carla Jones, James Krutina, Evelyn Martinez, Carmen Napper, Bev Narus, Diane Neicheril, Steve O'Connell, Andréa Olds, Tom Plakut, David Pleskatcheck, 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

Marquette University has offered to take our 1st through 6th grade students on a shopping spree that offers each student \$200 to spend as they wish! A bus will be provided to take the students to Kohl's, Bayshore, on Sunday, December 12, from 10 am-12 pm. Members of the men's basketball team will walk with the students as they shop.

## Senior Ministry

The CDC estimates that 20% of elderly Americans are affected by mental health concerns. Depression and anxiety are the most common mental health concerns among older Americans. Focusing on gratitude for the good things that a senior has experienced in his/her life is a powerful way to counteract these issues. All can lighten the burden seniors may carry by reaching out with a phone call, a note, even better, a visit, reminding them of the blessings they have had in their lives.

## Sustainability Tip

With approximately \$75 billion spent on Christmas gifts, 1.9 billion cards sent, and 20.8 million Christmas trees cut in the U.S. alone, the impact of Christmas is immense. Whether it's a religious holiday for others or not, Christmas celebrations should have real meaning; celebrate that, and the holiday will remain eco-friendly. • Slow Down. Connect with the season. Connect with others. Simplify. More eco-friendly ideas this season at [sustainablebabysteps.com/green-Christmas.html](https://sustainablebabysteps.com/green-Christmas.html)

## Facing Racism

"If you love your community, then you need to be insisting on justice in all circumstances." - *Brian Stevenson*

## "Community"-The New Reflections of Faith Theme

As we prepare for the rebirth of Jesus in our lives, we may consider how Jesus has often been reborn through the communities that support us. How have your family, work, neighborhood and faith communities strengthened your connection to Jesus? Send articles to [secretary@saintcatherine.org](mailto:secretary@saintcatherine.org)

## Ever Wonder About Racial Bias?

Facing Racism invites all parishioners and friends from St. Catherine & St. Sebastian to an Advent reflection on this topic, based on the PBS program, *Black Nouveau, Implicit Bias*. Times and places: St. Sebastian, Dec. 12, 9:15 am or 4:30 pm.; St. Catherine, Dec. 19, 10:30 am. Watch: [pbs.org/video/black-nouveau-understanding-implicit-bias-czjpuv/](https://pbs.org/video/black-nouveau-understanding-implicit-bias-czjpuv/) RSVP: [pkennedy@stsebs.org](mailto:pkennedy@stsebs.org)

## Recovery Groups-All groups meet in the Community Ctr.

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

## Mass for the Feast of the Immaculate Conception

There will be a Mass of Anticipation here at St. Catherine for the holy day on **Tuesday, December 7, at 5 pm**. St. Sebastian's will celebrate the feast on Wednesday, December 8, at 8:20 am. This holy day, honoring Mary as the patroness of the United States, is celebrated on the actual date rather than on the Sundays closest to their liturgical dates.

## Support the Soles Walk for Our School

Last week, you found a flyer in the bulletin urging you to donate funds to enhance the education of the children in our school if you have not done so already. All the funds raised stay in our school and are greatly appreciated. Fr. Jack often said, "We educate our neighborhood children, not because they are Catholic, but because we are Catholic."

## Pledge Your Support of our Parish

On Sunday James Napper witnessed why he shares his life with this parish. Thanks, James! Thirty-one people have turned in their pledge commitment cards. That's about one-seventh of all parishioners. This simple action shows your commitment to this faith community. Whether you help with projects, come for liturgy, serve on a committee or participate in a service ministry, this is the time to renew your pledge to this Church for 2022. Your response helps us plan for the coming year.

## Alpha - a Gift of Growing in Faith

Forty parishioners from both St. Catherine and St. Sebastian just completed the 10-week Alpha Course. It was a wonderful experience for all who participated to build community and explore their own discipleship. Topics for the sessions included: Who is Jesus? How do I pray? How does the Holy Spirit work? What about the Church? Every week the group would come together and share a meal before watching a video and having group discussions. A new cohort will begin next fall. Please consider joining this faith-enriching experience!

## Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to donate for poinsettias and other decorations to beautify our church during this Christmas season, in honor or in memory of people, please see the form enclosed with the bulletin or available in the office. Thank you.

## Church Cleaning

Join "Martha's Cleaning Crew" on **Thursday, December 16**, at 9 am to put the final touches on cleaning our church! Bring a pail and some rags and enter at the rectory. (We welcome any who can assist in heavy lifting!)

**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 & W

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 at 445-5115 for an appointment.

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