

**Church of St. Sebastian**  
**March 11, 2012—Third Sunday of Lent**

**Scheduled Masses For This Week**

- Saturday, March 10, Vigil: Third Sunday of Lent**  
 5:00 pm Anne M. Daniels, 6th anniversary  
 -requested by her husband Ralph
- Sunday, March 11, Third Sunday of Lent**  
 9:00 am Anthony N. Patriarca, birthday remembrance  
 -requested by his family  
 11:00 am M. Adelaide O'Neill, month's mind
- Monday, March 12, Lenten Weekday**  
 7:00 am For the people
- Tuesday, March 13, Lenten Weekday**  
 7:00 am Mass
- Wednesday, March 14, Lenten Weekday**  
 7:00 am Mass
- Thursday, March 15, Lenten Weekday**  
 7:00 am George F. Johnson, 13th anniversary
- Friday, March 16, Lenten Weekday**  
 7:00 am Mass

**Next Weekend Masses**

- Saturday, March 17, Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
 5:00 pm Jean Crompton Ellis, 1st anniversary  
 -requested by Shirley Ellis Cummings
- Sunday, March 18, Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
 9:00 am For the people  
 11:00 am Paul Kazarian

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

<b>Sun.</b>	<b>3/11</b>	<b>Coffee Hour</b>	<b>10:00 am</b>
<b>Mon.</b>	<b>3/12</b>	<b>Stations of the Cross</b>	<b>7:00 pm</b>
<b>Wed.</b>	<b>3/14</b>	<b>Parish Book Club</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>
<b>Thur.</b>	<b>3/15</b>	<b>Choir Rehearsal</b>	<b>7:30 pm</b>

Our Lady's Candle burns this week in remembrance of Dr. Daniel G. Calenda's birthday as requested by his wife Belle.

*Let us pray for the repose of the soul of*  
**George F. Johnson**  
*whose love for our parish was shown in a*  
*bequest at the time of his death.*  
*We remember him in gratitude and offer*  
*Thursday's 7:00 am Mass*  
*for him this week.*  
*May he rest in the peace of the Lord.*

***PASTOR'S CORNER***

It is the most physical depiction of Jesus in the New Testament; it is not the most emotive, but it is the most physical. The cleansing scene must have been shocking for all, confusing for some, and angering for others. My prayer images of Christ are not of this very dramatic scene. The main scandal was the concentrating more on cheating others in a coin exchange and profiting on the poor who came to offer sacrifice than it was on the more noble and basic task of giving praise that is always owed to God before all else.

The First Reading presents the Ten Commandments from the Book of Exodus. They are repeated in Deuteronomy 5:6-21. Since the wandering of the Hebrews in the desert, the Ten Commandments serve as the covenant between God and the human race. As we are well aware, the first three precepts bind us in our relationship with God; and the remaining seven precepts order our human relationships. The most striking thing is their name: **COMMANDMENTS**...not opinions, and certainly not suggestions. Even the Pope as the Vicar of Christ on earth can't dispense from Divine Law! These first three Commandments pertain to the virtue of religion; that is, things that we owe personally to God because of our relationship with Him.

*Idolatry* in its many forms (love of power, money) violates the First Commandment, that is, our love of God alone. *Divination* includes practices like astrology, witchcraft, and devil worship belie our divided love. *Perjury* (whenever we invoke God in an oath and then lie) is a personal offense against God in the Second Commandment. We violate this Commandment with *blasphemy* (the degradation in word or deed of our respect for God's holy name). *Purposefully missing the celebration of the Eucharist*, personally violates the Third Commandment. As you can see, these behaviors and attitudes are indeed very dark and nasty in our God relationship because they are committed against God alone. They are not to be taken lightly by anyone at all... ever...even when we're on vacation!

It's all about our relationships. "Love God, and love your neighbor as you love yourself." This *classic condensation* of the Commandments needs to be fully understood. The *classic summary* is that no one can dispense from Divine Law.... our debt is owed to God, and repaid not out of fear, but always out of love.

~Msgr. Darcy

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### LENTEN ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

#### 2012 CATHOLIC CHARITY APPEAL

The Lenten season is an excellent time to put almsgiving into action. Our 2012 Charity Appeal goal has been lowered from \$98K to \$82K as a result of my request, our parish needs, and our past performance in a difficult economy. *The Bishop's Partners in Charity* (BPC) have received their Appeal card and are asked to return it to the rectory (in a separate envelope in the collection or mailed to the rectory). All parishioners will be receiving their Charity Appeal card in the mail within the next week or two in place of the in-pew solicitation. Please make this a truly parish effort for the need is greater than ever. The Catholic Charity Appeal theme this year is: *Give, And It Will Be Given To You.*

#### 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 11 am 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.

#### OPERATION RICE BOWL

For those who wish to use the Rice Bowl as one component of Lenten almsgiving, they are available at all the door as you leave today. The proceeds will be collected on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

### WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

March 3/4, 2012

# of Budget Envelopes Used This Week	77
Contributions-Budgets and Checks	\$3,762
Loose Contributions	\$ 554
Total Offertory	\$4,316
Monthly Maintenance	\$1,674

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).

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

### 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**

#### DAYS OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

##### Weekdays of Lent:

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

**Days of Abstinence (All Fridays in Lent)** All who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> year are bound to abstain totally from meat

#### LITURGICAL SIGN UPS FOR HOLY WEEK

Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers can sign up for the liturgies of Holy Week on the bulletin board outside the sacristy side door. Thank you for your service to the parish. Please cover all the Masses.

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

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

#### ST. PATRICK'S DAY DINNER

The Little Sisters of the Poor's St. Patrick's Day dinner will be held on March 15th from 11:30 am to 9:00 pm at the Olde Grist Mill in Seekonk. The dinner consists of corned beef and cabbage with all the 'fixings.' There will also be a raffle. The proceeds from the dinner and raffle will be used to purchase Reach-In refrigerators for their kitchen. The existing units are getting very costly to repair. Dinner tickets may be purchased by calling our Development Office at 401-305-4000. Tickets are \$15 each for adults and \$7.50 for children under 12.

#### HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT ON THE PRIESTHOOD

Bishop Tobin invites high school students who wish to learn more about the priesthood to a retreat on Saturday, April 28, 2012 from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM at the Seminary of Our Lady of Providence, 485 Mt. Pleasant Ave., Providence. If you are interested, please contact Fr. Carl Fisette, Assistant Vocation Director, at 331-1316. [www.CatholicPriest.com](http://www.CatholicPriest.com)

#### THE WAY OF THE CROSS WITH MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

On Sunday, March 18th at 3:00 pm in the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul, the Gregorian Concert Choir will present the "The Way of the Cross with Musical Meditations" to benefit The Haitian Project.. Tickets are \$10 per person and may be purchased by calling the Cathedral office at 331-2434. Tickets will also be available at the door..



#### 2<sup>ND</sup> PARISH WINE TASTING SAVE THE DATE: MAY 19<sup>TH</sup>

Plans are well underway for another wine tasting event on Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 6-8 PM in the Church Hall. More news soon...but **save the date!!**