

Church of Saint Sebastian
February 17, 2019 - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

From Father Jordan, O.P.

My Dear Ones,

May the grace of Our Lord remain always with us!

At the Town Hall Meeting we discussed how to develop better patterns of communication. I need and want some feedback, some communication from you!

In this column I try to bring before you pertinent topics as well as information about the life of the Parish. Is this helpful to you? If it is helpful, can you tell me why; and, if not, why not? How about what I have been sharing with you in the Liturgy Toolbox section of the bulletin: helpful or not? Please don't hesitate to call me and set up an appointment or email me at: jordan.kelly@opeast.org.

I also have some questions about the efficacy of programs we are offering. Has anyone tried the live streaming at home for Credo, or as we call it here, Unfolding the Truth? What opportunities for faith formation and family life would be beneficial for you? Would a summer "Vacation Bible School" be appealing for your children? If so, when would be the best time during the summer to offer this program for your family? You can also talk about any of these questions with the members of the Parish Council whose names are listed in the bulletin.

This past week I visited both the Confirmation Class and the First Holy Communion Class. I was pleased to see how both classes are progressing. Parents remain the primary educators in the faith for their children. No Religious Education Program can replace what children see, live, and learn at home! *Family prayer, regular attendance at Mass, the primacy of God and faith in the lives of our young students are best learned from Mom and Dad.* I cannot impress upon you enough: children live and believe what they see in you, their Moms and Dads.

The contracts are signed for the Tower Project, and construction is set to begin as soon as possible after Easter. The work is planned to take 3 – 4 months.

Speaking of contracts, the Church is now being cleaned by Coverall Company. Coverall is the company that maintains the Rectory, so the addition of the Church was very easy. In addition to Coverall, Jack O'Reilly, a senior at PC is helping some other maintenance needs in the Church and Rectory. If you are trying to put a face to a name, Jack was the server last Sunday at the 11:00 Mass.

You will see that the bulletin is larger this week: a sign that there is plenty to discover here at Saint Sebastian. I hope you find these opportunities for prayer and community helpful. I do become concerned about the limited response. Again, this is where I need some communication with all of you!

On this Valentine's Day Weekend, I am especially mindful of all of you called to the vocation of marriage: I pray that God will fill you with every blessing as you live your call love one another in this particular way. There are nine couples preparing for marriage here at Saint Sebastian. Let's all pray for them, that as they prepare for this Sacrament and the commitment in entails, they may make Christ the source, center, and end of all they do!

Until we meet at the altar... *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee!*

In the Lord,

Fr. Jordan, OP

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK: Prayers are asked for our friends, family, fellow parishioners, and especially for *Helga Schrott, Robert Davis, Bee B., Fr. Luke Fletcher CFR, Ray Graham, Frank Dumont, and Elie Saroufim*. If you would like someone included in the Prayers for the Sick, please call the Church Rectory.

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WHAT IS A PARISH MISSION AND WHY ARE WE HAVING ONE?

The Annual Parish Mission was a staple of Catholic-Parish – Life for generations. In the Dominican Order we once had scores of Friars who were “on the Mission Band” going from parish to parish preaching parish missions. *A mission is a time to hit the pause button, and consider your relationship with God, self, and others.*

The Spiritual Life Committee of our Parish had planned a mission for Lent 2018, but a blizzard prevented it from taking place. Thanks to their efforts our “mini-mission” (a mission was usually 3 – 4 days) will take place on the first weekend of Lent. We are blessed to have Fr. Matthew Dougherty, O.Praem. coming to lead us! The schedule is:

When: Attend any of the weekend Masses as Father Matthew unveils the plan for the Best Lent Ever!

What else? Following the 11am Mass there will be Eucharistic Adoration; plan to spend some time with the Blessed Sacrament in quiet adoration.

At 3pm there will be a special session for children, while Father Matthew addresses adults.

4pm: Closing Vespers and Benediction with preaching that ties the day together.

5pm: *Pasta with Padres* – enjoy a homemade spaghetti dinner **prepared and served by the Padres!** \$5 per person; \$10 family. *(Sign Up Sheets can be found in the vestibule of the Church)*



GETTING READY FOR LENT

It is hard to believe that in just 2 weeks we will begin the Season of Lent: the Church’s annual retreat, and the time to prepare for Easter through the great works of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Many of our hallmark practices will be present this Lent:

Daily Mass at 7am and 5:30pm

Stations of the Cross following the 5:30pm Mass on Friday

A special dramatic presentation of the Stations followed by a fish – fry – dinner

Sandwiches **for Emmanuel House**

Toiletries for the Diocesan Refugee and Immigration Project

There are two things I would like to suggest as a parish wide Lenten practice; one offering a time for some extra prayer; the other, a wee bit of penance:

The conclusion of the 11am Mass each Sunday would begin a time for Eucharistic Adoration; Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament would be held at 4:30pm each Sunday.

During Lent, I would like to suggest that the bulletins not be given out until the end of Mass. Why? Good as we are, the temptation is just too great not to read them during Mass: let’s give the Lord our complete attention for an hour. *Please let me know what you think.*

Church of Saint Sebastian
Founded October 15, 1915

CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Many parishioners have already received letters from the Diocese of Providence requesting donations to their annual Catholic Charity Appeal.

To be sure that your generous contributions are properly credited to Saint Sebastian Parish in an effort to reach our parish goal, we ask that you do not mail your donation but instead place it in the collection basket at your convenience. We will properly credit your gift and forward it on to the Diocese. Thank you.

**MAKING SURE YOU GET THE DATE YOU WANT
AND A CONCERN**

There are pages upon pages in the Mass Intention Book that have no intentions. There is so much for which we need to pray, and there is no better prayer than the Mass!

I urge you to call the Rectory with your list of Masses for the year. We all know the dates that are milestones in our lives as they repeat each year. Call now and secure the dates you want well in advance! The requested stipend is \$25 per intention.

Beacon Hospice
1 Catamore Blvd, East Providence

Beacon Hospice is in need of volunteers in our area to spend time with terminally ill patients.

Our volunteers are a vital part of our team and provide friendly visits and companionship to patients at their bedside. We are also looking for knitters to make blankets.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Kristy Corbett, Volunteer Coordinator at 438-0008 or kristi.corbett@amedisys.com. Thank you for your consideration.

**PRAYING FOR OUR COUNTRY
AND THE GIFT OF LIFE**

The recent events in our country concerning abortion put our Catholic Faith and our Catholic - way - of - living in direct conflict with so many others. We are in tremendous need of God's help and mercy! Beginning with the weekend of February 23/24 I invite us to begin reciting the *Salve Regina* (Hail, Holy Queen) before the final blessing at each Mass. Please contact me with any questions or concerns. *Our Lady, Queen of Families, Pray for us!*

HOUSE BLESSING

It is an old and pious custom in our Church to bless our homes. This blessing asks for the safety and holiness of those who live in the house. As the priest blesses each room with holy water, he prays for those who live there. He "chalks" the main door with 20+C+M+B 19. The initials CMB stand for the names of the wisemen Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. These initials may also mean "Christus mansionem benedicat", *may Christ bless this house*. If you would like to have your home blessed, please contact Father Jordan at the Rectory.

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 30, 2019:
SACRAMENTAL FAMILY RETREAT

All families of First Communicants and those preparing for Confirmation are reminded about the Sacramental Family Retreat to be held on Saturday, March 30.

Won't You Join Us?

Sunday	2/17	Community Outreach Meeting	10:00 am	Church Hall
Monday	2/18	Presidents Day Morning Mass	9:00 am	Church
Tuesday	2/19	Prayer Shawl Meeting	7:00 pm	Fr. Randall Room
Wednesday	2/20	Bible Study	7:00 pm	Fr. Randall Room
Thursday	2/21	Women's Morning of Recollection	9:30 am	Church



Parish Lenten Mission: Having Your Best Lent Ever

Saturday March 9 and Sunday March 10

Join Father Matthew Dougherty, O. Praem.
as he provides a way to have the Best Lent
Ever!

When: Attend any of the weekend Masses to
learn about how to achieve your Best Lent



Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will follow the 11 am Mass

3:00: Why Should I Care About My Best Lent? Separate tracks for Adults
and Children – babysitting provided

4:00: Closing Vespers

5:00: Pasta with the Padres – Enjoy some community fellowship
and enjoy a home cooked Italian Dinner provided by
Padre Giordano “Kelly”?!?



LITURGY TOOL BOX

For the last several weeks, I have been sharing with you a good amount of scholarly information about the Liturgy, the celebration of Sunday, and Sacred Music. Today, I want to share with what the Church desires for Sacred Music today, and what I have found to be successful in fifty plus years as a Church Musician, and now as a priest.

The pillars of a successful music program are:

Beautiful

Near the conclusion of the historic pontificate of Pope Saint John Paul II and throughout the pontificate of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, the essential role of beauty in general, and specifically in regard to the Liturgy, especially Liturgical Music, has been rediscovered. Beauty is a clear sign of the presence of God. Beauty reflects the glory of God; and beauty invites us to a new and deeper encounter with God. Liturgical Music must be beautiful.

Artistic and not utilitarian

Music within the Liturgy serves no purpose other than the praise of God. A utilitarian approach impoverishes that beauty which is the very foundation of the liturgical act and leads us to a bored-banality that lacks artistry that impedes the lifting of one's mind and heart to God. When artistry is absent from the liturgical celebration, and especially from sacred music, it is similar to consuming food rather than dining; being given a choice of a delicious meal, and we choose fast food.

Faithful

Sacred Music must be faithful to its purpose, i.e. to lead us to God. This fidelity is also reflected in the manner that Liturgical Music receives from the Church what is to be sung: i.e., the texts of the Mass, the so-called Proper's, the Ordinary (Gloria, Holy, Holy, Mystery of Faith, Great Amen, and Lamb of God); in other words, we just don't sing the songs we like to sing. The Proper's feed us not with the word of men, as good and effective as we may receive these words, but with the excellence of the Word of the God – specifically the Psalms. This fidelity feeds our hearts with the richest of food and drink. In the words of Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI, fidelity preserves a culture of continuity, and not a hermeneutic of rupture." While Gregorian Chant has become unfamiliar to the postmodern ear, it is the Church's greatest treasury of music, and should not be abandoned or relegated to a concert hall. Gregorian Chant should find an appropriate place in our liturgical song.

Rooted in Ritual

The best Sacred Music is ritual music – that is, music we can sing by heart. Just as we know the words of Christmas Carols and our favorite songs by heart, Ritual Music is that music whose melodies and texts live within our hearts. Examples of this would be older hymns like Holy God, We Praise Thy Name; particular settings of the Alleluia, the Holy, Holy, etc. Why is Ritual Music important? Ritual can be defined as *the patterning of symbol to express a common meaning*. When this definition is applied to music, the congregation becomes a living symbol of the angels and saints who sing their endless song of praise before the Throne of God.



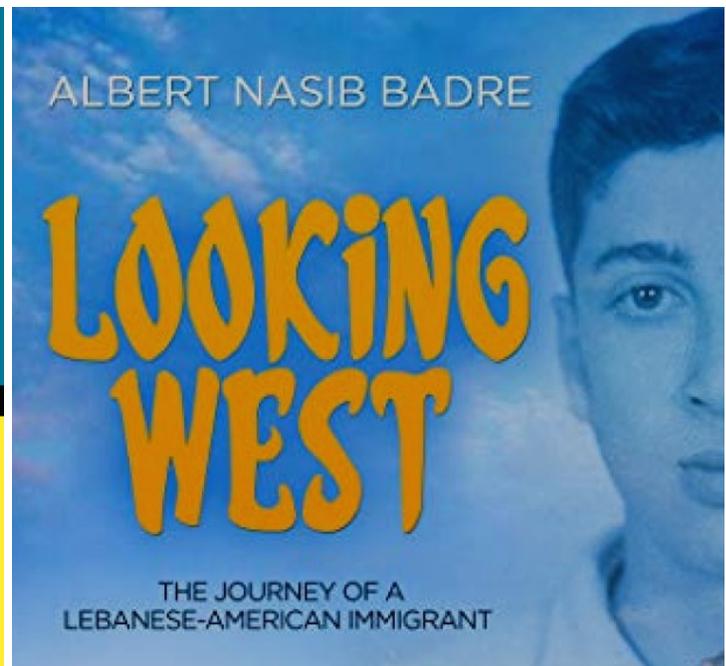
SAINT SEBASTIAN PARISH INVITES
YOU TO A MOVIE NIGHT FEATURING:

bella

"An international soccer star is on his way to sign a multimillion-dollar contract when a series of events unfold that bring his career to an abrupt end. A beautiful waitress, struggling to make it in New York City, discovers something about herself that she's unprepared for. In one irreversible moment, their lives are turned upside down... until a simple gesture of kindness brings them both together, turning an ordinary day to an unforgettable experience."

Saturday, March 9, 2019
Following the 5:00 PM Mass

Refreshment and food provided



ALBERT NASIB BADRE

LOOKING WEST

THE JOURNEY OF A
LEBANESE-AMERICAN IMMIGRANT

Congratulations to Saint Sebastian Parishioner
Al Badre on the publication of his new book!

"Looking West: The Journey of a Lebanese-American Immigrant" follows Al's physical journey from Lebanon to America and his spiritual journey from Islam to Catholicism.

"Looking West" is now available on Amazon and Good Reads as a digital book and will be released in print on February 19th.