

Church of St. Sebastian
December 8, 2013 — Second Sunday of Advent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, December 7, Vigil: Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, December 8, Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am For the People

11:00 am Ernest Ardente
 -requested by his wife

Monday, December 9, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 am Vincent and Jean Maguire
 -requested by Mary Ann Maguire

Tuesday, December 10, Advent Weekday

7:00 am Special Intention

Wednesday, December 11, Advent Weekday

7:00 am Joan Ogden Kehler, 6 month anniversary
 -requested by the Cummings family

Thursday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadeloupe

7:00 am Mass

Friday, December 13, Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr

7:00 am Mass

Next Weekend Masses

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



PASTOR'S CORNER

What great readings for this second Sunday of Advent! They summarize the entire season, if not our entire Christian journey. Handel puts Isaiah to music as the tenor opens his great oratorio, *The Messiah*. In the Gospel, John the Baptist invites us to prepare for the Lord's appearance. Finally, St. Peter reminds us that *one* day in the Lord's sight are as one thousand years elsewhere!

We will be offered the most wonderful gift ever at Christmas, the Lord of love. Not only by our Christ-like outreach to others, but also by our personal preparation and striving for genuine holiness. Isaiah foresees the valleys being filled in so as to make the roadway level, smooth, easier for the arrival/coming (*Adventus*) of the Lord. We should mirror this conscious, deliberate preparation. **"The Lord is coming to us... prepare to receive Him"**

The symbol of Advent/Christmas light is so powerful with the early nightfall. We notice the dark windows of our rectory and homes being illumined to announce that a festive season is dawning. Prepare your home and your heart, He is drawing near! **Our spiritual preparation includes the Penance Service next Sunday, December 15th at 6:30 PM.** Visiting priests will be with us to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance (Confession, Reconciliation).

Amid the increasing busyness, try to stay focused. Read Chapter 40 of Isaiah in the Old Testament, or the beginning of Luke's Gospel in the New Testament. *Choose* to create a quiet, sacred space for yourself as we get deeper into this Advent Season. Trust me, you will find Him there waiting for YOU!

Happy Advent,
 Msgr. Darcy



THIS WEEK AT ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

Sun	12/8	Religious Ed., Grades 6-8	10:00 am
		Religious Ed., Grades 9-10	6:30 pm
Mon.	12/9	Religious Ed., Grades 1-5	3:30 pm
Thur	12/12	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm

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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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. Wrapped and labeled Gifts can be returned to the Church on weekends or to the rectory during regular office hours, 10:00 am-2:00 pm. Please return gifts for distribution no later than December 5th.

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 1 unwrapped child's toy. The toy bin is located in the vestibule. Toys will be donated to Mary House at St. Patrick Church. One child's toy creates many moments of holiday joy!

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

babysitting services **BABYSITTING AT THE 9:00 AM MASS**

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.

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-together is Tuesday December 17th. Call Pat Capece 274-8632 or Elaine Kehoe 273-4259 with ideas or questions. See you there!

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Vigil Mass 5 pm

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

Masses on Christmas Day at 9 and 11 am

COAT DRIVE: A SINCERE THANK YOU

The winter coats and clothing were delivered to the State House the day after Thanksgiving. Sincere thanks to the Outreach Committee for coordinating this effort. Well done!



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.