

Church of St. Sebastian
March 13, 2011—First Sunday of Lent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, March 12, Vigil: First Sunday of Lent

5:00 pm Anne M. Daniels, 5th anniversary
 -requested by her husband Ralph

Sunday, March 13, First Sunday of Lent

9:00 am For the People
 11:00 am Anthony N. Patriarca, birthday remembrance
 -requested by his family

Monday, March 14, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Tuesday, March 15, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am George F. Johnson, 12th anniversary

Wednesday, March 16, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Thurs. March 17, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am A Special Intention

Friday, March 18, Lenten Weekday

7 am Robert Cook
 -requested by the Landry family

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, March 19, Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent

5:00 pm Catherine Corrente, month's mind
 -requested by Sean and Mary Brennan

Sunday, March 20, Second Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Mass
 11:00 am For the People

OUR LADY'S CANDLE

Our Lady's Candle burns this week as a 30th anniversary remembrance for Anthony Pacheco as requested by his wife Cornelia Pacheco.

THIS WEEK AT ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

Sun.	3/13	Coffee Hour	10:00 am
		NO CCD	
		Benediction and Lenten Teaching	6:00 pm
Mon.	3/14	NO CCD	
		Stations of the Cross	6:00 pm
Thurs	3/17	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm

THE PASTOR'S CORNER

Today's readings highlight the 'Fall' of Adam and Eve, and the temptation of Jesus in the desert. The effects of the former are ever present; the challenge of the latter needs further reflection.

The Hebrew writers of Genesis attempted to explain how we got into the human situation in which we find ourselves. The first sin was not simply eating the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge, but of gross pride: "You shall become like gods." The creatures wanted to become the Creator. The result ended in a cosmic 'time-out' for the entire human race. That is, until the time of Jesus. A reversal was needed; and one act of obedience to the Father cancelled debt of disobedience by the man and the woman.

The personification of the devil as a small homely creature, with pointy ears and a pitchfork tail are rather simplistic. The three-fold temptation of Christ is viewed spiritually as our conflict within: the craving for comfort and satisfaction, for commanding power, and for alluring wealth. No; the temptations are much more subtle, but extremely lethal.

Often times when listening to young (and not so young) adults, I hear the echoes of the temptations in this Gospel. When the inevitable pause comes in the conversation, I will offer the comment, "*Just remember one thing: the darkness takes no hostage!*" How many lives have been turned from glory to ashes before our very hearts and eyes.

These 40 Days provide the opportunity to ponder, to pray, and to pursue the offer of a new beginning in Christ. Notice that after Jesus made his decision in the desert, he was not alone. Angels came to minister to him. And that, dear parishioners, is exactly the point. In our Christian lives, we don't "go it alone." We go with our brothers and sisters oftentimes even to the cross. But the story does not simply end there; we continue on to glory in Him.

Make this Lent a time of reflection and quiet. You'll be amazed the miracles that you will encounter.

Enjoy the week,
 Msgr. Darcy

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ANNUAL LENTEN SANDWICH DRIVE IN MARCH:

The Outreach Committee is seeking volunteers for our annual sandwich drive to benefit Crossroads RI. Each Sunday in March we ask parishioners to make 10 hearty sandwiches and bring them to church before the 11 am Mass. An Outreach member will deliver them to Crossroads in time for lunch. Because soup kitchens are not open on Sundays, this may be the only meal of the day for the homeless men, women and children at Crossroads. Feel free to add fruit, chips, cookies or other snacks to your donation. Sign up sheets are in the vestibule with additional details. This is an excellent Lenten family project! CCD students will also be making sandwiches on one of the Sundays. Questions? Call Amy Mastalerz at 401-270-5684.

PARISH BOOK CLUB

The Parish Book Club meeting scheduled for March 30th has been cancelled. The next meeting will take place Wednesday, April 27th at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Randall Room. Book to be announced.

OFFICE OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

April 3, 2011 First Penance and Parish Lenten Penitential Service, 6 pm
 May 1, 2011 First Communion, 9:00 am
 May 7, 2011 Confirmation, 5:00 pm

Please keep our fellow parishioners and friends in your thoughts and prayers:

Paula, Kevin, Kelly, Anna Washington, BAW, Mary Doherty, CG, J.P. Gallagher, Hugh Taylor, Jackie, Maureen Baker, Rose Conboy, Jeff Cavanaugh, Steve, Michael Simonette, Willy, and Connie.

WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

	03/06/2011
# of Budgets Used	80
Checks and Budget Envelopes	\$ 5,334
Loose	\$ 504
Total Offertory	\$ 5,838
Monthly Maintenance	\$1,764

THIS WEEK'S LENTEN SCHEDULE

Tonight, March 13 at 6:00 pm

Benediction and Lenten Teaching
with Father Ernie Berthelette

Monday - Friday at 7 am	Morning Mass
Monday at 6:00 pm	Stations of the Cross
Saturday at 4:00 pm	Sacrament of Penance

THE 2011 CATHOLIC CHARITY FUND APPEAL



2011 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

Our parish phase of the CCFA will commence the weekend of March 26/27. As we prepare for the Appeal, please consider a sacrificial gift that reflects our thanksgiving for God's blessings that we enjoy, and, in light of that, our Christ-like response to assist those who need our assistance this year. The theme of this year's appeal is: *Live with faith; Give with heart.* Our parish goal is \$98,000. With prayer and work, I'm confident we'll do our sincere best to help those in need. If not us...then who?

BABY BOTTLE BOOMERANG

Make a "life-affirming" donation for the sanctity of human life. At the end of our Masses next weekend, March 19-20, we will be distributing baby bottles from Right to Life Services. We ask that you take one home and fill it with either cash or a check, and return it to the church the weekend of April 9th and 10th. The Baby Bottle Boomerang Campaign is used to fund Right to Life Services, a ministry that helps pregnant women, newborns and toddlers throughout Rhode Island with material needs, referrals, and emergency baby food and formula.



Parish Giving, our newly launched on line giving program is a convenient and secure way to stabilize and increase our weekly Offertory and special collections. It provides means for you to select the day of the month your contributions are processed on your checking or credit card account. Your credit card donations receive mileage and bonus points as usual. For more information, go to our parish web site (www.stsebastianri.org) for the convenient link, or directly to www.Parishgiving.com