



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

December 7, 2016

School Office: 414-453-5830

Email: stsebschool@archmil.org

Fax: 414-453-9449

Ms. Grams, Principal

Website: school.saintsebastianonline.net



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Dear St. Sebastian families,

What a wonderful experience it was to witness my first Christmas concert last evening! The children did an amazing job sharing their gifts with our community! Just sitting back and listening to the variety in our students' strong, yet innocent voices is a powerful testament to the goodness of our Lord. For me, and no doubt many others, our children served as the voice of God, particularly throughout our finale, when in one voice our their hearts proclaimed, "*Let there be - Peace - on earth!*" Amen!

As we are half way through our second week of Advent, I was fortunate to come across a beautiful reflection written by a mother whose child is in the throws of battling cancer. She titled it, "*A Cross Stitch Perspective*" and shares, "*Someone once told me that life was like a cross stitch picture. That the happenings of our life were the series of stitches, crisscrossed thread and knots - basically, the complete mess that is the back of the canvas. She told me that only from heaven would we be able to see the front of the canvas. That only then would we see the beauty that each tiny stitch and knot had contributed to.*"

As we continue through Advent, journeying towards the birth of our Savior, like the back of a canvas, we find both smooth and rough spots. The mother goes on to say that if we only look at one side of the canvas, life can feel like one big knot. In the end, however, she believes "*we will see the finished product - a pulling together of all threads to make something beautiful.*"

May you - we - keep moving through those "knots" in our lives this Advent season, towards Christmas morning when, like our finale last night, as well as the front of a canvas, we see the innocent beauty of God's spectacular promise to our world fulfilled in the face of Christ Jesus.

God bless you,
Ms. Grams

MASS TOMORROW – Please join our worship community at 8:15 mass tomorrow, December 8th, as we celebrate the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation.

OVERDUE THANK YOU – Thank you to the first grade parents and to the Barrett family for providing dinner for the school staff during parent-teacher conferences. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

DECEMBER LUNCHTIME VOLUNTEERS - If you are able to help out with lunchroom or playground supervision this month, please press Ctrl & Click on this Sign-up Genius link. Any help you can give is greatly appreciated. <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090a4da4ad2faaf85-december>

ADVENT PEACE AND RECONCILIATION - Advent is the Church's way to tell us to slow down, to take stock of our lives, and to prepare our hearts and lives so that Jesus can fully enter and transform us. We are given the magnificent gift of peace and reconciliation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; a way to restore relations with our neighbor, our God, and ourselves. In the coming week there are two opportunities to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation with the community: **Wednesday, December 7th beginning at 6:30 pm in Saint Sebastian Church and Saturday, December 10th beginning at 9:30 am in Saint Catherine Church.** Join us for an hour, take time to reflect, and make peace!

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH THE MENOMONEE FALLS SYMPHONY - Rosie Villa and her dad Jesus Villa will join the Menomonee Falls Symphony in a special Christmas concert entitled “Christmas at the Movies”.

Conducted by Mike Kamenski, the concert will present holiday favorites featured in famous adult and children movies including Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer, White Christmas, A Charlie Brown Christmas, the Polar Express and many more. The Villas will be singing “Silent Night” as the true story of soldiers in battle who stopped to sing “Silent Night” during Christmas is recounted. This story is portrayed in the great movie *Joyeux Noel* (for adult audiences, due to some war scenes). The concert is Sunday, December 11 at 1:00pm at the Hamilton Fine Arts Center in Sussex (near Silver Spring Country Club). Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$6 for students.

ADVENT FUN DAY OUT FOR PARENTS – December 11, 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.

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 or 414-257-3853.

CHRISTMAS SCRIP ORDERS – Orders must be turned into the school office by December 9th to assure delivery in time for Christmas. See the attached order form.

CHURCH PEWS GLISTEN - A big “Thank You” to our Boy Scout Troop # 31 and leaders. On Monday, November 28th, they oiled and buffed the pews. Our worship environment shines in anticipation of the Christmas Season.

MAGAZINE SALE - VIP packets are in the office and will need to be picked up by parents. In addition, tuition rewards certificates are in the office. Tuition rewards is a program that rewards online sales. Students who sold at least \$100 receive a \$1000 tuition reward for participating colleges. Students who sold at least \$250 receive a \$2500 reward.

Students who have a Tuition reward include the following.

Reed Burzynski	Claire Nistler	Grace Welak	Angelo D'Amico	Norah Rochford
Samantha Summerfield	Henry Bresser	Harper Fortman	Philip Gutter	Michael Whitney
Mitchell Gadzichowski	Simone Steeno	Levi Keiser	Brady PortierBrown	Evan Gutter
Zena Jiardini	Micah Keiser	Lydia Pruhs	Katie Knapp	Ben Kayser
Angelina Paulos	Jocelyn Suminski	Henry Desch	Nate Metz	Jonathon Sawyer
Margot Rexroat	Graeme Sanders	Maia Kerry	Clare Bradway	Angelina Paulos
Cate Mills	Jordyn Kerry	Olive Foster	J Sullivan Terry	Grace Mahn
Soloman Koppa	Oliver Rebholz	Caroline Grams	Ayden Mathews	Annalise Houston
Anna Lichucki	Rayven Dodd	Finn Fitzpatrick	Jack MCord	Serafina Stephenson
Thalia Santos	Mylin Engelmann	Samantha Aliota	Chloe Stieghorst	Ryan Mahn
Josephine Pruhs	Cairin O'Neil	Samuel Rebholz	Cooper Rowen	Gianna Houston
Zachary Klarer				

REMEMBER:

gaschoolstore.com can continue to take our orders all year long and there are many gifts, jewelry, kitchen items, wrapping paper for your Christmas and holiday needs. Just use our school code 2535623 and we will receive 40% of the proceeds of the sale. No prizes are awarded outside of the fall fundraising event. Thank you to all who participated in any way to make this sale a success.

YAC CONCESSION STAND VOLUNTEER NEEDED - The Youth Athletic Committee is looking for a volunteer to take on the duties of Concession Coordinator, for which the goal would be to transition the role the new volunteer sometime this basketball season. Concessions and admissions for games hosted at St. Sebastian are an important revenue source for the sports programs.

The volunteer duties for the Concession Coordinator are not super intricate, and involve 1-2 hours of commitment per week during the sports seasons (September, October, 1st 3 weeks of December, January and February). The Concession Coordinator more or less purchases the concession stock, keeps their receipts and then submits them to the YAC treasurer for reimbursement every month or so.

Anyone interested in filling this vital role can contact Katie or Derik Summerfield at katieandderik@att.net.

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

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

K4 -Clara Mayek

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

K4 -Cora Hatten

K5 - Harper Fortmann

Keep up the good work!

ATTENTION BASKETBALL FAMILIES -The snackstand schedule for the basketball season is attached to this week's newsletter. Please review it to see your assignment. If you must make a switch you will need to find your own replacement. Any questions, please email Jenny Lichucki at jlchucki1@att.net or Kelly Cochran at kcochrane@wi.rr.com. Thank you for your service!

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CHOIR - We are again forming a children's choir (as we do each year) to sing at the Family Christmas Mass on December 24, 4:00pm. All children from St. Sebastian parish grades 2-5 are welcome to join. There will be two rehearsals: 1) Tuesday, Dec 20, 3:00-4:30p and 2) Friday, Dec 23 9:30-11:00a. Both rehearsals will be in the church and will start and end promptly. If your child can't come on 12/20 immediately at 3:00p, please simply let me know; that is OK (some schools excuse at different times). Please e-mail mkamenski@saintsebs.org to register your child(ren) for the choir. We will then sing 12/24 at 4pm mass.

AFTER SCHOOL CHESS CLUB - Chess Club will be held every Thursday from 3:00 until 4:15 through the end of April. Students in grades 1-8 are welcome even if you don't know how to play chess. Students should bring a simple snack to eat in the cafeteria after school. Dues will be \$5 for the year and registration forms will be available at the first meeting.

If you did not make it to the Parent Information Meeting on December 1st, it will be repeated on December 8th in the Art Room from 4:15 - 4:30 pm. Please join us to learn about our plans for the year including the need for parent volunteers, upcoming off-site tournaments and more.

Please contact Jeff Klarer at (414) 339-8887 or jklarer@hotmail.com if you have any questions.

HOLLY BERRY GOLD BOUTIQUE - A huge "Thank You" to everyone who participated in any way in the 50th annual Christmas Boutique & St. Nicholas Breakfast. Special thanks to 2016 Boutique co-chairs Sue Olson and JoAnn Stasiewicz who worked diligently to make this milestone Boutique memorable. We are grateful for all Boutique chairs over the past 50 years who have given so generously of their time and talent and also for the many people who work so hard to make this event a huge success year after year.

GOOD NEIGHBORS NEEDED - Older adults in *your* neighborhood are looking for a little help. They might need a ride, help with shopping or someone to change a light bulb. Maybe they need someone to ease their loneliness. Basically they need the kinds of things that neighbors do for one another. We are also looking for folks to help bake, sort and deliver cookies to our elders during the week before Christmas. Middle School students might want to bake and sort cookies for service hours.

If you are looking for meaningful ways to help others and improve the quality of life for our neighborhood seniors, call Greater Tosa Interfaith and find out how satisfying it is to be a volunteer. Please contact Amy Dedow of Greater Tosa Interfaith at 414/453-5750