

Church of St. Sebastian
December 1, 2013 — First Sunday of Advent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, November 30, Vigil: First Sunday of Advent
 5:00 pm For the People

Sunday, December 1, First Sunday of Advent
 9:00 am Mass

11:00 am Rev. Jerome Murphy-O'Connor
 -requested by Monsignor Darcy

Monday, December 2, Advent Weekday
 7:00 am Mass

Tuesday, December 3, Advent Weekday
 7:00 am Mass

Wednesday, December 4, Advent Weekday
 7:00 am Mass

Thursday, December 5, Advent Weekday
 7:00 am Mass

Friday, December 6, Advent Weekday
 7:00 am Mass

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 7, Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent
 5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent
 9:00 am Mass

11:00 am For the People



THIS WEEK AT ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

Mon.	12/2	Religious Ed., Grades 1-5	3:30 pm
Tues	12/3	Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00 pm
Thur	12/5	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm

CHAIR LIFT PROJECT

We continue to receive donations for the Chair Lift Project and thank you for your generosity. If you would like to support this project and help us reach our \$18,000 goal, please send your donation to the rectory or place it in the collection basket. Also, if you have any fundraising ideas you would like to share to help us reach our goal, please feel free to contact Karin Schrott (401-465-7444) or Rita Watson (617-733-7869.)

PASTOR'S CORNER

"Comfort My People!"...saith the Lord

All I can say is , "It was the perfect week to return to you at St. Sebastian's to celebrate Thanksgiving." We may have our challenges, but after living in the Middle East for three months, I can honestly tell you, we ARE blessed.

I met many wonderful people, visited the Holy Sites, prayed for you, my family, and friends, all during these past three months. The one constant, however, is God's abiding love for us and our challenge to present that truth of our lives. The presentation must be enfleshed in us, be made incarnate especially as we begin this quiet Advent Season.

Isaiah, the great prophet to Israel, is the lengthiest book in the entire Hebrew Scriptures (66 Chapters). He is the messenger throughout our Advent readings. His words are well known. Interestingly, the historic archeological find at Qumran (the Dead Sea Scrolls) that included a complete scroll of Isaiah is on permanent display at the Israeli Museum, the Shrine of the Book. The legendary Director of the École Biblique, Père Roland DeVaux, led the initial excavation at Qumran after the discovery of the scrolls by a Beaudoin shepherd in 1947. My 27th annual Advent journey today to the Handel and Haydn Society's presentation of "The Messiah," will surely be nostalgic. The tenor begins the Sacred Oratorio with words from Chapter 40; "Comfort, give comfort to my people!". You know where my mind and heart will be; a memorable abiding flashback to Jerusalem.

Two suggestions: either read some of Isaiah during Advent, or listen to Part the First of "The Messiah." Both will help set the tone and the spirit of Advent. It's a short but beautiful season. We contemplate two visitations by The Lord during the season; the Lord's future return glory, and the initial incarnation of Jesus as man at Christmas. Ponder both.

Finally, when all is said and done, faith is a grace, a gift from God. We are blessed with that gift and daily deepen it. We also must share it by giving comfort to each other. The opportunities are offered by our faith-filled Outreach Committee programs during Advent. We'll also have a Penance Service on Sunday, on December 15th as a spiritual opportunity to prepare for Christmas.

Through it all, I'm happy to return and the thank God for all of you, the wonderful parishioners at St. Sebastian's.

A blessed Advent!
 Msgr. Darcy

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

Maureen Kenner, Carol Anne Theroux, Nicole Ruffine, Beverly DiLello, Elizabeth Dugan, Deborah Bessette, Beatrice Calvo Crozier, James Mullaney, Mariella, Amy, and Ursula Shea.

Please contact the rectory if you would like to add a person to our prayers.

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Caroling at Area Nursing Homes

Come share the spirit of Christmas by caroling for residents of local nursing homes on **Sunday, December 22nd**. Singers of all ages are welcome! It is always a wonderful and giving way to celebrate the Christmas Season. Refreshments will be served following the caroling. We will meet at St. Sebastian's at 1:00 pm. Please sign up in the Church vestibule. Call Susan Elliott at 831-1162 for more information.

EMBRACE A FAMILY

We continue our parish tradition of making Christmas a reality for those not as blessed as we are. If you would like to "Embrace a Family" this holiday season, please add your contact information to the sign-up sheet in the vestibule as the Outreach Committee prepares for this Christmas endeavor.

ADVENT HAT AND MITTEN TREE

You are invited to decorate the trees in the vestibule with new Hats, Mittens, Gloves and Scarves for women, men and children through January 1st. All proceeds will be distributed to the homeless by Crossroads RI. Thanks for your generous spirit and kindness.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Floral donations in memory of our loved ones may be placed in the collection basket with the special envelopes provided for this purpose. Extra envelopes are at the doors of the Church. A gentle reminder to spell names CLEARLY. Thank you for your continued generosity.

PARISH ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE

Prepare your heart for Christmas by celebrating the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) at the **Parish Penance Service on Sunday, December 15th at 6:30 pm**. Four priests will be available for the Sacrament. Even if you have been away for some time, *'Do not be afraid!'* Return to the Lord and Communion at Christmas. It's a wonderful free gift offered us by the Lord.

AROUND THE PARISH

**A COMING HOME WELCOME
FOR MONSIGNOR DARCY**

Saturday, November 30th at 6:00 pm
Father Randall Room

Sunday, December 1st at 10:00 am
Church Hall

BABYSITTING AT THE 9:00 AM MASS

**babysitting
services**

It's a great service for parents and the parish. Please be welcome to attend Mass while having your child in a secure environment with approved caregivers. They gather on the stage area in the Church Hall. If anyone would like to give a helping hand, please call Karin Schrott at 401-465-7444. The small team will WELCOME help.



WE EVEN SUPPLY THE YARN AND NEEDLES!

The Parish Prayer Shawl Ministry meets the first and third Tuesday each month at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Randall Room where we make prayer shawls and small Baptism Blankets. Our next scheduled get-togethers are Tuesday December 3rd and 17th. Call Pat Capece 274-8632 or Elaine Kehoe 273-4259 with ideas or questions. See you there!

PARISH BOOK CLUB will meet Wednesday, December 18th at 7:30 pm to discuss Zuleika Dobson by Max Beerbohm. All are welcome.

PLEASE HELP THE VICTIMS OF SUPER TYPHOON HAIYAN

The official international humanitarian relief agency of the Catholic Church in the US, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is providing help to the people of the Philippines affected by Super Typhoon Haiyan. Millions of people need help. Please pray for the victims of Super Typhoon Haiyan and give generously by going to donate.crs.org/Haiyan.