



# ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

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School Office: 414-453-5830

Email: [stsebschool@archmil.org](mailto:stsebschool@archmil.org)

Fax: 414-453-9449

Ms. Grams, Principal

Website: [school.saintsebastianonline.net](http://school.saintsebastianonline.net)



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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

I apologize for the lengthy opening message this week, but there was much to communicate!

This past Monday our nation takes pause to commemorate the life and life's work of the late Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In speaking with students this week, one child informed me that her grandmother actually marched with Dr. King! Our Tuesday morning prayer began listening to a portion Dr. King's powerful message in his August 28, 1963 public speech, "*I Have a Dream.*" Delivered during the March on Washington and centered on jobs and freedom, Dr./Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. called for an end to racism, as well as a prioritization of civil and economic rights.

Reading over and listening to the words of Dr. King, I am always taken by how strong of a faith he must have had, as it was at the center of every message. Whether he spoke out boldly against injustices or boldly proclaimed the rights every person born of the same God deserves, he still reminds this nation to this day of the teachings of Christ, where Love must overpower hatred, Good overpowers evil, and Right must overpower wrong. His proclamation that, "*I have decided to stick with love. Hate is too great a burden to bear*" could not possibly have come from an individual not firmly rooted and formed in his faith, for it is both radical thinking in disposition when one is at the center of persecution, learned from the master, Jesus Christ, no doubt.

As parents, are we doing the same to raise up a generation of children where they could stand to say the same? Can we say this ourselves as adults? Is faith at the forefront of the education we provide our children in our homes and our school? Do we choose a faith-based school simply because it is safe, convenient, we like the community, and/or it has strong academics?...while fall short in prioritizing the foundation of faith together, when children are both within and outside of the school walls?

(over)

Our faculty gathered on Monday at Marquette University High School for a midyear retreat, led by my friend, Fr. Michael Vannicola. Our focus was *Encountering Jesus in the Gospels* as a personal invitation to delve deeper into relationship with Christ. Fr. Michael stressed the significance of bringing our children up in the faith we profess. Whether our families are Catholic, Christian, or even a faith other than Christian, Fr. Michael stressed that "to not provide your child the gift and foundation of faith, as well as opportunities therein to grow spiritually, is a grave matter to deprive them of." As we commit to providing our students with a high-quality academic foundation, a loving community, and a safe environment, so too must we hold one another accountable in the children's spiritual formation as parents outside of the school day. This is imperative. If you have yet to invest yourself in a faith community to worship at outside of school hours, today is the day and now is the time. Your children will thank you someday - as perhaps also will your community, our nation, and even the world - when we challenge, teach, motivate, and inspire as Alberta Williams King and Martin Luther King Sr. surely did themselves, empowering their child with the gifts of faith, knowledge, and courage.

*Use me, God. Show me how to take who I am, who I want to be, and what I can do, and use it for a purpose greater than myself.*

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

This Friday, we also celebrate the life and work of our patron saint, St. Sebastian, on his feast day – January 20th. Our students and staff will participate in an all-school activity where we reflect on what it means to have *courage* as St. Sebastian did – an individual who was believed to have died for his faith after being shot by arrows, survived, and eventually killed again! We will have an assembly towards the end of the day, as well as an activity we work on together in buddies, focusing on how we grow in our courage, as well as help others in theirs. Home & School generously supplied us with “Tiny Saints” keychains of St. Sebastian, all of which Fr. Larry blessed at our school mass today. Those will be given to the children on Friday as well, along with a treat to celebrate.

Lastly, you’ll see information next week on specifics of Catholic Schools Week, celebrated at the end of the month and beginning with Registration and Open House on Sunday, January 29<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-12:00. We look forward to seeing you all there. Please consider joining us for “Bring Your Parent (or Guest) to Church” on that Wednesday of Catholic Schools Week, February 1<sup>st</sup> at 8:15am. We know not everyone will be able to join us, but hope to see as many as can attend! The children will love to have you sit with them to celebrate.

Thank you for your commitment to Catholic education, our children, and our community.

God bless you,  
Ms. Grams

**OPEN HOUSE & REGISTRATION** - Please refer to the attached flyer for details

**ST. SEBASTIAN FEAST DAY** - This Friday, January 20th, we celebrate the feast of St. Sebastian. Students may wear any St. Sebastian spirit wear they would like to celebrate the day, with jeans, pants or uniform bottoms (no leggings unless bums are covered by tops, as a reminder).

**DISPLAY CASES** - If you are aware of any display cases at your businesses, where they may be getting rid of them, please let Ms. Grams know, as we would like to use more to showcase student work. Thank you!

**"BRING YOUR PARENT TO CHURCH" DAY!** - Instead of "Bring your child to work day," please consider joining us on Wednesday morning of Catholic Schools Week (February 1st) for our all-school mass, where children invite their parents to our community mass. The service begins at 8:15am and you can sit with your child as we celebrate our great school, children, and community, centered in our faith.

**THANK YOU** - Cub Scouts Pack 231, led by Dave Blanchard, did a great job in the Church on Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. They removed the old 2016 Music Missals, and installed the new 2017 Music Missals. This is no easy task and we appreciate their volunteering to help the Department of Liturgy and Music at Saint Sebastian. The next time you pick up your Music Missal in Church, think of the generosity and team spirit of Cub Scouts Pack 231!

**CHILDREN'S CHOIR** - WELCOME BACK! Children in grades 2-5 are welcome to join (re-join!) the children's choir which sings approximately every other Wednesday for the all-school mass. New members are also welcome. The choir rehearses approximately every Tuesday in the church from 3:00pm to 3:30pm. There are NO auditions – all are welcome. We sing fun music and learn about church and God and each other! Come and sing with us! Our first rehearsal this semester will be on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. There is no need to pre-register. Contact Mr. Kamenski 453-1928 / [mkamenski@saintsebs.org](mailto:mkamenski@saintsebs.org) (for questions)

**3<sup>RD</sup> GRADE PARENTS** – Save the date! The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade parents will be working the February 3<sup>rd</sup> fish fry next month. Mark your calendars.

**FATHER/VIP – DAUGHTER DANCE** - Good news! **We have extended the deadline to register for the Father/VIP-Daughter Dinner Dance to Thursday, Jan. 19th (tomorrow.)** This year's dance is Saturday, Jan. 28th in the church hall. The theme is "A Night in Hollywood!" All Girls Scouts should RSVP and pay the fee to their troop leader. Non-Scouts should return the registration form that was sent home (it was also attached to the weekly newsletter.) Mark envelope clearly, include the fee, and deliver to the Main Office. Cost is \$10 per attendee.

Questions? Email Lisa Metz at [LMetz74@gmail.com](mailto:LMetz74@gmail.com). ALL ST. SEBASTIAN AND ST. COLETTA GIRLS ARE INVITED! It's going to be a very special night... dinner, dancing, dessert, photo booth, and lots of Hollywood glamour!! Girls and dads/VIPs are encouraged to wear their red carpet best or dress as their favorite Hollywood duo.

**READERS ARE LEADERS UPDATE:** **Read N Quiz** Students in grades 1<sup>st</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> are encouraged to read for pleasure and take reading comprehension quizzes using the Read n Quiz reading incentive program. After successfully passing quizzes, students earn points. Congratulations to these students for earning the following points! Keep reading!!!!

**5+POINTS**

Beatriz Hatten

Caleb Van Beek

**10+ POINTS**

Cate Mills

Denali Schoonover

Oliver Rebholz

**ROSIE READER** - Congratulations to the following students for their progress on the Rosie Reader program:

Completing the letter "E" in R-E-A-D-I-N-G:

K4 - Henry May

Completing the letter "A" in R-E-A-D-I-N-G:

K4 - Clara Mayek and Cora Hatten and Marcos Rivera

K5 - Eleanor Hegerty

Keep up the good work!