

ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

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THE NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

JUNE 24, 2012

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 JUNE 25—30

Mon	7AM	John Reuther
	9AM	Vera Gaudiani, <i>living</i>
Tue	7AM	Bishop Javier Echeverria, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Margaret Burns
Wed	7AM	Tom Cincotta
	9AM	Norma Geissberger
Thu	7AM	Frances Kinn
	9AM	Martin Lion, <i>living</i>
Fri	7AM	Paul Haddad, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Claire Gaudiani / David Burnett, <i>living</i>
Sat	7AM	Tom Lazio
	9AM	Dominick Petrolini

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Angela, Bertha, Coner, Elizabeth, Kristen, Martin, Mary, Monica, Patrick, Stephanie, Tim, Carol Abraham, Lorenzo Acciai, Sally Arango, Ivy Batmale, Madison Bostow, Marilyn Charbonneau, Lori Cohen, Yondellan Coleman, Elizabeth Cook, Elizabeth Crowley, Doris Doty, Nanette Duffy, Terrence Fischer, Eileen Harriman, Taro Hart, Rosemarie Hayes, Chiara Iulucci, Bob King, Germaine Khohayting, Jeanne Killian, Joe Lazor, John Legnitto, Manda Masse, Gino Mazzenatto, William McNamara, Nellie Mitchell, Richard Mogas, Monte Maroevich, Valerie Milroy, Mark Piatti, Bertha Ponce de Leon; Jenna, Jack, Kate, & Purl Clan; Kylie Richardson, Peggy Roth, Steve Schlesselmann, Anne Schreiner, Helen Smith, Mary Lou Smith, Sharon Smith, Rose Tanlund, Miriam Velcich, & Camilla Wolfe.

**Please say a prayer
for our many sick, homebound
and hospitalized parishioners
who are unable to attend Mass.**

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study led by Deacon Bill Turrentine meets on Sundays after the 9am Mass, down in the Parish Hall.

Drop in and take part!



THE BIRTH OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

The cover of today's bulletin shows a painting of "The Visitation" by Domenico Ghirlandaio, 1491. The Virgin Mary is visiting her elderly cousin, Elizabeth who is pregnant with John the Baptist, and Elizabeth, though she is heavy with child stoops to show great honor to Mary, the mother of her Lord!

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, "Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. —Luke 1:41-44

Mary stayed with Elizabeth for three months, until the birth of John, who would be known as "The Baptist". Years later, Jesus would say that there is no one born of woman greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the Kingdom of Heaven is greater than he! Those are amazing words.

It is noteworthy that the Church celebrates the birthdays of only Jesus, Mary, and John the Baptist. The feastdays of other holy people are usually on or around the day of their death—when they were born into eternal life. Jesus, Mary, and the Baptist were, we are told in sacred Scripture, consecrated while they were in the womb.

PREPARING FOR A FORTNIGHT FOR FREEDOM

When we put the HHS mandate into the larger historical framework, we realize something quite ominous about what's really at stake. The HHS mandate is just one more momentous battle in the long struggle between Christians and pagans. For we in the West have been, for some time, undergoing what could quite accurately be called "repaganization." ...

The HHS mandate is a throwing down of the gauntlet by the new pagans. At issue is whether the enormous moral influence of Christianity, and Christianity itself, will be erased from history—that is, whether the seamless spectrum of "reproductive rights" cherished in ancient, pagan Rome will be re-imposed by the secular state. ...

With the HHS mandate, the secular state is moving from, "Christians, do what you like among yourselves, but don't impose your moral views on us," to, "Christians, you must now do what *we* like—or else."

—Benjamin Wiker, Ph.D.

THANK YOU FROM FR. PAUL

Thank you, the people of St. Sebastian Church, for your kind reception on June 10, and the many cards of greeting that I (and my “puppy” Heidi Ho) received.

There was a grand turn-out and super food service and hall decorations to mark my 45th Ordination Anniversary. I am grateful to you for remembering my first 45 years as a priest of Jesus Christ.

Thanks, especially, to Nancy Lampe and her team who made it possible, and Fr. Mark for his special presence in our parish and fraternal support for me.

—*In Christ, Fr. Paul & his “dog”.*

Friday, June 29

Solemnity of Saints Peter & Paul Mass for Vocations, Priests, & Religious St. Sebastian Church 5:30pm

Confessions: 4pm - 5 pm

Bishop Thomas Daly
Main Celebrant & Homilist

Reception to follow in the Parish Hall
hosted by the Marin Network for Life

IMMACULATE HEART RADIO

June 25-28 Summer Pledge Drive

4 days of life-changing testimonies,
inspiring interviews, plus exciting prize giveaways,
with so much *more...*

Hear co-hosts Debbie Georgianni, Jerry Usher,
Jim Rossi, and Dick Jenkins
interviewing listeners on the air.

Set your radio to 1260AM
or listen on the internet at ihradio.com

20th S.F. INTERNATIONAL MARIAN CONFERENCE

June 29-July 1, 2012

Crowne Plaza Hotel Conference Center, Foster City
1221 Chess Dr, Foster City, CA

Theme: Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth

6 International Speakers, Marian,
Eucharistic, and Charismatic Devotions,
Children’s Program, Healing Service.

Info & Registration: 800-456-4197
www.straphaelministries.org

WHY CONSCIENCE IS IMPORTANT

During the civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s, Americans shone the light of the Gospel on a dark history of slavery, segregation, and racial bigotry. **The civil rights movement was an essentially religious movement, a call to awaken consciences.**

In his famous “Letter from Birmingham Jail” in 1963, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. boldly said, “The goal of America is freedom.” As a Christian pastor, he argued that to call America to the full measure of that freedom was the specific contribution Christians are obliged to make. He rooted his legal and constitutional arguments about justice in the long Christian tradition: “I would agree with Saint Augustine that ‘An unjust law is no law at all.’... A just law is a man-made code that squares with the moral law or the law of God. An unjust law is a code that is out of harmony with the moral law.”

Some unjust laws impose such injustices on individuals and organizations that disobeying the laws may be justified. Every effort must be made to repeal them. When fundamental human goods, such as the right of conscience, are at stake, we may need to witness to the truth by resisting the law and incurring its penalties.

The church does not ask for special treatment, simply the rights of religious freedom for all citizens. Rev. King also explained that the church is neither the master nor the servant of the state, but its conscience, guide, and critic.

Catholics and many other Americans have strongly criticized the recent Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate requiring almost all private health plans to cover contraception, sterilization and abortion-inducing drugs. For the first time in our history, the federal government will force religious institutions to fund and facilitate coverage of a drug or procedure contrary to their moral teaching, and purport to define which religious institutions are “religious enough” to merit an exemption. **This is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide such coverage even when it violates our consciences.**

What we ask is nothing more than the right to follow our consciences as we live out our teaching. This right is not only about our ability to go to Mass on Sunday or pray the Rosary at home. It is about whether we can make our contribution to the common good of all Americans. Can we do the good works our faith calls us to do, without having to compromise that very same faith? Without religious liberty properly understood, all Americans suffer, deprived of the essential contribution in education, health care, feeding the hungry, civil rights, and social services that religious Americans make every day.

What is at stake is whether America will continue to have a free, creative, and robust civil society—or whether the state alone will determine who gets to contribute to the common good, and how they get to do it.

—*USCCB Nationwide Bulletin Insert*

The nativity of Saint John the Baptist is a sacred reminder of the fact that I need born in my life every day:

- someone who leaps with joy before the presence of the Lord making me want to live my own relationship with Jesus with greater ardor and fervor;
- someone to prepare the way of the Lord and to give me knowledge of salvation through forgiveness of my sins;
- someone who turns my attention away from my distractions and preconceptions so that I will behold the Lamb of God as the true desire of my heart;
- someone who models for me that there is no greater joy in my life than for Jesus to increase and for me to decrease, especially as regards my self-reliance, my self-assertion, my self-importance;
- someone who is a burning and shining lamp whose radiance gives light to my path and courage to my heart, making me want to live for others;
- someone so committed to the truth that he is willing to lay down his life for the Truth-become-flesh - witnessing to me that all true happiness comes through self-sacrifice;
- someone whose sanctity proclaims that there is no man born of woman greater than he is but that I can share his greatness if I love Jesus as he did.

In the tender compassion of our God, the Dawn from on high has broken upon us through the birth of John the Baptist.

—Father Peter John Cameron, OP

CARMELITE MONASTERY NOVENA



**in Honor of
OUR LADY
OF MOUNT CARMEL
July 8—16**

Rev. Bernard Perkins, OCD,
Celebrant & Homilist

**Masses: 7:30pm
each evening**

in the Monastery Chapel
**530 Blackstone Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903**
(cross street: Las Gallinas
Avenue, in Marinwood)