Church of St. Sebastian

February 26, 2012—First Sunday of Lent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, February 25, Vigil: First Sunday of Lent
5:00 pm For the People

Sunday, February 26, First Sunday of Lent
9:00 am Margaret Mary Walsh, month's mind
-requested by her family
11:00 am Francis and Helen McCormick
-requested by their family

Monday, February 27, Lenten Weekday
7:00 am Mrs. Gabriel Fortin
-requested by a friend

Tuesday, February 28, Lenten Weekday
7:00 am Loretta A. Bessette
-requested by Pat and Sal Annarummo

Wednesday, February 29, Lenten Weekday
7:00 am Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, March 1, Lenten Weekday
7:00 am Mass

First Friday, March 2, Lenten Weekday
7:00 am For the people
5:30 pm Mass

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, March 3, Vigil: Second Sunday of Lent
5:00 pm Michael DiMaio, MD

Sunday, March 4, Second Sunday of Lent
9:00 am For the people
11:00 am Mary Allison and Colleen Mullaney
-requested by their family

This Week at St. Sebastian Church

Sun.	**2/26**	**Coffee Hour**	**10:00 am**
		Religious Education	**10:00 am**
		Religious Education	**6:30 pm**
		Parish Lenten Mission	**7:00 pm**
Mon.	**2/27**	**Religious Education**	**3:30 pm**
		Parish Lenten Mission	**7:00 pm**
Tues.	**2/28**	**Parish Lenten Mission**	**7:00 pm**
Wed.	**2/29**	**Parish Lenten Mission**	**7:00 am**
Thur.	**3/1**	**Choir Rehearsal**	**7:30 pm**
Fri.	**3/2**	**First Friday Masses**	**7:00 am and 5:30 pm**

Pastor's Corner

Hard to believe that we're already into the Lenten Season. We set the tone for these forty days with our **Parish Lenten Mission, which begins this Sunday evening.** I sincerely hope that a good number of our parishioners and families will come to the mission. Welcome, Father Reilly. Thank you for visiting us and bringing God's Word as we begin this holy season.

Notice the sense of urgency or compunction in today's Gospel. "The Spirit drove Jesus into the desert…" What did he encounter there? The details in Mark are not as specific or dramatic as in Matthew (4:1-11). What do we encounter in our deserts…when we're alone emotional, spiritually, or physically (even when we are in the midst of others)? What are the demons… unbridled human appetites or yearnings, the lust for power, the love of money? What entices or allures us to be less than we can be as a person of faith? These are real questions of the soul that you and I are invited to face during this privileged time that we prepare for Easter. No matter what we find in our desert, I hope we have the realization that "the kingdom of God" is offered to us. From over thirty years of listening and ministering to laity and clergy, I haven't met one person who wanted to remain in their desert. Why? Because the desert may for a time seem inviting, but it always kills...the body as well as the soul. We, too, have messengers (angelus in Latin, aggelos in Greek) who are eagerly waiting to minister to us throughout these forty days.

Finally, as I mentioned last week, I have noticed many new faces among us. Some of you may be new to the area. We invite you to pray with us and, if moved, to become a part of our parish. Some may be returning after a 'detour in life.' Your journey (and for some your desert) has brought you to this holy place. Rest among us, if but for a while… and believe!

A blessed Lent to all.
Msgr. Darcy

Lenten Schedule

Daily Mass Monday-Friday at 7:00 AM
Stations of the Cross –Mondays at 7:00 PM
Confessions –Saturdays at 4-4:45 PM

+++ Parish Mission This Week+++
Fr. Timothy Reilly, Homilist
Sunday to Wednesday, Feb. 26-29 at 7:00 PM

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LENTEN MISSION: SUNDAY TO WEDNESDAY

Fr. Timothy Reilly will celebrate our Masses this weekend and introduce the Lenten Mission. All are welcome at 7:00 pm Sunday through Wednesday. Fr. Reilly's mission theme is "**The Our Father Prayer: *What in heaven's name are we saying*?"** Join us and set the tone for the Lenten Season.

The Responsorial psalm today reminds us that the ways of the Lord are love and truth. Jesus did all that he did out of love for the Father and love for us. He commands us to love one another as he loved us. Attend a Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekend and receive the tools needed to truly love one another. Learn how to truly love your spouse as God call us to. Deepen your communication, strengthen your relationship, rekindle your romance and renew your sacrament by attending one of the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends in New England: March 16-18, April 27-29, or June 22-24, 2012, For more information call Joseph and Jane Becker at 1-800-710-WWME or visit our webpage at www.wwme.org.

ANNUAL LENTEN SANDWICH DRIVE IN MARCH:

The Outreach Committee is seeking volunteers for our annual sandwich drive to benefit Crossroads RI. Each Sunday in March we ask parishioners to make 10 hearty sandwiches and bring them to church before the 11am Mass. An Outreach member will deliver them to Crossroads in time for lunch. Because soup kitchens are not open on Sundays, this may be the only meal of the day for the homeless men, women and children at Crossroads. Feel free to add fruit, chips, cookies or other snacks to your donation. Sign up sheets are in the vestibule with additional details. This is an excellent Lenten family project!

Days of Fast and Abstinence

Weekdays of Lent:

There is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday

These are days of **FAST and ABSTINENCE from meat.** There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18-59 inclusive.

Days of Abstinence (All Fridays in Lent) All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

RITE OF ELECTION INTO THE CHURCH

Paul J. Mussara will be received into the catechumenate this Sunday at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul by Bishop Evens. Paul is preparing to be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil. Congratulations, Paul, as you prepare for your Baptism, Confirmation, and First Communion.

FIRST FRIDAY MASS– MARCH 2ND

The First Friday Masses are celebrated at 7:00 am and 5:30 pm. Members of RI Chapter of the Order of Malta will be with us for the evening liturgy.

MONTHLY MAINTENANCE COLLECTION
NEXT WEEKEND

Our Monthly Maintenance Collection helps defray the cost of maintaining our beautiful church, rectory and parish grounds. The parish is very fortunate to have staff members who take great pride in keeping our facilities in magnificent shape. A monthly collection of $3,000 would pay for this ongoing and necessary maintenance. **Please be generous to this important collection to continue necessary improvements on our parish property.**

WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

February 11/12, 2012

# of Budget Envelopes Used This Week	**74**
Contributions-Budgets and Checks	**$3,894**
Loose Contributions	**$ 634**
Total Offertory	**$4,528**

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 **PARISH BOOK CLUB** will meet on Wednesday, March 14th at 7:30 pm in the Fr. Randall Room to discuss Vladimir V. Nabokov's Pnin. Everyone is welcome!

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

Deborah Bessette, Peggy Corrigan, Rose Penney, Zola Ventre, and Vilma O'Connor.