

**4TH SUNDAY OF EASTER
May 3, 2009**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mon	7AM	Norma Geissberger
	9AM	Trevor Hogges, <i>living</i>
Tue	7AM	In Thanksgiving
	9AM	Kevin Hutchinson
Wed	7AM	Special Intention
	9AM	Liane Glave
Thu	7AM	Emma & Bud Bradley
	9AM	Police Officers, <i>living</i>
Fri	7AM	Carolyn Piatti, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Cornelius Burns
Sat	7AM	Souls in Purgatory
	9AM	Emma Englehart

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Lorenzo Acciai, Marco Balistreri, MaryAnn Bellia, Bertha, Beverly, Joseph Calleja, Patricia Cane, Charles, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Crowley, Bill & Vladia Cutler, Dick Degan, Doris Doty, Doug, Msgr. Bruce Dreier, Nanette Duffy, Ed, Luke Duval, Faith Gillis, Philip Hansen, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Michelle Hufford, Eleanor Jean, Joseph, Germaine Khohayting, Karla Kincade, Jan Lamphere, Frank Lucas, Manda Masse, Warren McGuire, Richard Mogas, Monte Maroevich, Tony, Valerie Milroy, Marie Palleschi, Mark Piatti, Joe Popovich, Stephanie, Steve Schlesselmann, Paul Smith, Rose Tannlund, Tim, Elizabeth Ward, Sibeal Whitty, Camilla Wolfe.

STEWARDSHIP – A WAY OF LIFE

Last weekend's collection	\$5,039.
Weekly goal	\$5,200.
Weekly average	\$4,622.

ANNUAL APPEAL UPDATE

Assessed Goal: \$65,200.
Received: \$49,584.

Donor(s) *this week*: Mary Rocha
Our thanks to *all* who have contributed.

STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK

To be good stewards, we must be good shepherds, willing to lay down our lives for those committed to our care, not mere hired hands who run off "leaving the sheep to be snatched and scattered by the wolf."

THIS WEEK IN OUR PARISH

MON Life in Christ Series today – 9:30am Hall
TUE Scripture Class – Parish Hall – 9:30am
WED Parish School of Religion (PSR) **Final Classes**
Please drop off children at **Parish Hall 3:30-4:45pm**

SAVED BY THE ONE WHO WAS REJECTED

Some city teenagers often scorn and reject farm kids. Yet it's no exaggeration to say that humanity owes its life to farmers who care for the world's crops and livestock. This week's Scriptures remind us that Jesus was rejected as a shepherd, a farm boy, yet we owe our very *lives* to him. In this Sunday's reading from the Acts of the Apostles Peter tells the people that salvation comes through Jesus Christ, the one who was rejected. In John's letter we hear that we have become God's beloved children through Jesus, whom the world did not know. Lastly in the Gospel Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd who "lays down his life for the sheep". Will you join Jesus in laying down your life for God's beloved flock?

5 REASONS TO BE HOPEFUL RIGHT NOW

It's hard not to worry these days. If we haven't been affected by economic troubles directly, we may be worried that we or someone we love soon will be. Yet we in God's family have more reasons to be *hopeful* no matter how bad things get. God *loves* us with the warm love of a Father. "If you then, who are wicked, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good things to those who ask him" (Matthew 7:11).

We can always count on our Father. "Know that the Lord works wonders for the faithful; the Lord hears when I call out"(Psalm 4:4). "Be strong and of good courage, do not fear....for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). God is always with us. "You, Lord, are near to all who call upon you (Psalm 145:20). God know exactly what we need. "You know when I sit and stand; you understand my thoughts from afar. My travels and my rest are familiar" (Psalm139:2-3). All we have to do is ask. "Cast all your worries upon him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:-7).

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Most languages take the name for this fifty-day season from the Lord's Passover: Pasqua in Italian, Paques in French, Paach in Dutch. Pascha in Greek and Russian. English has a much newer name: the name of a pagan goddess, Eoster. For centuries before Christianity took hold, in both Germany and Britain, the spring equinox was dedicated to her and the concepts of fertility and rebirth. She was said to be a playful spirit, following the Sun King's chariot, and ending the reign of winter. She had a magical companion, a rabbit who hid eggs in the fields to coax plants and animals to rebirth. It was believed that Eoster once came across a bird with broken wings and saved it by turning it into a rabbit—an egg-laying rabbit at that! Although they were baptized, most people didn't take to the new Latin name (Pascha Domini) too easily, and kept calling the spring equinox by the old accustomed name. For good measure, they kept a pagan name for Christmas too: Yule.

MARRIAGE FOR LIFE

Engaged couples are invited to view marriage as Sacrament of our Church. The Archdiocesan-approved program focuses on viewing marriage as: A lifelong commitment; A journey of love and renewal; A relationship that includes Christ; and An integral part of our Church. Upcoming programs are held at St. Mary's Cathedral in SF. Both dates must be attended from 8:30am to 12:30pm. Dates are Saturdays July 18th and 25th; Sept. 12 & 19th. Call 664-8108 or e-mail: daura@ccwear.com.

YOUNG AT HEART MEETING

The next meeting is *this* Tuesday, May 5, at 11:45am in our Parish Hall. There will be the "Serve Yourself" Buffet of sandwiches, salad and cookies for a fee of \$5/person. Non members: \$7.50.

Entertainment by Bacich School First Graders. Call Rosellen at 461-9003 or Barbara at 461-2735.

"UP ON THE ROOF" WITH YOUNG AT HEART

Wednesday May 20

Bus leaves St. Sebastian's at 9am and returns at 5pm.

We'll visit St. Francis Hotel, Crocker Rooftop Park on Wells Fargo Bank, Yerba Buena Gardens, (Carousel available if you wish to ride it), Hines Building Rooftop Garden, Embarcadero Center 1, Fairmont Hotel Rooftop Garden.

Midway through the tour, lunch will be at Pompei's Gardens. Deadline for reservation or refund is May 13. Call Rosellen 461-9003 or Barbara at 461-2735.

SAINT SEBASTIAN'S BIBLE CAMP

Bible Camp is planned for the week of August 10-15th from 2:00 pm – 5:30 pm here at St. Sebastian's. Activities include Scripture study, catechesis, Eucharistic Adoration, along with related crafts, games, music, and snack time. The week will conclude with Mass and BBQ for all. To pre-register or for more information, please contact Marian Previtali at 479-5316 or Celeste Chapman at 789-9627.

Pink Pre-registration forms may be found in the pews; when completed, they may be placed in the collection basket during Mass.

CATHOLIC ADULT SINGLES

We are Catholics, single or single again, who are interested in making new friends, taking part in social activities, sharing opportunities for spiritual growth and be-coming involved in volunteer projects that will benefit our parishes, our community, and one another. We welcome those who would share in this with us. Info. 897-0639.

Our New Parish Website
www.sebastian94904.com

Today is "World Day of Prayer for Vocations"



PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

Today, "Good Shepherd Sunday", has been *World Day of Prayer for Vocations* since Pope Paul VI designated it as such in 1963.

The world-wide Church honors the vocation given to all Christians at Baptism, and through the vocations to Marriage, Priesthood, Diaconate, Consecrated Life, and the single life, may each of us do our part to build up the Body of Christ. Jesus gave His life for us that we might know fullness of life.

We pray that young people may hear and accept the gift of their Christian vocation. Jesus, the Good Shepherd, is with us to guide and protect us on our journey through life.

WORD OF LIFE

The daily devotion and continuous commitment to serving sick children is an eloquent testimony of love for human life, particularly for the life of those who are weak and dependent on others in all things and for all things.

—Pope Benedict XVI

QUIET CONTEMPLATIVE DAY OF PRAYER

With the monks of the Camaldolese Incarnation Monastery in Berkeley. Wednesday, May 13, from 9:30am-2:30pm at Santa Sabina Center. Call 457-7727 for information or reservations.

EMPTY AND FILL

There are times in our lives when we have to empty our minds of negativity so God can replace it with peace and joy. Each day, take time to rid yourself of anger, fear, self-pity, jealousy, and bitterness. Then look for God's gifts of peace, wisdom, friendship, forgiveness and love.

IT'S OUR CHOICE

Each day we have a choice of how we can live. We can waste time cursing the darkness or we can thank God for the light when we have it. We can focus on the ugliness in the world or we can train our eyes to see and appreciate the beauty that is there instead.

The month of May is dedicated to Our Lady, our Heavenly Mother. The Rosary is one of the favorite prayers of her children, and we offer the following prayer for your further devotion.

Dear **Mother of Confidence**,

I come before you in my weakness and need trusting in your motherly care, and in the love of God “who has done great things” for you. I give you all—my problems, my doubts, and even my sins. And I ask you to give me your own *limitless confidence*—in the tenderness of God, and in the power of Jesus your Son. Teach me the joy and freedom of abandoning all in His hands. Together with you may I behold God’s presence and His power at work in my life.

I thank you for leading me to rise above my troubles and cares. Help me to accept all that befalls me with serenity, and to ask for all I need with expectant faith; that I too may be able to see and to say that “He who is mighty has done great things ... *for me.*” **Amen.**

“You cannot learn this from books, you must experience it in your life, that whatever you ask Our Lady she will do...”

—Mother Teresa of Calcutta



Our Lady’s activity in history has been evident in many, many situations even up to the present day, and she is known by different titles in every part of the world.

It was in Fatima, Portugal, that she appeared to three young peasant children, beginning on May 13, 1917, and on the 13th of October in that year the miraculous “dance of the sun” took place in the presence of about 75,000 witnesses who had gathered to see the promised miracle.

Pope John Paul II had a great devotion to Our Lady all during his life, and upon his election as Pope, he took the motto “Totus Tuus” (Totally Yours) and had an “M” for Mary placed in his papal coat of arms.

On the 13th of May, 1981, the Feast of Our Lady of Fatima, a would-be assassin shot Pope John Paul twice and nearly killed him. The Pope survived because, as he later said, “One hand *fired* the bullet, another hand *guided* it.” It was through Our Lady’s intercession that he lived. That is why one of the bullets which was removed from the Pope’s body is now resting in the crown of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal!