

Church of St. Sebastian
December 18, 2016 - Fourth Sunday of Advent

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, DEC. 17, VIGIL: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 pm ROBERT GUERIN, 20th anniversary
by his family

SUNDAY, DEC. 18, FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9:00 am LUCY SCLAMA, 21st anniversary, by her
family

11:00 am JEAN SCHINSE, 5th anniversary, by her
sister Belle

Monday, DECEMBER 19

7:00 am Mass

Tuesday, DECEMBER 20

7:00 am PAT MATARESE, birthday remembrance, by
her family

7.25 am Novena Prayers to Our Lady of Perpetual
Help

Wednesday, DECEMBER 21

7:00 am MARY HADDAD, 9th anniversary and
Christmas Remembrance, by her family

Thursday, DECEMBER 22

7:00 am Mass

Friday, DECEMBER 23

7:00 am WINIFRED KIERNAN, bequest

Saturday, December 24th,
Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

4:00 pm For the People

9:00 pm For the People

Christmas Music at 8:30 pm

Sunday, December 25th,
The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am For the People

11:00 am For the People

Prayers are asked for these friends, family, and fellow parishioners. If you would like someone included in the Prayers for the Sick please call the rectory. *Bartholomew Steib, Sal Spagnoli, Jacob Kenner, Natalie Swift, Leah Davis, Frances Geary, Maureen Kenner, Sandy C., John Haddad, Bob, Sylvia L., and Bob K.*

Let us pray for the repose of the soul of
Winifred Kiernan
whose love for our parish was shown in a
bequest to St. Sebastian Church.
We remember her in gratitude and offer
Friday's 7:00 am Mass for her this week.
May she rest in the peace of the Lord.

My Dear Parishioners,

Sir Winston Churchill, the famous British statesman who led England through the horrors of World War II, was a man who prepared the people for a future joy. Churchill was the man to whom the British people (and many throughout Europe as well) looked to bring solace and comfort in the continent's darkest hour of the twentieth century. His rousing speeches rallied the British to continue the fight during the midst of almost daily bombing of London by the German Luftwaffe. He urged his countrymen to conduct themselves so that the British Empire and its Commonwealth were to last for a thousand years. The Brits believed this was their finest hour! Churchill convinced Franklin Roosevelt and the Allied leaders to join his cause. Churchill knew that the dark hour would pass, and that peace, prosperity and joy would reign once again. He prepared his people and led them to the light of joy.

God asks us to be joyful, but we know at times this is quite difficult. The journey of life presents us with obstacles, hurdles, detours and problems. We sometimes move from the heights of joy and expectation to the great valleys of gloom and despair. But our faith challenges us! We are to be joyful. Our Lord is near!

As Churchill inspired the British, so too Jesus in a more real way, exhorts us to follow his plan. For Jesus is our source of LOVE. He is our TRUTH. Jesus is our way to PEACE and offers us true FORGIVENESS. Jesus is our source of JOY and HOPE.

Let us rejoice and be glad for the Lord is near: Maranatha, come Lord Jesus!

Have a great week! And I'll see you either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day.....

Monsignor Montecalvo



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Floral donations in memory of our loved ones may be placed in the collection basket using the budget 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.

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ADVENT CHURCH CELEBRATIONS

TODAY!!! SUNDAY, December 18th
Christmas Caroling at 1:00 pm

Come share the spirit of Christmas by caroling for residents of local nursing homes on **Sunday, December 18th**. Singers of all ages are welcome! It is always a wonderful and giving way to celebrate the Christmas Season. A light meal will be served following the caroling. We will meet at St. Sebastian's no later than 1:00 pm. Please sign up in the Church vestibule. Call Susan Elliott at 831-1162 for more info.



CHRISTMAS SEASON MASSES

Saturday, December 24th

4:00 pm Christmas Eve Family Mass
 9:00 pm Christmas Eve Vigil Mass
 Christmas Music at 8:30 pm

Sunday, December 25th

9:00 am Christmas Mass
 11:00 am Christmas Mass

Saturday, December 31st

5:00 pm Feast of Mary, Mother of God

Sunday, January 1st

9:00 am Feast of Mary, Mother of God
 11:00 am Feast of Mary, Mother of God

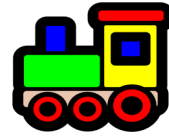
PARISH PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY, which recently dropped off 24 completed prayer shawls at the Veterans' Home in Bristol, meets the first and third Tuesday each month at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Randall Room to make prayer shawls and small Baptism Blankets. Our next scheduled get-together is this **Tuesday December 20th**. Call Pat Capece 274-8632 with ideas or questions. **WE EVEN SUPPLY THE YARN AND NEEDLES!**



Parish Meetings and Activities

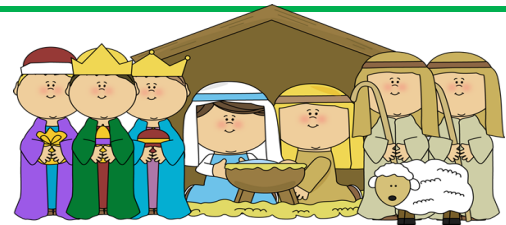
12/18	Religious Ed	10 am	Classrooms
12/19	Religious Ed	4 pm	Classrooms
12/20	Prayer Shawl Ministry	7 pm	Fr. Randall Rm

TOY COLLECTION



The Community Outreach Committee is collecting toys this Christmas season. Please consider donating 1 unwrapped child's toy. The toy bin is located in the vestibule and toys will be donated to The Diocese of Providence Immigration & Refugee Services. One child's toy creates many moments of holiday joy!

The next meeting of the **PARISH BOOK CLUB** will take place on January 10, 2017 to discuss My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante



ST. SEBASTIAN CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

All children are welcome and encouraged to join. Rehearsal: Sundays 10-10:30, immediately after 9 am Mass. Contact Kristen Pedroso with any questions: 302-598-8998 Kristenpedroso1@gmail.com



SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

DECEMBER 11, 2016

# of Budget Envelopes Used This Week	95
# Online Giving	17
Contributions-Budgets and Checks	\$ 3,820.00
Online Contributions	\$ 1,205.00
Loose Contributions	\$ 496.00
Total Offertory	\$ 5,521.00
Religious Retirement	\$ 1,237.00
Immaculate Conception	\$ 1,086.00

A sincere thank you for your support!

Please consider enrolling in Parish Giving, our electronic stewardship program for parish contributions. You can register online at www.Parishgiving.org or on our parish website at www.stsebastianri.org.