

Church of St. Sebastian
December 15, 2013 — Third Sunday of Advent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, December 14, Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

5:00 pm Richard Ely, anniversary
 -requested by Donna Pilkington

Sunday, December 15, Third Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, December 16, Advent Weekday

7:00 am Special Intention

Tuesday, December 17, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Wednesday, December 18, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Thursday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Stephen M. Daniels, memorial
 -requested by Pat and Sal Annarummo

Friday, December 20, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 21, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:00 pm Mary Haddad, 6th anniversary and Christmas remembrance
 -requested by her daughter

Sunday, December 22, Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am For the People
 11:00 am Jean Schinse, anniversary
 -requested by her sister Belle Calenda



THIS WEEK AT ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

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|-------|-------|----------------------------|----------|
| Sun | 12/15 | Religious Ed., Grades 6-8 | 10:00 am |
| | | Religious Ed., Grades 9-10 | 6:30 pm |
| | | Parish Advent Service | 6:30 pm |
| Mon. | 12/16 | Religious Ed., Grades 1-5 | 3:30 pm |
| Tues. | 12/17 | Prayer Shawl Ministry | 7:00 pm |
| Wed. | 12/18 | Parish Book Club | 7:30 pm |
| Thur | 12/19 | Choir Rehearsal | 7:00 pm |

PASTOR'S CORNER

REJOICE! It's the word for this Third Sunday of Advent; *Gaudete Sunday*. The rose candle is lit and rose vestment is worn today signifying the day draws near.

We prepare also our hearts with the parish Penance Service tonight, December 15th at 6:30 PM. There will be five priests available for Confessions. The Lord awaits the arrival of his loved ones in the Sacrament of Penance. In the words of today's beautiful reading from Isaiah 35, "say to those whose hearts are frightened, *Be Strong, Fear Not!*" Consider coming to the service and receive the gift of God's loving forgiveness...so freely given at this Christmastide.

There's a chronological juxtaposition in today's Gospel. We read today that John is already in prison, and he sends a messenger to Jesus to learn if Jesus is "The One." Jesus' response is basically, "Tell John what you see and hear." After the messenger leaves, Jesus' words about John the Baptist are very insightful. "No one born of woman is greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom is greater than he." How can this be?

John was the final prophet of the Old Testament; the precursor of the Messiah. John died at the hands of King Herod Antipas *prior* to the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Christ. John's salvation was secured only after Jesus' resurrection. For us, who have been baptized into Christ, *even now* we enjoy the life of Christ if we embrace it. John pointed out the Christ; we share in His life through grace. Thus the comment of our favor in the Kingdom.

A Happy and Holy 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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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.

Toy Collection

The Community Outreach Committee is collecting toys this Christmas season. Please consider donating one unwrapped child's toy. The toy bin is located in the vestibule. Toys will be donated to Mary House at St. Patrick Church after the 11:00 am Mass December 15th. One child's toy creates many moments of holiday joy!



Caroling at Area Nursing Homes

Come share the spirit of Christmas by caroling for residents of local nursing homes **next Sunday, December 22nd**. Singers of all ages are welcome! This 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

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil Mass: 5:00 pm

First Mass of Christmas: 10:00 pm
Preceded by choral selections at 9:30.

Christmas Day Mass: 9:00 and 11:00 am



WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

| | 11/24 | 12/1 | 12/8 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| # of Budgets Used | 94 | 67 | 93 |
| Contributions— Budgets and Checks | \$ 3,816 | \$ 3,856 | \$ 4,449 |
| Loose Contributions | \$ 634 | \$ 499 | \$ 572 |
| Total Offertory | \$ 4,450 | \$ 4,355 | \$ 5,021 |
| Human Development | \$ 1,121 | _____ | _____ |
| Monthly Maintenance | _____ | \$1,517 | _____ |
| Retired Religious | _____ | _____ | \$ 1,549 |

THE PARISH PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY meets this Tuesday December 17th at 7:00 pm in the Father Randall Room to make prayer shawls and baptismal blankets. Call Pat Capece 274-8632 or Elaine Kehoe 273-4259 with ideas or questions. See you there!

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

HOLY LAND PILGRIMAGE 2014

Msgr. Darcy will be leading a 10 day Pilgrimage to the Holy Land October 20-30, 2014. Reservations are limited to 38 pilgrims, 22 have already reserved a place for the 4 nights in Jerusalem and 4 nights at the Sea of Galilee. *Participants must be really capable of sustained walking up/down hills and streets, on cobblestones, and possible distances.* Final cost is determined by airfares ... **present estimated price is \$3,495 pp** (double occupancy with private bath) and includes transportation to airport, flights, portorage of one suitcase per person, breakfast and dinner daily. Call the rectory to receive the **Preliminary Flyer** (prepared before his sabbatical, but will be updated.)

CHRISTMAS FLOWER OFFERING

Donations in memory of our loved ones may be placed in the collection basket using 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 generosity.