

Church of St. Sebastian
January 1, 2012—Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, December 31, Vigil: Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 1, Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

9:00 am For the people

11:00 am Mass

Monday, January 2, Saints Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, bishops and doctors of the Church

~~~*New Year's Day Observed*~~~

9:00 am Mass

**Tuesday, January 3, The Most Holy Name of Jesus**

7:00 am Mass

**Wednesday, January 4, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton, religious**

7:00 am Mass

**Thursday, January 5, Saint John Neuman, bishop**

7:00 am Mass

**First Friday, January 6, Christmas Weekday**

7:00 am Mass

5:30 pm Mass

**Next Weekend Masses**

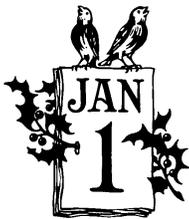
**Saturday, January 7, Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord**

5:00 pm Charles F. Rogers, Sr., anniversary  
-requested by the Rogers family

**Sunday, January 8, The Epiphany of the Lord**

9:00 am For the people

11:00 am Lucia Marcelli  
-requested by Aurelia Uriati



*"A Happy & Peaceful New Year to All"*

**PASTOR'S CORNER**

The Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God coincides this year with the last day of the Christmas Octave. These eight days are celebrated as one... similar to the Great Octave of Easter. There is one action of Mary and the shepherds that is beautifully reflected in the manger setting. All of them see the face of the infant: "the shepherds **saw**" and, "Mary pondered these things" certainly holding and gazing on the face of the child.

Moses blessed the tribes of Israel saying, in part, "May the Lord let his **face shine upon you...**" In Eucharistic Prayer II of our new Roman Missal (when we remember the faithful departed) we pray "welcome them into the **light of your face.**" Our eternal happiness will be to gaze upon the face of God. We long to see you, Lord, face to face!!

We enter a new calendar year continuing to celebrate the Christmas Season. Our family, neighbors, and friend continue to **see** our festive Christmas lights and decorations announcing that someone special has come to **see and visit... Emmanuel, God with us!**

The prophet Simeon, meets Mary and Joseph carrying the child and proclaims, "Now Master, you have kept your word. **My eyes have seen** the salvation your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples."

My prayer for you, your family, your friends, is that we see and celebrate the Real Presence of the Lord in the Eucharist, and, by our worthy reception, in each other. I wish you and all those you hold so dear a very blessed, peace-filled, and holy New Year of Grace.

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us!  
Monsignor Darcy

Because New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, the federal holiday for New Year's is observed on Monday, January 2nd, 2012. The daily Mass therefore will be celebrated at 9:00 am on Monday January 2nd, 2012.

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**A FEW WORD OF THANKS...**  
The parish family thanks Toni Dumville and Margaret Pleasants for their time and talent in decorating the Church for this Christmas Season. Our Church is beautiful...and we thank you so sincerely for your dedication. Also, many thanks to Sue Elliott, who coordinated the Christmas Caroling on December 18<sup>th</sup> at the area nursing homes. Great job!

To the Parish Outreach Committee and all those who assisted with the Embrace a Family effort. You helped make Christmas very special again this year.

**HOLY DAY COLLECTION**  
Just a gentle reminder that this weekend the second collection is for the Holy Day that falls on January 1, a Sunday. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

**WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT**  
December 17-18, 2011

|                                      |         |
|--------------------------------------|---------|
| # of Budget Envelopes Used This Week | 80      |
| Contributions-Budgets and Checks     | \$3,463 |
| Loose Contributions                  | \$ 603  |
| Total Offertory                      | \$4,066 |

Please consider enrolling in Parish Giving, our electronic stewardship program for parish contributions. You can register online at [www.Parishgiving.org](http://www.Parishgiving.org) or on our parish website at [www.stsebastianri.org](http://www.stsebastianri.org).

**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.**

  
**Annual Potluck Supper—January 28th, 2012**  
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 28th at 6:00 pm. More information will follow, but mark your calendars now and plan to attend!



**FIRST FRIDAY MASS— JANUARY 6TH**  
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.

**ADVENT HAT AND MITTEN TREE**  
You are invited to decorate the trees in the vestibule with Hats and Mittens for women, men and children through January 3<sup>rd</sup>. All proceeds will be distributed to the homeless by Crossroads RI. Thanks for your generous spirit and kindness.

When there is a will there is a way to be an angel for our parish. Please remember St. Sebastian's in your will. Your attorney can add a simple, inexpensive amendment or codicil to your existing will. Learn more by calling the Diocesan Stewardship and Development Office at 277-2121 or speak to Msgr. Darcy.