

ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 18, 2011

**4th Sunday
Of Advent**



MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 3:30 - 4:30 PM

Pastor Rev. Mark Taheny
Parochial Vicar Rev. Paul Perry
Deacon Rev. Mr. Bill Turrentine
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. 19—24

Mon 7AM Randa Stenson
 9AM Angus Whitty

Tue 7AM Bill Parker
 9AM Gregorio Guasch

Wed 7AM Rosaleen McArdle
 9AM Joseph Calleja

Thu 7AM Joseph Lampe, *living*
 9AM Doug Connor

Fri 7AM Fr. Theodore Taheny, S.J.
 9AM Javier, *living*

Sat 7AM Popes, Bishops, & Priest, *l & d*
 9AM Martin Family, *living/deceased*

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

Albert, Angela, Bertha, Caroline, Coner, Elizabeth, Kristen, Monica, Patrick, Stephanie, Tim, Carol Abraham, Lorenzo Acciai, Sally Arango, Ivy Batmale, Madison Bostow, Marilyn Charbonneau, Lori Cohen, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Cook, Elizabeth Crowley, Nancy Culhane, Doris Doty, Nanette Duffy, Luke Duval, Tom & Eileen Harriman, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Chiara Iulucci, John Kelley, Bob King, Germaine Khohayting, Jeanne Killian, Manda Masse, Gino Mazzenatto, William McNamara, Richard Mogas, Monte Maroevich, Valerie Milroy, Mark Piatti, Bertha Ponce de Leon, Tony Powers, Kylie Richardson, Peggy Roth, Alex Salit, Steve Schlesselmann, Anne Schreiner, Mary Lou Smith, Rose Tannlund, Miriam Velcich, & Camilla Wolfe.

STEWARDSHIP BY THE BOOK

In the first reading, God promises King David that his house and his kingdom will endure forever. It is through Mary's "Yes" ("*I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be done to me as you say.*") that the promise finds fulfillment.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Last Weekend	\$ 4,732.
Weekly Goal	\$ 5,495.
Average	\$ 4,612.



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

Saturday - December 24
 5pm *Children's Pageant*
 5:30 pm *Vigil Mass*
 9 pm *Vigil Mass*

Christmas Day

Sunday - December 25
 7am, 9am, and 11am *Masses*

Confessions: Wednesday, Dec. 21,
 from 10:30am to Noon.

There will be NO Confessions on December 24.

**PRAYERS FOR THE
ADVENT WREATH**

Week 4



Let us pray. Stir up Your might, we pray You, O Lord, and come; rescue us through Your great strength so that salvation, which has been hindered by our sins, may be hastened by the grace of Your gentle mercy. You live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

SUNDAY MORNING
BIBLE STUDY GROUP
TODAY



The Bible Study Group meets in the Parish Hall *today* after the 9am Mass to read and study the Scriptural readings for next Sunday's Mass.

You are always welcome to attend; it's not necessary to commit to coming each week. You can come one week and not the next; whatever fits your schedule. If possible, please bring your Bible.

Deacon Bill Turrentine will lead the study, guiding the group in discussing the readings for the *upcoming* Sunday.

100TH BIRTHDAY

Carol Faith, a long-time parishioner now residing at Nazareth House, has been blessed to reach the century mark—*100 years*—on December 14.

Friends wishing to extend birthday greetings may send them c/o Nazareth House, 245 Nova Albion Way, San Rafael, CA 94903.



Immaculate Heart Radio's Year-End Pledge Drive is fast approaching, and for the first time in their history, they have been offered a \$1,000,000 matching grant challenge. For every dollar you give prior to December 31, 2011, an anonymous donor will match your donation on a dollar-for-dollar basis, up to a grand total of one million dollars!

December 27-30, 2011

6am to 6pm

**4 days of inspiring testimonies and interviews,
Plus exciting prize giveaways and much more.
Tune in to AM 1260 Radio, or listen live on the
internet at IHRadio.com**



1260 on your AM dial

immaculate heart radio
sharing the heart of the Christian faith

WORD OF LIFE

In the eyes of the *world*, those who are in the last stages of life are somehow diminished in their humanity and should be eliminated. We must see them through *God's* eyes, and recognize that each and every person is created in his image and likeness, and that we are all connected to God and to each other. We are our brother's keeper and our sister's helper. Cain, who forgot he was his brother's keeper, ended up becoming his *executioner*. "Thou shalt not kill" is God's law, and it is written in our hearts by our Creator.

—Cardinal Seán O'Malley, Archbishop of Boston,
Homily, Red Mass, Sept. 19, 2011

Christmas Concert

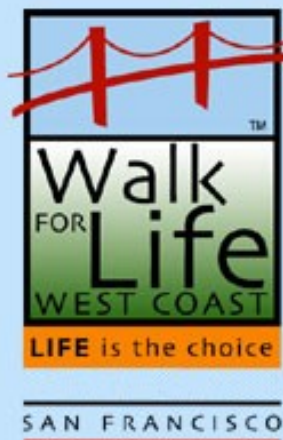
DOWN FROM HIS GLORY
The Love Story of Christmas

Presented by Our Lady of Loretto Choir
1800 Novato Blvd., Novato
Today, Dec. 18, at 4PM and 7:30PM



8TH ANNUAL
WALK FOR LIFE—
WEST COAST

Mark your calendars:
Saturday, January 21, 2012
Join thousands of Pro-Life Walkers for the 8th 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

To volunteer or to arrange buses call 510-918-5100
or e-mail questions to **info@walkforlifewc.com**

THOUGHTS ON TODAY'S READINGS

God chose David, the youngest of Jesse's sons, to be anointed king of Israel, and gave the shepherd boy the courage to single-handedly face the giant Goliath and conquer him.

Today, we hear the prophet Nathan telling David that God's promise is that his throne should stand firm forever. But there would be other kings after David, and there would be a period of exile for the Israelites in Babylon before their return to the land of Israel. And finally—in *the fullness of time*—God would send the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary in Nazareth. And Jesus, her Son, who is called “Son of David” many times in the Gospels, would fulfill all the ancient promises!

But sadly, many people had stopped watching and waiting, they stopped being faithful to God—who always keeps His promises.

Though there were many centuries between the life of David and the coming of Jesus, God was watching over His people the entire time, but many people lost their faith in God, were distracted by the things of this world, and turned to idols for excitement and thrills, forgetting their identity. They forgot that they were God's *chosen people*, and they would suffer for their infidelity.

But Mary knew who she was: “I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.” She's the model for the Church, remaining faithful even in her many sorrows, and now she is the Queen of Heaven!

Perhaps it seems to us that God is far away and doesn't hear us, but we must remember our identity.

The Holy Water at the church door reminds us of our Baptism where we became temples of the Holy Spirit, just as Mary was a living temple, carrying Jesus wherever she went. We, too, were anointed with Sacred Chrism to live always as a member of Christ's body, sharing everlasting life.

Jesus is the fulfillment of the promises made to David.

And our Baptism makes us members of the body of Christ, so we share the life of Jesus and the promise of everlasting life in heaven. That's who we are.

Jesus wants us to share His life in heaven with His Father.

Though we might be tempted to forget God, distracted by all the things of this world, the manger scene brings it all down to earth for us: God came down to earth in the fullness of time, and was born in that little town of Bethlehem.

And God dwells in you and in me right now! That's who we are, and our eternal happiness depends on our remembering who we are, and in following the example of our mother, Mary. “I am the servant of the Lord. Let whatever God wants of me ... be done to me.”