

Church of St. Sebastian
February 3, 2013 — Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, February 2, Vigil: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 pm Stasia Richardson, 4th anniversary
-requested by her family

Sunday, February 3, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Peggy Corrigan
-requested by Carol and Vincent Ferraioli

11:00 am Raymond A. LaFazia
-requested by John and Mary Cappelli

Monday, February 4, Weekday

7:00 am For the people

Tuesday, February 5, Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr

7:00 am Mass

Wed., Feb. 6, Saint Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs

7:00 am Mass

Thursday, February 7, Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Friday, February 8, Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, February 9, Vigil: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

5:00 pm Charles F. Rogers, anniversary

Sunday, February 10, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Patricia Mullaney, 2nd anniversary
-requested by her family

11:00 am Peggy Corrigan
-requested by John and Mary Cappelli



WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

January 27, 2013

# of Budget Envelopes Used This Week	92
Contributions-Budgets and Checks	\$4,221
Loose Contributions	\$ 498
Total Offertory	\$4,719
Church in Latin America	\$ 641

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.

The Pastor's Corner

I must say that my experience after a week away is nothing like that of Jesus returning to Nazareth. He never returned home again after his rejection as presented in today's passage. Think of who they missed! It would seem they expected a sort of miracle show ("Do here what we heard you have done in Capernaum"). So why weren't there healings in Nazareth? The answer is found in three noteworthy words... lack of faith. This hermeneutic (interpretation) of the passage is without a doubt correct, and its contemporary significance is complex.

The prophet Jeremiah proclaims that God knows us personally, that we are sent with a message, and that we are defended by Him in the conflict. All of us get overwhelmed by persons and life situations from time to time. The promise is, however, "that I AM with you to deliver you, says the Lord" (Jeremiah 1:19). For Jeremiah and for us to believe this requires an act of faith. Is our lived response founded on faith or on something else? If the classical definition of theology is "faith is seeking understanding" (St. Anselm), we think critically on all the events in our lives from an informed Christian viewpoint. Some issues may have feelings more than faith as the basic presupposition. Right reason, responsibility, and the natural law continue to instruct on the journey to holiness as members of the Church. Genuine faith seeks understanding not just nice feelings.

While reading the paper more carefully on vacation, I closed the first section of the NY Times and remarked to myself, "The world is in one big mess!" The headlines covered our serious international, national and local challenges, world crises seemingly on almost every continent, important medical/moral issues, as well as the noteworthy philanthropy of Mayor Michael Bloomberg. To summarize in the words of the great St. Paul, "In the face of all this, what is there left to say?" (Romans 8:31). Was the possibility of faith easier in 1st century Palestine than it is in our 21st century experience? St. Paul's advice to strive for the higher spiritual gifts is the same whether it is in Capernaum, Nazareth, or Providence. To live in the truth starts us on the path to Christian holiness. The final end is union with God, the blessing of eternal Love. So, I ask again... when has it ever been easy (not just feel good) to find and to follow after the Divine invitation to Love?

It's almost surprising to say that Ash Wednesday is in 10 days! Even the three disciplines of prayer, fasting, and charity need the infusion of love to purify their effectiveness. So, with the culture, the Church, and with Lent, we strive for union with God. Trust me; it is much easier to write this to you than it is live it. And so, the challenge goes on...in faith.

Enjoy the week.
Monsignor Darcy

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COLD AND FLU PRECAUTIONS

Until the cold and flu season subsides, **please refrain from shaking hands at the Rite of Peace.** If you are sick, you are dispensed from the Sunday Mass obligation.



BAKE SALE

On the weekend of February 9th-10th, the children of the Religious Education Program will once again sponsor a bake sale after all Masses.

The proceeds from the bake sale, along with a donation for the Outreach Committee, will go to benefit Bishop Tobin's "Keep the Heat On" campaign.

The Parish Prayer Shawl Ministry will meet this month on Tuesday, February 5th and Tuesday, February 19th at 7:00 pm in the Fr. Randall Room. These beautiful shawls surround others with the prayers of our parish. Can you help with this ministry here at the church or maybe even at home? If so, please contact Pat Capece (274-8632) or Elaine Kehoe (273-4259). If you are aware of someone you feel would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, please call the rectory.



THE YEAR OF FAITH

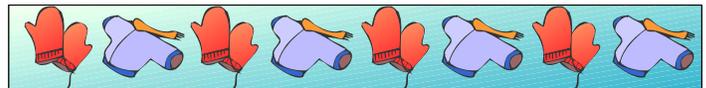
~~~*Save the Date*~~~

**OUR LENTEN PARISH MISSION**

**FR. TOM HOAR, SSE**

**FEBRUARY 24-27 AT 7:00 PM**

Fr. Tom Hoar entered the Society of St. Edmund (SSE) in June of 1971. He professed religious vows on August 22, 1972. In 1977, he received his Masters of Divinity from the University of St. Michael's College, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. In 1978, he was ordained to the priesthood after earning a Master of Arts degree in Religion and Religious Education from Fordham University. He has served in various parishes staffed by the Edmundite Fathers and as a college chaplain. Fr. Tom went on to earn a PhD in Higher Education Administration from Michigan State University in East Lansing, MI in 1985. He was assigned to St. Edmund's Retreat, Enders Island, Mystic, CT in 1993 where he still resides. Father Tom has been the Retreat Director, and Director of Development. From 2003 to the present, he is the President of St. Edmund's Retreat. More recently, Fr. Tom received another PhD in 2011 from Salve Regina University in the area of *culture and technology*.



**ST. SEBASTIAN BOOK CLUB**

The Parish Book Club will meet **THIS Wednesday, February 6th** at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Randall Room to discuss Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel.



***THIS WEEK AT ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH***

|        |     |                          |          |
|--------|-----|--------------------------|----------|
| Sun.   | 2/3 | Religious Ed, Grades 6-8 | 10:00 am |
| Mon.   | 2/4 | Religious Ed, Grades 1-5 | 3:30 pm  |
| Tues.  | 2/5 | Prayer Shawl Ministry    | 7:00 pm  |
| Wed.   | 2/6 | Parish Book Club         | 7:30 pm  |
| Thurs. | 2/7 | Choir Rehearsal          | 7:00 pm  |

**Please keep our fellow parishioners and friends in your thoughts and prayers:**

Anastasia Beaupre, Adam Ringguth, Denise Walker, Beverly DiLello, Kathy McCaughey, Deborah Bessette, Beatrice Calvo Crozier, James Shanni, Vilma O'Connor, Mariella, and Amy.  
*Please contact the rectory if you would like to add a person to our prayers.*