

Church of St. Sebastian
December 22, 2013 — Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

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 Catalino Almonia
-requested by Chona McGrenery

11:00 am Jean Schinse, anniversary
-requested by her sister Belle Calenda

Monday, December 23, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Winifred Kiernan, 9th anniversary

Tuesday, December 24

7:00 am Mass

5:00 pm **Vigil of Christmas**

For all parishioners & their families

10:00 pm **First Mass of Christmas**

For all parishioners & their families

-preceded by Carols at 9:30 pm

Wednesday, December 25

The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am For all parishioners & their families

11:00 am For all parishioners & their families

Thursday, December 26, Saint Stephen, The First Martyr

7:00 am Mass

Friday, December 27, Saint John, Apostle and Evangelist

7:00 am Mass

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 28, Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

5:00 pm Antonio Picido
-requested by Mrs. David Nichols

Sunday, December 29, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph

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

PASTOR'S CORNER

This Advent Season is one of the shortest with Christmas upon us in just two days! Today's gospel of the Visitation brings Mary to her cousin Elizabeth in the village of Ein Karem, 4.5 miles southwest from Jerusalem. It's still a quiet little town nestled in the hill country. As cousins, both pregnant with new life, they share their amazement and divine blessing. If anything, Christmas is about 'THE' encounter of God with us! (*Emmanuel*).

There will be encounters all around us these next few days: students returning home from campuses, families travelling to be with relatives and friends, and the return of brothers and sisters to the parish community. All of them, and all of you, are messengers of the encounter which is Christmas. Celebrate the gift of family during this entire Christmas Season. Nothing is more precious than the time we spend with others; nothing!

A special thanks to those who decorated the Church and built the outdoor manger. The names of our loved ones are "wrapped in a waddling cloth and placed in the manger." Thank you for the floral offerings that make the Church so beautiful with Christmas flowers. May they rest in the peace of Christ.

On behalf of Marie Brito, Bill Cooper with choir and cantors, Mary Brennan, Maria Sousa, and Dave Belanger, the faithful staff at the parish, I extend to you and your loved ones our greetings for a Holy and Merry Christmas.

With prayers for a blessed season!

~ Msgr. Darcy

OUR LADY'S CANDLE burns this week for the special intentions of all of our parishioners, relatives, and friends as we prepare for Christmas. May her prayers bring us the light and grace of her Son and foster peace throughout the Church and the world.

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 Monday's 7:00 am Mass for her this week.
May she rest in the peace of the Lord.



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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.

Caroling at Area Nursing Homes

Come share the spirit of Christmas by caroling for residents of local nursing homes **this 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



Annual Potluck Supper—January 18th, 2013

In honor of St. Sebastian, whose Feast Day is January 20th, all parishioners are invited to a Potluck Supper to be held in the Church Hall on Saturday, January 18th at 6:00 pm. More information will follow, but mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

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.*

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.

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



KUDOS TO THE MR. COOPER AND THE CHOIR

Thank you, Bill Cooper, Marie and Lori our cantors, our small but enthusiastic choir comprised of volunteer parishioners, and our visiting instrumentalists who prepare so well for our Christmas Masses. We thank for your dedication, loyalty, and commitment to the parish.

THANK YOU AT CHRISTMAS

My thanks and appreciation for your cards, greetings, gifts, and support as your pastor at this Christmas Season. You are remembered in my daily Mass and prayers all throughout this holy season. God bless and keep you.

~Msgr. Darcy

Your generosity has enabled Saint Sebastian's to serve the people of God in this community. Continue to be a thread in the fabric of this church by leaving a bequest to Saint Sebastian's in your Will. For more information about memorial donations and legacy giving, please contact Monsignor Darcy at 751-0196.

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.)