

ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

373 BON AIR ROAD, GREENBRAE, CA 94904-1709
(415) 461-0704 WWW.SEBASTIAN94904.COM

DECEMBER 5, 2010

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
the calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them.
The cow and the bear shall be neighbors, together their young shall rest;
the lion shall eat hay like the ox.
The baby shall play by the cobra's den, and the child lay his hand on the adder's lair.
There shall be no harm or ruin on all my holy mountain;
for the earth shall be filled with knowledge of the LORD, as water covers the sea.



MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening 5 PM
Sundays 7AM, 9AM, & 11AM
Monday - Saturday . 7AM & 9AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays..... 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Parish Office Phone: 461-0704

Pastor Rev. Mark Taheny

Parochial Vicar Rev. Paul Perry

Office Mgr. Nancy Lampe

Parish School of Religion:

Renée O'Neill: ReneeGOneill@gmail.com

Confirmation Youth Group:

Dave Previtali: StSebConfirmation@yahoo.com

MASS INTENTIONS FOR DEC. 6—11

Mon 7AM Gino Morena
 9AM Gerald Holman

Tue 7AM Christina Piatti
 9AM Lois Satchell

Vigil 6PM In Thanksgiving

Wed 7AM Stan & Fran Conway
 9AM Liz Martin, *living*

Thu 7AM To Stop Abortions
 9AM Sharyn Morena

Fri 7AM Fran & Stan Conway
 9AM Joseph Calleja, *living*

Sat 7AM Serge Cincotta
 9AM Fr. Dennis McManus

HOLYDAY OF OBLIGATION

Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception
Wednesday, December 8
 Vigil Mass: Tuesday, 6PM
 Holyday Masses: Wednesday, 7AM, 9AM, & 4PM

CENACLE OF PRAYER

TODAY

3 to 4pm
 Exposition
 of the Blessed Sacrament,
 Rosary, Meditation, & Benediction



**Spend an hour here with Our Lord
 on the first Sunday of each month.**

**THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THE FOLLOWING
 IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

Albert, Angela, Bertha, Doug, Elizabeth, Joseph, Kristen, Michael, Patrick, Tony, Stephanie, Tim, Carol Abraham, Lorenzo Acciai, Sally Arango, Nicholas Arenas, Marco Balistreri, Ivy Batmale, Madison Bostow, Lori Cohen, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Cook, Elizabeth Crowley, Nancy Culhane, Doris Doty, Nanette Duffy, Luke Duval, Kathleen Foley, Tom & Eileen Harriman, Taro Hart, James Harvey, Rosemarie Hayes, Chiara Iulucci, John Kelley, Germaine Khohayting, Jeanne Killian, Joe Lazor, Manda Masse, Gino Mazzenatto, Warren McGuire, William McNamara, Richard Mogas, Monte Maroevich, Valerie Milroy, Gary Parlapiano, Mark Piatti, Bertha Ponce de Leon, Joe Popovich, Kylie Richardson, Peggy Roth, Steve Schlesselmann, Mary Lou Smith, Paul Smith, Ted Taheny, Rose Tannlund, Larry Ulin, Elizabeth Ward, Jeannette Weiss, Sibeal Whitty, & Camilla Wolfe.

HOLY FATHER’S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER

General Intention: That our personal experience of suffering may enable us to better understand the unease and pain of those who are alone, sick, or aged, and stir us to give them generous help.

Mission Intention: That the peoples of the earth may open their doors to Christ and to His Gospel of peace, solidarity, and justice.

NEXT SUNDAY IS “COFFEE SUNDAY”

Don’t “run off”, but be sure to come to the Parish Hall after the 9am or 11am Mass and visit with fellow parishioners who look forward to seeing you there!



**“Coffee Sunday” is scheduled for the
 second Sunday of every month.**

STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK

We must be good stewards of God’s gifts to us, receiving them gratefully, and cultivating them with care, lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today, cautioning us, “Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.” (See Matthew 3:10)

STEWARDSHIP

Last weekend \$ 4,145.
Weekly goal \$ 5,200.
Weekly average \$ 4,449.

Next Week: Retirement Fund for Religious

On December 11-12 the annual collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious will be taken. Your gift will help defray some of the costs needed to care for our elderly religious and relieve the genuine financial crisis in many religious congregations. Whatever you give will be greatly appreciated. Please be generous. Most importantly, please remember in your prayers the more than 700 retired women and men religious living and serving in the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

Requests the following items:

Next Weekend, December 11 & 12

New Socks & Underwear

for the St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room Clients
Your gifts will be received by them (mostly men,
and some women) on Christmas Day—from “Santa”

Donations may be left in the red barrels
near the entrances of the church.

Your gifts are always appreciated!

**The St. Vincent de Paul Society
of St. Sebastian’s Parish
is seeking new members
who would like to serve their neighbors in need.
Please call Beverly at 924-1771**

“We must never lose sight of the fact that we are either saints or outcasts, that we must live for heaven or for hell: there is no middle path in this.

You either belong wholly to the world or wholly to God.

If people would do for God what they do for the world, what a great number of Christians would go to heaven.” —*St. John Vianney*

“You cannot be half a saint. You must be a whole saint or no saint at all.” —*St. Therese of Lisieux*

“Christ shines in the bottom of the humble heart; for Christ is always moved by helplessness whenever a man complains of it and lays it before Him with humility.” —*Blessed Jan Van Ruysbroeck*

THE HOLY Rosary*

***For best results,
—use daily.**



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

WORD OF LIFE

“The rejection of abortion has been a basic element of Catholic identity since the Church’s earliest days. The Didache, a manual of Church morals written even earlier than the later writings of the New Testament, condemns abortion as infanticide. Athenagoras, a catechist, wrote to the Roman emperor in 177 A.D. that the Church considers abortion “murder” because “the fetus in the womb is a created being and therefore an object of God’s care.” This tells us that opposition to the abomination of abortion is more than a partisan political position. For the Catholic, this belief goes to the heart of the mystery that Christ came into this world to reveal to us. This mystery is reflected in our country’s founding document, which speaks of our being endowed by our Creator with rights that no one can take away from us or pretend that we don’t have—the first of these being the right to life.

—*Most Rev. José H. Gomez,
Coadjutor Archbishop of Los Angeles, Column in
[San Antonio’s] Today’s Catholic, Oct. 10, 2008*

THE ADVENT WREATH

The Advent Wreath represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the world. Each year in Advent people wait once again in darkness for the coming of the Lord, His historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem, His final coming at the end of time, and His special coming in every moment of grace.

Customarily the Advent Wreath is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles. According to tradition, three of the candles are violet and the fourth is rose. However, four violet or white candles may also be used.

The candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the number of candles lighted each week corresponds to the number of the current week of Advent. The rose candle is lighted on the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as *Gaudete* Sunday.

When the Advent Wreath is used in the home, the opening prayer of the Sunday Mass is recited when the candles are lighted, and it is appropriate that it be blessed by a parent or another member of the family. The lighting of the Advent Wreath may fittingly be included as a part of the evening meal.

THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

John the Baptist speaks with an *immediacy* in his words: “Prepare the way.” The Lord is *coming*—right away!! And people *believed* that the Lord’s coming was imminent!

John the Baptist had been prepared for this mission from his mother’s womb, where he had *leapt for joy* when the Virgin Mary visited his mother Elizabeth, because Jesus was present in her womb.

And John’s father, Zechariah, later said, “You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, for you shall go before the Lord to prepare his way, to give his people knowledge of salvation by the forgiveness of their sins.”

We don’t have the same feeling of expectation that the Baptist’s listeners had; we don’t feel that the coming judgment is imminent. But it *is* !!!

We *should* feel that the Lord is near, and *remind* ourselves that He is *present*. *Here*. *Now*. We need to *repent*, though that word may sound old-fashioned. John’s followers were “*acknowledging their sins*” as they were being baptized. They were *preparing* to meet the Lord.

Are *we* preparing, or are we are in much the same position as the Pharisees and Saducees who had shown *no evidence* of any change-of-heart, of any conversion or preparation? We probably have an idea, similar to theirs, that, since we’re Catholic, we’re baptized, and we go to church, then we’re all *set*. But John the Baptist says that that’s not enough! We may be Catholic, and *they* were “children of Abraham”—the “chosen people”—but John warns *all* of us that we live in a time of judgment: “The ax is already at the root of the trees!” If we aren’t bearing fruit right now, then we can be cut down and tossed out.

So, we need to acknowledge our sins, too, and give evidence that Jesus matters in our life.

The Baptist called people to come away from the noise of the city and be washed clean, and the Church calls us to prepare, too. Jesus is coming. (In fact, He’s *here*. Do we recognize Him?)

There are signs God’s presence: Reconciliation, e.g. Pearl Harbor veterans, American & Japanese, former enemies, now good friends. Embracing on TV. Like the lion and the lamb that Isaiah spoke of. That’s a sign of heaven. After this Mass—after every Mass—we are dismissed so that we can go back to our homes and places of work and “bear good fruit”, giving evidence by our words and actions that we’ve *met* the Lord here. And then we’ll be sure to recognize Him out *there*, too.