



ST. SEBASTIAN SCHOOL

Celebrating Over 100 Years of Catholic Education

March 8, 2017

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Dear St. Sebastian Families,

I pray your time of retreat this Lent is going well for you individually, as well as within your family. It is not too late to dive in if you have found yourself unsure of when to begin!

For some time now, I have been carrying around two beautiful little plastic "jewels" in my coat pocket, one a bright green and the other a lovely purple. I think of the student who gave them to me and the symbolic meaning I have connected to them each day when I reach to grab my keys or warm my hands. At one of the first Seb's Fish Frys this year, one of our first graders came up to me with a "treasure box" and smile almost wider than her sweet little face could hold, asking me to "take any jewels you want!" I was surprised by such a generous offering from a little one, looking to give away treasure rather than store it up, and by her expression of sheer JOY to know she was making her recipients' hearts happy. I asked her mother where she got this treasure box from, which looked "legit," constructed of brown wood with leather straps on the outside, while inside piled high with plastic gold coins and an assortment of these colorful jewels. Her mom shared it was what she asked Santa for, "a treasure box full of treasure," simply so she could give it away. I was so moved by this child's generosity in asking Santa for something she could essentially give away, and of course, her joy in wanting to make others happy with this "treasure". I have kept the jewels in my pocket to remind me to have a similar heart, generous in offering all of the "treasures" God has given to me to share with others.

This example also reminds me of Lent, actually. In our journey of 40 days we are called to either "give up" or sacrifice something, or perhaps prioritize an aspect of our life in a way that will bring us closer to God, unlike that of a self-driven New Year's resolution. I recently heard an interview of a theologian who stated, "If you want to know what you should give up or do for Lent, ask someone else to choose it for you. You'll be forced to be more real with yourself of what you need to do." What a novel concept! So, I took this advice and asked my 8 year old what I should give up! Her first response was an emphatic, "MEETINGS!", followed by the simply advice that I should "be less busy." What I knew was at the root of these suggestions was good for both she and I, as I knew she was ultimately asking for more time together. Surely God wants us to strive to prioritize our families and loved ones amidst the busyness of work and life, so yes, this became an important Lenten goal for me to be "less busy" and more present.

In connecting the two stories, I pray that whatever you have chosen to focus on this Lent brings you not only closer to our Lord, but also true JOY in your heart; for to encounter God is to encounter one's truest and joyful self.

God bless you,
Ms. Grams

EARLY DISMISSAL FRIDAY – This Friday, March 10th, school will dismiss at 11:30. Our teachers will be attending an inservice at another site in the afternoon.

THANK YOU, 3RD GRADE PARENTS! - A special thank you to our 3rd grade parents who contributed a wonderful meal to our teachers during spring conferences! It was delicious and clearly a community gift from the hearts of many. A special thanks to Lisa Metz and Kelly Cochrane for their time in preparing and hosting the meal.

YAC VOLLEYBALL: MAY DEADLINE - Parents, if your children, entering 5th – 8th grade next fall, are interested in playing Volleyball next fall, please make sure you register them before the May 30 deadline. Registration forms are available online at <http://bit.ly/SebsYAC> or in the St. Sebastian school office. Payment should be by check or money order. Be sure to get the Sport Physical sheet, too - it's good for two years, and you'll need to have your child's doctor complete it. Anyone interested in being a coach or assistant coach can contact Diana Kokalis at sdk1998@yahoo.com or 414-265-6513.

PICTURE THIS!! - The year book committee is looking for any candid shots of single or groups of students from any school activity. Maybe you went to the pumpkin farm or another field trip and have the perfect smiling face or went to a sporting event and caught a snap shot of the winning shot. We would really like to put them in the pages of the 2016-17 year book. Please send the picture(s) to Mrs. Hartley or put them in her school mail box. Her email is hartleyk@saintsebs.com. Thanks for sharing the smiles.

AUDITIONS FOR CANTORS AT ALL-SCHOOL MASSES - Students interested in canting at all-school masses are asked to come for a brief audition in church during their lunch as follows:

Wednesday, March 15	11:00 – 11:25	5 grade (in church)
Thursday, March 16	11:05 – 11:25	6 th grade (in church)
Thursday, March 16	11:25 – 11:45	7 th and 8 th grades (in church)

Please contact Mr. Kamenski 414-453-1928 if you have any questions.

NEW SERVER TRAINING - Children in grades 5 and above who would like to learn to serve mass (and have not yet been trained) are invited to attend one of the following training sessions to be held in the church: Friday, March 17, 3:00-4:30pm or Saturday, March 18, 1:00-2:30pm – both in the church. Please e-mail Michael Kamenski at mkamenski@saintsebs.org to indicate your preference. If these times do not work, please indicate that as well so an additional session may be scheduled. You may also call 453-1928.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: YAC SPORTS AWARDS NIGHT -

- Wednesday, APRIL 5th 7:00pm in the Church Hall.

Students in grades 5-8 who participated in St Sebastian volleyball or basketball this schoolyear will be recognized at the 2016-17 YAC Sports Awards Night! Coaches, parents and players are invited to attend this event in the Church Hall (sorry, no siblings).

For those unfamiliar with this event, first time athletes will receive a letter jacket 'S' and a pin for each sport played. Light refreshments will be served. Students in attendance are eligible to win fun raffle prizes!

REMINDER FROM THE OFFICE - If your child is sick or going to be absent from school for any reason, please call the office at 453-5830 to let us know. You can always leave a message if no one answers. Thank you!

CELEBRATE ST. PATRICK'S DAY – Join the Shamrock Club for a St. Patrick's Day celebration beginning with 8:30 mass at St. Patrick's Church, 723 N. Washington St. The annual parade starts at noon in downtown Milwaukee, followed by a post-parade at the Irish Cultural Historical Center at 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave. from 1:00 – 6:00.

On Friday, March 17th, students may dress down – all are invited to wear their festive green.

DSHA THEATRE - The DSHA Theatre Department presents a heartwarming portrayal of *A Piece of my Heart* by Shirley Lauro. This play tells the story of six extraordinary women before, during, and after their time serving in the Vietnam War.

Show dates and times:

- March 10 – 7 p.m.
- March 11 – 2 p.m. & 7 p.m.
- March 12 – 2 p.m.

In the Robert and Marie Hansen Fine Arts Theatre at Divine Savior Holy Angels High School.

Warning: This show might not be suitable for children under 10 year of age due to mature subject matter regarding the cruelty of war. Purchase tickets today at dsha.info/tickets. For more information, call 414-616-2813.

RECORD-BREAKING FISH FRY!! - Thank you to our regular volunteers, 1st grade families and EVERYONE who responded to our pleas for help for last Friday's fish fry. We set new sales record...\$10,295.89, which beats our previous record by about \$1,000! It truly was a great community building event for our school and parish!! Despite the 30+ minute wait to fulfill carry out orders and the long lines to secure a table, our customers were upbeat and positive. Thank you for all your work in making Friday night an enjoyable experience for all!

CARRY OUT ONLY FISH FRY MARCH 10 - Our first carry out only fish fry of the season is this Friday March 10. Please remember to tell your family, friends, neighbors and co-workers that they don't need to wait until April 7 to enjoy YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD FISH FRY. Thank you to our regular volunteers and the K5 families who have offered to help and/or bring a dessert. Please see the flyer in this week's newsletter with our list of volunteers. We still need help during the dinner shift and with dessert donations. Please email Lena Stephenson at roblena@sbcglobal.net if you can help.

SPRING SOCIAL - HOUSE PARTY 2017 - Only three days until the Sebs social event of the year . . . please join us this Saturday for a night out with your fellow parents and friends. As a school, as a parish, and as a community, we only flourish when we get to know each other. This event provides a lighthearted and fun opportunity for doing just that. Bring a friend, bring two friends, bring an entourage, just come to have fun with your friends and get to know your Sebs community better.

This classic basement party is from 7:30-11:30pm in the school cafeteria. Enjoy a variety of basement games, including darts, foosball, bags/cornhole, flip cup, and other classics. Live music from the band *Bright Lights, Big City* playing songs from the 80's and 90's. The cost for the event is \$25 for one person and \$40 for two people, which includes beer, wine, and light snacks (very light, like bag of Doritos light). Please make checks payable to St. Sebastian School and send them in to the office Attn: Molly Ambrose/House Party. You can also pay at the door. So grab a friend and come on out for a night of fun, drinks, and games and get to know your fellow parents. For questions please contact Molly Ambrose at mollyj26@hotmail.com. Please open the attachment for additional information.

