

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**  
**DECEMBER 28 TO JANUARY 2**

Mon 7AM Emma Schendel  
9AM William Walsh

Tue 7AM Stan & Fran Conway  
9AM Mary King

Wed 7AM William Wharton  
9AM Roberta Compagno

Thu 7AM In Thanksgiving  
9AM Elissa Ann Gaudiani  
5:30PM **Vigil Mass for Solemnity**

Fri **Solemnity of Our Lady, Mother of God**  
9AM R. Martin

Sat 7AM Unbelievers  
9AM Harriet Scollin

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK**

Lorenzo Acciai, Ken Anderson, Sally Arango, Marco Balistreri, Charles Bellia, Bertha, Madison Bostow, Joseph Calleja, Patricia Cane, Charles, Cary Chiappone, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Crowley, Bill & Vladia Cutler, Dick Degan, Doris Doty, Doug, Nanette Duffy, Ed, Luke Duval, Faith Gillis, Eileen Harriman, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Chiara Iulucci, Joseph, Germaine Khohaying, Jeanne Killian, Karla Kincade, Jan Lamphere, Manda Masse, 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 BY THE BOOK**

The first reading today provides a challenging blueprint for the good stewardship of our family relationships. How do I measure up?

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



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

**HOLY FAMILY OF**  
**JESUS, MARY, & JOSEPH**  
December 27, 2009



**A new year brings thoughts of new life.  
What better place to start than at the beginning—  
with the human embryo?**

*“Embryonic human beings, no less than human beings at other developmental stages, should be treated as subjects of moral respect and human rights, not as objects that may be damaged or destroyed for the benefit of others.”*

—Presidential Council on Bioethics, 2002

**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)

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 1<sup>ST</sup>**



**is the Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God.**

Archbishop Niederauer has *dispensed* the obligation to attend Mass on this day, however, you are invited to begin the new year with prayer by attending our only Mass at 9:00am.

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.**



**Our deepest thanks to those who have donated the flowers  
which decorate our church for Christmas  
in memory of their family members and friends,  
both living and deceased:**



Carol Abraham  
Ronald Baccei  
Ann Bledsoe  
Estelle Boyer  
Angela Brown  
Ed & Hilde Buel  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Burke  
Barbara Cancilla  
Denise Carrade  
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Cerruti  
Mr. & Mrs. Scott Chapman  
Mr. & Mrs. Alonzo Chattan  
Angela Cincotta  
Stephanie Cincotta  
Mr. & Mrs. Doug Connor  
Carolyn Collins  
Rosalie Courreges  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Degan  
Lydia Deinies  
Helen Derham  
Diane & Philip Dito

Jeff Duke  
Isabel & Vincent Engel  
Elizabeth Esguerra  
Anna Fitch  
Rob & Mitzie Forsland  
Vera Gaudiani  
Mr. & Mrs. John Geissberger  
Mr. & Mrs. Louis Geissberger  
Masako Graf  
Tom & Eileen Harriman  
Don & Gayle Harrington  
Ann Holzheiser  
David Korzec  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Kreps  
Mr. & Mrs. Donald La Bash  
Teresa & Joseph Lampe  
T. Nancy Lampe  
Patricia Leahy  
Steve & Annemarie Lechner  
Carmen Lewis  
Martin Lion

Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Lombardi  
Dolly MacDonald  
Al & Joyce Massucco  
Matthew & Paula McGowan  
Warren & Joan McGuire  
Imelda & Frank Moeslein  
Estelle O’Donnell  
Corrine Pelfini  
Arnold & Carolyn Piatti  
Robert & Sandra Quinn  
Colleen Rettig  
Mary Rocha  
Peter Roche  
Anne Marie Schlesselmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Norman Schoenstein  
Rosellen Staats  
Bernice Treleven  
Thomas Trimble III  
Barbara Parenteau Wakida  
Edith Walsh  
Jeannette Weiss

## THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus came to reveal God to us, and he emphasized that we should do as he did, and call God “Our Father”. If God is our Father, then we are His children, part of a heavenly *family*! And when God became man—in Jesus Christ—He was a member of a *family*, along with Joseph and Mary. Perhaps the Church is showing us the *holiness* of our own families.

We may not *feel* very holy today; perhaps, we’ve had an argument this morning on the way to Mass. Perhaps our family is falling apart! Perhaps our family has experienced great division and trouble. Perhaps a death has brought about profound loneliness and sorrow. No matter what our situation, we are all *challenged* by today’s feast—to deepen our *faith*!

We admit that we are sinners, of course, and sometimes we don’t feel *holy* at all, yet even so, we are members of a holy family, *called* to holiness, and God became man precisely to *save* us from our sins.

When we profess our faith, we declare that we believe in one *holy* catholic and apostolic Church. The Church is *holy* because of Christ—even though it’s made up of sinners such as ourselves—and we are members of the Body of Christ. God is our *Father*. Yes, our families are *holy* because they are a *reflection* of our *everlasting* family.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph fled to Egypt in order to save Jesus since King Herod had ordered the death of all boys two years old and younger in and around Bethlehem! Mary always kept things “in her heart”. Even if she didn’t understand why certain events were happening, she always had *faith* and confidence in God.

The Holy Family experienced terrible and terrifying events, just as every family experiences its own particular “crosses” of suffering. Our celebration today calls us to deepen our faith, and to know—beyond doubt—that God’s promises *are* being fulfilled. No matter what has happened in our own families, in our own lives, God’s plan for our eternal happiness is being worked out.

On our part, *faith* is called for. Jesus frequently told people who approached him that it was their *faith* that had saved them. So, in the midst of all our trials and tribulations, let us imitate the Holy Family to the best of our ability by placing our faith in God and asking, seeking, knocking on heaven’s door with our prayers.