

**1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
November 29, 2009

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon	7AM	Fran & Stan Conway
	9AM	Bell & Tarrant Fam., <i>living/dec.</i>
Tue	7AM	Lawrence Alessandria
	9AM	R. Martin
Wed	7AM	Unbelievers
	9AM	Bell & Tarrant Fam., <i>living/dec.</i>
Thu	7AM	Grace Lawrence
	9AM	Emma & Bud Bradley
Fri	7AM	Fr. Bill McGuire
	9AM	Norma Geissberger
Sat	7AM	Souls in Purgatory
	9AM	Special Intention, <i>living</i>

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Lorenzo Acciai, Judy Allen, Ken Anderson, Sally Arango, Marco Balistreri, Charles Bellia, Bertha, Madison Bostow, Joseph Calleja, Patricia Cane, Charles, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Crowley, Bill & Vladia Cutler, Dick Degan, Doris Doty, Doug, Nanette Duffy, Ed, Luke Duval, Gust Gallucci, Faith Gillis, Eileen Harriman, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Joseph, Germaine Khohayting, Jeanne Killian, Karla Kincade, Jan Lamphere, Manda Masse, Mary McDonald, Warren McGuire, Richard Mogas, Monte Maroevich, Tony, Valerie Milroy, Mark Piatti, Bertha Ponce de Leon, Joe Popovich, Stephanie, Steve Schlesselmann, Mary Ann Smith, Rose Tannlund, Tim, Elizabeth Ward, Sibeal Whitty, & Camilla Wolfe.

**PARISH BULLETINS ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE  
ON ST. SEBASTIAN'S WEBSITE:  
[www.sebastian94904.com](http://www.sebastian94904.com)**

**STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK**

"Be on guard," Jesus warns in today's Gospel, "lest your spirits become bloated with indulgence." Let us heed His warning and follow the advice of St. Paul, conducting ourselves in a way pleasing to God, overflowing with love for one another.

**THE SEASON OF ADVENT**

Advent has a two-fold character as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ's *second* coming at the end of time. Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation.



**THE HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER INTENTIONS:**

**General:** That in the face of a spreading culture of violence and death, the Church, through her apostolic and missionary activities, may courageously promote the culture of life.

**Mission Intention:** That Christians, especially in mission countries, may show with acts of fraternal love that the Child born in the stable at Bethlehem is the luminous Hope of the World.

**6TH ANNUAL WALK FOR LIFE—WEST COAST**

Mark your calendars: Saturday, January 23, 2010 Join St. Sebastian's parishioners and upwards of 25,000 Pro-Life Walkers for the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Walk for Life in San Francisco, and peacefully proclaim the message that abortion *hurts* women and that they deserve better than abortion.

**[www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com)**

To volunteer or to arrange buses call 586-1576 or e-mail questions to **[info@walkforlifewc.com](mailto:info@walkforlifewc.com)**



**1260 on your AM dial**  
**immaculate heart radio**  
*sharing the heart of the Christian faith*

**YOUNG AT HEART  
CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON MEETING**

Tuesday, December 1, in the Parish Hall

**Lunch will be catered by Deer Park Villa**

Starting at 11:45am

Spring Mix Salad, Boneless Chicken Breast Sauteed with Mushrooms, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Fresh Vegetables, French Bread, Apple Pie, Coffee & Tea

Plus, a bottle of Red wine  
and a bottle of White wine on each table

\$27/member \$30/guest

(Members are those who have paid 2009-10 dues.)

**Marin Catholic Music Department will present  
A Christmas Program**

R.S.V.P. Denise Carrade 461-0689

Barbara Wakida 461-2735

**ANNUAL ROSARY WALK  
DEC. 6<sup>TH</sup> 1:30PM  
IN HONOR OF OUR LADY  
OF GUADALUPE,  
PATRONESS  
OF THE UNBORN CHILD**

Your prayers are needed to help our society become a "Culture of Life". Join in the annual Rosary walk Sunday, Dec. 6 (*the Sunday before Dec. 12*), at 1:30pm in San Rafael. This prayerful walk begins at 4<sup>th</sup> & A Streets and goes to 4<sup>th</sup> & H Streets.

Prayer is powerful.



**ST. SEBASTIAN'S "GIVING TREE"**

St. Sebastian's will again participate in the Christmas Gift-Giving Program for the Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma and St. Vincent's School for Boys. Tags will be on the "Giving Tree" up near the sanctuary during Advent. You are invited to take one or more tags and return the wrapped gift or gift certificates to the church the week before Christmas.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY**

here at St. Sebastian Church needs your assistance in obtaining the following items:

Jam	Cereal (hot & cold)
Tuna	White Rice
Veggies (no corn)	Sugar
Chili	Canned Ravioli
Fruit	Soup
Paper Towels	Macaroni & Cheese
Toilet Paper	Laundry Detergent
Ketchup	Bar Soap
Mustard	Toothpaste

Donations may be left in the barrels near the entrances of the church.  
Your gifts are always appreciated!

As the weather gets colder, we sometimes request donations of jackets, blankets, and other items.

Please do not bring any other items not specifically requested! We cannot handle them and they actually become "garbage" that we have to dump since we do not have the means of transporting them elsewhere.

If you have items you want to discard, please make arrangements by phone with whatever agency you know is able to accept such items.

We appreciate your help and cooperation.

**"LIFE IN CHRIST" GROUP MEETS AGAIN NOV. 30**

Life in Christ Group will meet again in the Parish Hall this Monday morning following the 9am Mass. And will begin Advent preparation by prayer and reflection on the virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity, with examples from Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Meetings include prayer for the needs of the members and others, along with readings from Fr. Stefano Gobbi's book: To the Priests, Our Lady's Beloved Sons.

Join the *Life in Christ* Group in Advent preparation for the celebration of the Birth of Christ.

**DATE FOR CONFIRMATION**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be administered to our Confirmation Youth Group here at Saint Sebastian Church on Sunday, April 11, 2010 at the 5:00pm Mass by Bishop William Justice.

## ADVENT

Human beings cannot live without hope. Unlike the animals, we are blessed—or cursed—with the ability to think about the future and to fear our actions to shaping it. So essential is this to human life, that human beings cannot live without hope, without something to live for, without something to look forward to. To be without hope, to have nothing to live for, is to surrender to death in despair. But we can find all sorts of things to live for and we can hope for almost anything: for some measure of success or security or for the realization of some more or less modest ambition; for our children, that they might be saved from our mistakes and sufferings and find a better life than we have known; for a better world, throwing ourselves into politics or medicine or technology so that future generations might be better off. Not all these forms of hope are selfish; indeed, they have given dignity and purpose to the lives of countless generations. But one of the reasons why we read the Old Testament during Advent is to learn what to hope for. The people of the Old Testament had the courage to hope for big things: that the desert would be turned into fertile land; that their scattered and divided people would eventually be gathered again; that the blind would see, the deaf hear, the lame walk; that not only their own people, but all the people of the earth, would be united in the blessings of everlasting peace. Clearly, their hopes were no different from ours or from any human being's: lasting peace, tranquil lives, sufficiency of food, an end to suffering, pain, and misery. Thus we hope for the same things as the Old Testament people, for their hopes are not yet realized. But we differ from them in two ways. First, the coming of Jesus in history, as a partial fulfillment of God's promises, immeasurably confirms and strengthens our hope. Secondly, we differ from the Old Testament people because Jesus has revealed to us that God is not afar off, but is already in our midst. Hence the importance in the Advent liturgy of John the Baptist and of Mary: because they recognized the new situation, they serve as models for the Church in discerning the presence of our Savior in the world.

Taken from "The Spirit of Advent,"  
Mark Searle, in *Assembly*, Volume 7:1.  
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