

Church of St. Sebastian
March 18, 2012—Fourth Sunday of Lent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

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

Monday, March 19, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am Saint Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, March 20, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Wednesday, March 21, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Thursday, March 22, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Friday, March 23, Lenten Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, March 24, Vigil: Fifth Sunday of Lent

5:00 pm For the people

Sunday, March 25, Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am Congressman John E. Fogarty
 11:00 am Joan Andrews, 4th anniversary
 -requested by Jonathon and Regina Andrews

THIS WEEK AT ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

Sun.	3/18	Coffee Hour	10:00 am
Mon.	3/19	Stations of the Cross	7:00 pm
Thur.	3/22	Choir Rehearsal	7:30 pm

WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

March 10/11, 2012

# of Budget Envelopes Used This Week	75
Contributions-Budgets and Checks	\$4,229
Loose Contributions	\$ 592
Total Offertory	\$4,821
Parish Giving—February	\$2,683

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.

PASTOR'S CORNER

December 7, 1941, November 22, 1963, September 11, 2001...dates never forgotten in our national consciousness. But, 587 BC? Students of the Bible recognize it as the year that Jerusalem fell to the Babylonians. Having ignored the prophets' message of chastisement and exile, they violated their grossly covenant relationship with the God of Israel. Jerusalem fell to Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon. The siege lasted 30 months. After the fall, the elite were taken to Babylon in exile and shame. The walls were leveled; the Temple sacked and burned....the Holy City lay totally destroyed. Today's Psalm (137) captures the sorrow and repentance of the people for their idolatry and sin. Cyrus, King of Persia (who conquered the Babylonians) permits the return of the captives to the city of Jerusalem. Think of our emotional response if St. Peter's Basilica, the center of our Catholic faith was destroyed, desecrated and burned. The turmoil would be overwhelming.

All that being said by way of the historical setting, today is *Laetare* (Rejoice) Sunday...Lent is half over! Rose vestments are worn because it captures both sides of Christian joy: the partial joy we have now, and the overflowing, complete joy we will anticipate fully with God. Rose is the color of the morning horizon when the purple dark night just begins to brighten as the sun starts to rise.

The remaining inhabitants of Jerusalem looked to the east as they awaited the return of the captives from Babylon. We await the Morning Star, the Risen One, on Easter morn. The Church rejoices today as it prepares for the great events that won our salvation in Christ.

I pray your Lenten journey is affording you the opportunity to take inventory of things spiritual. Pray while walking the Boulevard, come to morning Mass, make sandwiches for the poor, contribute to the Charity Drive, or attend the Stations on Monday at 7pm. What *have* you done so far this Lent? And one more thing, Happy Spring!!

~Msgr. Darcy

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

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

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LENTEN ALMSGIVING OPPORTUNITIES

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 1st.



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 14th 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.

Our Lady's Candle burns this week in remembrance of Helen V. Lawlor's birthday as requested by her family.

PARISH EVENTS- SAVE THE DATES

Sat. April 21- Confirmation
Sun. April 22- Parish Blood Drive
Sun. May 13- First Communion
Sat. May 19- Wine Tasting Event

CATHOLIC CHARITY FUND APPEAL 2012

Our parish participation is underway for the 2012 Charity Appeal. Here is the weekly summary:

Parish Goal: \$82,000

Actual to Date: \$17,129 Number of Gifts: 9

Amount Needed for Parish Goal: \$64,871

Please consider a truly sacrificial gift to support our needy brothers and sisters. Thank you to those who have contributed to date.

MALTA, MONSIGNOR, AND LOURDES

Each year the Order of Malta sponsors an international pilgrimage of the sick to Lourdes. Monsignor has been selected as one of the chaplains from the United States for the pilgrimage from May 2nd - 9th. He will bring to this beloved Marian shrine your prayer requests. More news on this in a few weeks!

PARISH BLOOD DRIVE

Please participate in St. Sebastian's first Blood Drive on April 22nd from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm being held in the basement of the church. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your blood donation (medications, illness, fear, etc.) please call the Blood Center at 401-453-8307 and they can help answer your questions. We would love to make this event successful and hope you will join us.



The Diocesan Office of Life and Family is pleased to offer the Our Lady of Sorrows Bereavement Support Program. This support group provides spiritual comfort, discusses challenges associated with personal loss, in a peaceful environment in which adult Catholics may share their grief following the loss of a loved one. The group is most appropriate for persons at least three months beyond their loss. The program is offered each Thursday for eight consecutive weeks (except May 3rd), 7:00 - 8:30 pm, April 12th through June 7th at St. Agatha Church, Parish Hall entrance (large parking lot), corner of Logee Street and Fairfield Avenue, Woonsocket. There is no cost to attend! For additional information please contact Peter A. Magnotta, Office of Life and Family at 421-7833, ext. 217.