

Church of St. Sebastian
December 18, 2011—Fourth Sunday of Advent

Scheduled Masses For This Week

Saturday, December 17, Vigil: 4th Sunday of Advent

5:00 pm Robert Bertoncini
 -requested by John and Rachel Baxter

Sunday, December 18, Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00 am The deceased members of the O'Connor
 and Rigley families
 -requested by John and Kathleen O'Connor
 and Dorothy and Ernest Suter

11:00 am For the People

Monday, December 19, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Tuesday, December 20, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Wednesday, December 21, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Thursday, December 22, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Mass

Friday, December 23, Late Advent Weekday

7:00 am Winifred Kiernan, 7th anniversary

Next Weekend Masses

Saturday, December 24, Vigil: The Nativity of the Lord

5:00 pm For all parishioners and their families
 11:00 pm For all parishioners and their families

Sunday, December 25, The Nativity of the Lord

9:00 am For all parishioners and their families
 11:00 am For all parishioners and their families



WEEKLY SACRIFICIAL GIVING REPORT

December 10-11, 2011

# of Budget Envelopes Used This Week	81
Contributions-Budgets and Checks	\$3,415.00
Loose Contributions	\$2,127.00
Total Offertory	\$5,542.00

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

Time to shift our spiritual gears! This Fourth Sunday shifts our focus from the Second Coming of the Lord in glory to the immediate preparation of His birth in Bethlehem of Judea. The Annunciation to Mary prepares us for the Solemnity of Christmas next weekend. "*fiat mihi secundum verbum tuum ...let it be done to me according to your word.*" Her simplicity and trust has touched the hearts of the faithful to our own day. She brought forth the Savior; and so must we.

This week as we get into the hustle and bustle of Christmas, find a few moments of quiet...even if it means sitting quietly in the car, going for a walk, barricading yourself in your room. Slowly recite the "Hail, Mary." Read today's Gospel again from Luke 1: 26-38. Be prepared to receive His presence at Christmas.

We welcome home all our students from their various schools around the country. They, like Mary, make haste to come home to see us. You, my dear young adults, are the hope of the Church. We need you, and we encourage you to remain faithful to our Catholic faith wherever you go.

Next weekend, be mindful of the Mass schedule printed in two places in this bulletin. The choir and musicians will begin a concert of sacred music at 10:30 PM before the 11 PM Mass of Christmas. The children will take part in the Christmas Pageant at the 9 AM Children's Liturgy.

As we prepare for Christmas, be at peace and enjoy the true meaning of this holy season. To you and your loved ones, a blessed week of grace.

~Msgr. Darcy

Let us pray for the repose of the soul of
Winifred Kiernan
whose love for our parish was shown in a
bequest to St. Sebastian Church.
We remember her in gratitude and offer
Friday's 7 am Mass for her this week.



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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 3rd. All proceeds will be distributed to the homeless by Crossroads RI. Thanks for your generous spirit and kindness.

CAROLING AT AREA NURSING HOMES

Come share the spirit of Christmas by caroling for residents of local nursing homes THIS Sunday, December 18th. Singers of all ages are welcome! Refreshments will be served following the caroling. We will meet at St. Sebastian's at 1:10 PM. Please sign up in the Church vestibule. Call Susan Elliott at 831-1162 for more information.

~ CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR SCHEDULE ~

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve

5:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass
 11:00 pm Christmas Vigil Mass
 - Choir Concert at 10:30 pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 am Christmas Day Mass
 - Children's Pageant at 9:00 am
 11:00 am Christmas Day Mass

Saturday, December 31, Vigil: Octave Day of Christmas

5:00 pm Vigil Mass

OUR LADY'S CANDLE burns this week for the special intentions of all of our parishioners, relatives, and friends as we prepare for Christmas. May her prayers bring us the light and grace of her Son and foster peace throughout the Church and the world.

THIS WEEK AT ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH			
Sun.	12/18	Coffee Hour	10:00 am
		Religious Education	10:00 am
		Christmas Caroling	1:10 pm
		Religious Education	6:30 pm
Mon.	12/19	Religious Education	3:30 pm

A CHRISTMAS MANGER BLESSING

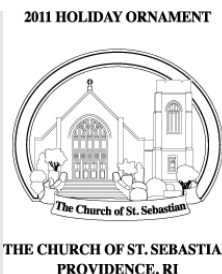
(This blessing can be used with your family as you begin the Christmas Celebration.)

GOD OF EVERY NATION AND PEOPLE,
 FROM THE VERY BEGINNING OF CREATION YOU
 HAVE MADE MANIFEST YOUR LOVE:
 WHEN OUR NEED FOR A SAVIOR WAS GREAT
 YOU SENT YOUR SON TO BE BORN OF THE
 VIRGIN MARY.
 TO OUR LIVES HE BRINGS JOY AND PEACE,
 JUSTICE, MERCY AND LOVE.

LORD,
 BLESS ALL WHO LOOK UPON THIS MANGER;
 MAY IT REMIND US OF THE HUMBLE BIRTH OF
 JESUS, AND RAISE UP OUR THOUGHTS TO HIM,
 WHO IS GOD-WITH-US AND SAVIOR OF ALL,
 AND WHO LIVES AND REIGNS FOREVER AND
 EVER. AMEN.

ST. SEBASTIAN ORNAMENT A 2011 LIMITED EDITION CHRISTMAS GIFT

A beautiful, gold plated, limited edition Christmas tree ornament has been struck of the Church. They are available after all the Masses for \$20 at the front doors of the Church (or at the rectory weekdays between 10-2). What a perfect gift for family and friends who have moved away from the parish. Thank you to Dick Beaupre of ChemArt for this memento of our parish.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

A special envelope to be used towards floral decorations for the church this Christmas season can be found in your budget packet and in the church vestibule. You are invited to provide a memorial gift for a relative or friend, who will be remembered during this holy season. Please place your completed donation envelope in the collection