

Church of St. Sebastian
December 2, 2012 — First Sunday of Advent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, December 8, Vigil of Second Sunday of Advent

5:00 pm Richard Ely, 1st anniversary
-requested by his family

Sunday, December 9, Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Irene O'Keefe Melville
-requested by Pam and John Cummings

11:00 am Madonna Maggiacomo
-requested by Msgr. Darcy and St. Sebastian Parish

Monday, December 10, Advent Weekday

7:00 am For the People

Tuesday, December 11, Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Wednesday, December 12, Our Lady of Guadalupe

7:00 am Mass

Thursday, December 13, Saint Lucy, Virgin

7:00 am Mass

**Friday, December 14, Saint John of the Cross,
Priest and Doctor of the Church**

7:00 am Mass

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 15, Vigil of Third Sunday of Advent

5:00 pm Richard Pizzuti
-requested by Elizabeth Dugan

Sunday, December 16, Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am For the People

11:00 am Madonna Maggiacomo
-requested by John and Mary Cappelli



The Pastor's Corner

This first part of Advent has the appearance of John the Baptist, also known as the Precursor in the Orthodox tradition. John literally points the way to Christ in iconography; his message is well known. John the Baptist quotes the prophet Isaiah. Israel awaits the day when they can return to the Holy City from the throes of exile. They long for a smooth return symbolized by the road being made straight and pot holes filled in...no valleys, no detours, a graced return to the Holy City, Jerusalem. Attending Handel's *Messiah* last Sunday, I heard the tenor begin the Sacred Oratorio by singing the words of today's Gospel. This musical masterpiece has inaugurated for me the spirit of this holy season. Advent is such a beautiful liturgical season of sound, sight, and solitude. May we respond to its gentle invitation!

The Advent Penance Service with visiting priests is this Sunday (December 9th) at 6:30 pm. As we begin the preparation for Christmas, we have the opportunity to prepare our Spirit as well as our homes. *Do not be afraid* especially if you have not been to confession/reconciliation for some time. As a penitent myself, I, too, have at times let pride overwhelm me. All of us need to remove the dust/sin from the journey of life. Dust is like sin, it's in **everyone's** home and life. Let the Lord lift us up, dust us off, and offer us His forgiveness. Come tonight (this Sunday) at 6:30 pm and let your soul shine as much as your home for Christmas.

This season is also marked with such generous charitable giving. Hats & mittens are appearing on the Giving Tree in the vestibule, names have been sent to those *Adopting a Family at Christmas*. If you look around the parish grounds, it's being prepared for Christmas.

Donations in memory of our loved ones to help defray the cost for our Christmas decorations are being accepted. Envelopes have been mailed to those using the weekly budget. The flower offering envelopes also are available at the doors of Church. Just place them in the Sunday collection basket. A gentle reminder to spell names CLEARLY for the Christmas Memorial Listing.

The new boiler for the rectory is being installed. Cost savings with the conversion to a two zone natural gas system is estimated to be recovered in three years!

A blessed Advent to all!
Monsignor Darcy

Church of St. Sebastian
December 2, 2012 — First Sunday of Advent

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

PARISH ADVENT PENANCE SERVICE
 Prepare your heart for Christmas by celebrating the Sacrament of Penance (Confession) at the **Parish Penance Service tonight, Sunday, December 9th 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.

Caroling at Area Nursing Homes
 Come share the spirit of Christmas by caroling for residents of local nursing homes on Sunday, **December 16th.** Singers of all ages are welcome! It is always a wonderful and giving way to begin the Christmas Season. Refreshments will be served following the caroling. We will meet at St. Sebastian's at 1:10 pm. Please sign up in the Church vestibule. Call Susan Elliott at 831-1162 for more information.



ADVENT HAT AND MITTEN TREE
 You are invited to decorate the trees in the vestibule with 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 MASS SCHEDULE
Vigil Mass 5 PM
First Mass of Christmas at 11 PM
preceded by a choral selections at 10:30 PM.
Christmas Day at 9 and 11 AM



AROUND THE PARISH

ST. SEBASTIAN BOOK CLUB
 The Parish Book Club will meet on Wednesday, December 12th at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Randall Room to discuss Persuasion by Jane Austen.

WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT
 12/2/2012

# of Budget Envelopes Used	81 of 326
Contributions-Budgets/Checks	\$ 4,493
Loose Contributions	\$ 432
End of Year Gift	\$ 0
Total Offortory	\$ 4,925
Monthly Maintenance	\$ 1,771

Please keep our fellow parishioners and friends in your thoughts and prayers:
 Denise Walker, Beverly DiLello, Kathy McCaughey, Deborah Bessette, Peggy Corrigan, Beatrice Calvo Crozier, James Shanni, and Vilma O'Connor.
Please contact the rectory if you would like to add a person to our prayers.



THIS WEEK AT ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

Sun.	12/9	Religious Ed. Grades 6-8	10:00 am
		Religious Ed, Grades 9-10	6:30 pm
		Parish Advent Penance Service	6:30 pm
Mon.	12/10	Religious Ed, Grades 1-5	3:30 pm
Wed.	12/12	Parish Book Club	7:00 pm
Thur.	12/13	Choir Rehearsal	7:00 pm