

**2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
December 6, 2009

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

Mon 7AM Frank & Angela Lucas  
9AM Hanne Koulhian  
**7pm Vigil** Vladia Cutler

Tue 7AM Msgr. Cornelius Burns  
9AM Liz & R. Martin Family, *living*

Wed 7AM Jean O'Brien  
9AM Stan & Fran Conway

Thu 7AM Rod Alexander  
9AM Bill Baker

Fri 7AM Serge Cincotta  
9AM Anne Cooney

Sat 7AM Tom & Annetta Lazio  
9AM Rosaleen McArdle

**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.

**STEWARDSHIP – A WAY OF LIFE**

Last weekend's collection \$ 3,616.  
Weekly goal \$ 5,200.  
Weekly average \$ 4,181.

**STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK**

Good stewards believe that God, who has begun this good work in them, will carry it through to completion. In words and deeds, they can sing with the psalmist, "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy!" —*Psalm 126*



**HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION**

**Tuesday, December 8**  
**Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception**  
**of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

**We will have a 7pm Vigil Mass on Monday**  
**along with our regular morning Masses**  
**on Tuesday at 7am & 9am**

**ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CAROLS ON THE ORGAN**  
**WITH FR. PAUL PERRY**

Tuesday, December 15, here at St. Sebastian's. At 9:30AM (after morning Mass) and again at 7:30PM (after Adoration prayers). Prayerful program will run a half hour. All are welcome!

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

**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*

**CORRECTION:**

**THE 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 11:00am Mass by Bishop William Justice.

**Clean House.** Just as you would clean your home to prepare for an honored guest, clean your soul of sin through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Remember to forgive those who have hurt you, too.

*“Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.” —Psalm 51:10*

**Visit Him.** Try to attend a weekday Mass. Don't miss Mass on the weekend. Spend time at a Perpetual Adoration Chapel or in the presence of our Lord outside of Mass. Take a pilgrimage to different churches to admire their nativity scenes.

from [www.growinginfaith.com](http://www.growinginfaith.com)

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY**

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

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

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.

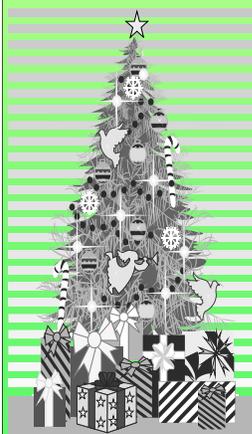
Please do not bring any other items not specifically requested! We cannot handle them and they actually become “garbage” that we have to dump since we do not have the means of transporting them elsewhere.

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.

**ST. SEBASTIAN’S “GIVING TREE”**

St. Sebastian’s Parish is participating in the Christmas Gift Giving Program for Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma and St. Vincent’s School for Boys in San Rafael. Tags are on the “Giving Tree” up near the sanctuary; you are invited to take one or more tags and return your wrapped gift or gift certificate—with the tag attached—to the rectory about a week before Christmas.



The Hanna Boys Center kids would appreciate Rosaries and other religious objects not only during this season but *all during the year*. If you have such items you’d like the boys to have, please drop them off at the rectory and they’ll be forwarded to them.

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

**OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

It was 478 years ago—*December 9-12, 1531*—that Our Lady appeared to the native convert, Juan Diego, in Mexico. Known to the Aztecs at *Tecoatlaxope* (or *de Guadalupe* in Spanish), meaning “she will crush the serpent of stone”, she was declared Patroness of the Americas by Pope Pius XII. Our Lady of Guadalupe is now known and revered around the entire world.

**Her Feastday is December 12.**

**ANNUAL ROSARY WALK  
TODAY, 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.



## THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John proclaimed a “Baptism of Repentance” for the forgiveness of sins because the Lord was so *near*. There was a great sense of immediacy! St. Luke, sets the scene:

*“In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias was tetrarch of Abilene, during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John” the Baptist in the desert.*

It’s like saying, “In the 2009<sup>th</sup> year since the birth of Jesus, when Barack Obama was President of the United States and Arnold Schwarzenegger was Governor of California, the word of God was preached to the people in St. Sebastian Church in Greenbrae.”

That means *today!* We would all know the specific place and time. So John the Baptist came at that time because that’s when God was doing something new. John was preparing the way for the Lord, telling people that the way to meet Him was through repentance of their sins. “Come down into the river and wash yourselves.” “Turn over a new leaf!” “Get ready to meet your God!” That’s what John the Baptist was saying, in effect. And people were responding and being baptized in the river. They wanted to be ready. Some Pharisees also showed up where John was baptizing, coming because it was “politically correct” to do so. They saw that the crowds were coming, and they wanted to appear as if they, too, were part of the popular event. And John the Baptist fittingly said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who told you to flee from the wrath to come? Give some evidence that you mean to reform!”

Give some *evidence!* Don’t just come to the river. Don’t just do what everyone else is doing, but *reform your lives!*

Reform was needed, and is *still* needed right now, for us!

We have the same human nature that they had. Those who *prepare* to meet the Lord are able to recognize him, to hear and understand him, and to receive the healing and forgiveness and life that he came to give. Those who do *not* prepare may very well find themselves “missing the boat”, so-to-speak. Jesus could pass them by, and they wouldn’t even know or care. They’d simply be puzzled by this strange man, that’s all.

Let us, then, *prepare* ourselves! *How?* Well, what did John the Baptist preach? A baptism of repentance! If we’ve been Baptized, then, we can’t be baptized again, but we certainly can and should *repent*. Unless we think that we’re ready to enter heaven as saints right now, we have to acknowledge the truth about ourselves: that we are sinners. Then we’ll be ready. Then we can receive the gifts that our Lord wants to bestow on us. Then we can celebrate his birth as our savior with true joy.

Confessions: every Saturday, 3:30 — 4:30pm  
and Tuesday, December 22 from 10:30am — Noon.