



# ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

November 23, 2016

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

A very Happy Thanksgiving to you! As I was considering this week's newsletter focus, it was tempting to simply consider what we are thankful for. However, I am also very much aware that there are times, years, and even seasons in life when it can feel a challenge to have a grateful heart amidst our many challenges, sufferings, and struggles as humans. For some, the holidays are a time of joyous celebrations, as expected loved ones are gathered, food is plentiful, and circumstances ideal. For others, the holidays can also, however, carry a heavy feeling attributed to a loss we have experienced, loved ones may be missing for a variety of reasons, we are experiencing financial hardship, or the circumstances are simply not what we would have hoped for. What I can attest to, and trust many in our community can relate, is that no matter the circumstance, it is the gift of faith that can sustain us, trusting that whatever our situations, our Lord sees and blesses it all.

On the drive in to school this morning, the song "Blessed Be Your Name" came on the radio, further highlighting this point. The lyrics span the spectrum of our human reality, blessing the Lord's name "When the sun is shining down on me (and) the world is all as it should be" to "On the road marked with suffering, though there's pain in the offering". As pilgrim people on a journey, it can feel "wrong" to celebrate our great blessings, as well as "wrong" to share our personal sufferings.

As a community, I pray we always look for ways to lift each other up during the high and low seasons of life - and everything in between - recognizing God's sovereignty and we entrust ourselves to his care. Let us challenge ourselves and our children, then, to find one single moment this weekend where, as the song concludes, "My heart will choose to say, Blessed be Your name, Lord" in thanksgiving, knowing our God is there.

God bless you,  
Ms. Grams

**OUT OF UNIFORM DAYS TO CELEBRATE!** -

On Wednesday, Nov 30th, all are invited to dress UP for our mass day in the symbolic color of PURPLE as we begin the holy season of Advent this Sunday. No jeans, please. Purple should be evident and obvious. Students may also wear their uniforms, if preferred, as the alternative.

On Friday, December 2nd, students are welcome to a dress-down day to celebrate all of the food we collected for Thanksgiving baskets, raising over \$4,000 for World Hunger Day, and returning report card envelopes at the conclusion of quarter 1. Thank you to Ms. Rick for coordinating World Hunger Day, and for all of YOU for bringing in items for our baskets!

**CELEBRATING THE HOPE OF ADVENT** - Monday, November 28th - Saint Sebastian Church Hall from 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Everyone (adult and children, families and singles) is encouraged to begin the Advent Season with an evening of HOPE. Our evening will include a light dinner and deserts, activities for adults and children, and lessons of hope found in the Saints and our journey toward Christmas.

**FUN DAY OUT FOR PARENTS** – As an Advent activity, on December 13, 1-5 p.m. St. Sebastian high school and middle school Youth Ministry students are providing child care and activities for parish children ages 3 – grade 5 in the Church Hall. It's a great way for parents to enjoy an afternoon out! Suggested donation is \$1 per child, plus personal care items (soap, shampoo, toothpaste or other goods) for homeless people served by Milwaukee Hope House. Go to <http://bit.ly/2016SebsAdv> to register. We'll send an email to confirm.

**ROOT BEER FLOAT PARTY** – The list of students who will be participating in the root beer float party is attached to today's newsletter. This was one of the prizes that could be earned through the magazine sale. If you have any questions, please email Colleen at [cfitz@mcw.edu](mailto:cfitz@mcw.edu)

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

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

K4 - Ruby Foster, Grace Mahn

K5 - Kellen Gifford, Rhialyn Alston, Margot Rexroat and Roman Zielinski

Keep up the good work!

**THANK YOU FOR FOOD CONTRIBUTIONS** - Thank you for all the contributions to the House of Peace Thanksgiving Meal boxes. Sandra McCabe had the opportunity to help distribute them Tuesday. They were received with such wonderful smiles and appreciation. We are reminded that Thanksgiving has two elements - gratitude and giving. Happy Thanksgiving.

**THANK YOU FROM ST. COLETTA** - THE St.Coletta students would like to tell you their good news: they had a great ColettaScope Auction! They want to say THANK YOU to everyone who donated their time, and talent, and treasure into putting the event together. They want to say, WE APPRECIATE YOU for coming and spending the evening with us. They want to add THEY ARE GRATEFUL to those who joined us for the first time and want to extend an invitation that everyone join them next year. ColettaScope was a success in so many ways, and it couldn't have happened without your support, Thank you!

**THANK YOU FROM THE LIBRARY** - If you helped set up the book fair, give yourself a pat on the back. If you filled out your wish list and browsed some new reading choices, give yourself a high five. If you stopped by to shop, and found just what you were looking for, give yourself a gold star next to your name. If you were so kind and donated to the library in any way, please, accept our thanks.

**ATTENTION ALL MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS** – There will be an informational meeting for all middle school students AND their parents that are interested in joining our award winning forensic team on Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 – 8:00 PM in the church hall.

The forensic program and categories will be explained and most importantly, schedules of tournaments will be handed out. If you have basketball practice conflicts, please make sure to send a parent in your place to pick up materials and to get you registered. Rehearsals start in January, so you need to start looking for your program now in December. See you on December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**PLAN AHEAD FOR SCRIP CARDS** - If you plan to give or use Scrip gift cards this Christmas, please place your order soon. Some stores we have on hand, and some need to be ordered for you. We have a large variety to choose from – there is something for everyone on your list!

**HOLIDAY LIGHT RECYCLING DRIVE** – St. Sebastian high school Youth Ministry students will collect your burned-out strings of lights, old extension cords, power cables and anything made of copper. Watch for colorful holiday boxes at church and school entrances through January 21. Questions? Contact Barb Haig - [bhaig@haigjackson.com](mailto:bhaig@haigjackson.com) or 414-257-3853.

**REFUSE, REDUCE, REUSE, AND RECYCLE** - Starting with replacing your use of plastic bags with durable reusable ones. The Sustainability Team is collecting plastic bags through the month of November at the south end of the Gathering Space; depending on their material and type gathered bags will be given to the St. Catherine Food Pantry for bagging food, the Cathedral Squared project for stripping and weaving into mats for the homeless, and drop off sites specific to plastic bag recycling. Read further on the issue of plastic bags at <http://www.onegreenplanet.org/animalsandnature/plastic-bags-short-term-convenience-vs-long-term-sustainability/>

PLEASE CONTINUE TO SCROLL TO PAGES 4 & 5

**Country Springs Waterpark passes. Order now through November 30th for an early December delivery date. Only \$12.50 per pass. (Remember “spectator” passes are only \$5 at the door so if you are not swimming, you don’t need to buy a waterpark pass.) Blackout dates are as follows: 12/26/16 - 1/3/17 and 4/8 - 4/32/17. Passes are also not allowed on Saturdays.**

**Make checks payable to St. Sebs Home and School, return to school office or use backpack mail attn: Leah Sealey. Extra order forms in the school office or use form below.**

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**2016/17 COUNTRY SPRINGS WATER PARK PASSES**

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Mail Carrier Room # \_\_\_\_\_

or Homeroom Teacher Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number of passes \_\_\_\_\_ x \$12.50 = \_\_\_\_\_

Write your check payable to St. Sebastian Home and School

Return via office or backpack mail BEFORE NOV 30th, Attn: Leah Sealey

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**CITY TINS** - City Tins have arrived. Please see attachments with all the details on our newest fundraiser. These make wonderful gifts and allow everyone to enjoy local restaurants, theatre, and brew pubs. Please order with the attached order form or order directly with Gloria Rios at [Gloria\\_rios@yahoo.com](mailto:Gloria_rios@yahoo.com). Please make all checks payable to St. Sebastian Home and School.

Tins will be on display in the school office so you can check them out.

Order now through December 10<sup>th</sup> or until they are gone – quantities are limited! Each Tin is \$30. Each tin houses 20 or more coasters, each worth \$10 off your tab at 20 iconic, locally owned venues. It is a \$200 value in every clever little tin for only \$30. These make the perfect Christmas gifts.

Tins are available for immediate delivery. Please use the attached order form or contact Gloria Rios at [Gloria\\_rios@yahoo.com](mailto:Gloria_rios@yahoo.com).

Make checks payable to St. Sebastian's Home and School. Return your order form to the office or use backpack mail attn: Steven Rios, Room 210.

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City Tins

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Carrier Room Number or Homeroom Teacher Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Tins Available for Immediate Delivery:

Milwaukee Restaurant Edition \_\_\_\_\_

Milwaukee Bar and Lounge Edition \_\_\_\_\_

Milwaukee Performing Arts Edition \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate which tin or tins you would like to order.

Other tins may be ordered and will be delivered.

Please make check out to St. Sebastian Home and School.