

# ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

373 BON AIR ROAD, GREENBRAE, CA 94904-1709  
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13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 1, 2012



*I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.  
I will extol you, O LORD, for you drew me clear  
and did not let my enemies rejoice over me.  
O LORD, you brought me up from the netherworld;  
you preserved me from among those going down into the pit.*

—Psalm 30:2, 4

## 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](mailto:ReneeGOneill@gmail.com)

*Confirmation Youth Group:*

Dave Previtali: [StSebConfirmation@yahoo.com](mailto:StSebConfirmation@yahoo.com)

### MASS INTENTIONS FOR JULY 2—7

Mon 7AM Unbelievers  
9AM Joseph & Gianna Calleja

Tue 7AM Special Intention  
9AM Judy Wallerstein

Wed HOLIDAY — *One Mass Only*  
9AM Joseph Calleja

Thu 7AM Special Intention  
9AM Special Intention

Fri 7AM Padre Marquitos  
9AM Zelda Maffei

Sat 7AM Souls in Purgatory  
9AM Msgr. Cornelius Burns

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

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



### 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.**



### 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.**

### A WORD OF LIFE

“Brother kills brother. Like the first fratricide, every murder is a violation of the “spiritual” kinship uniting mankind in one great family, in which all share the same fundamental good: equal personal dignity. Not infrequently the kinship “of flesh and blood” is also violated; for example when threats to life arise within the relationship between parents and children, such as happens in abortion or when, in the wider context of family or kinship, euthanasia is encouraged or practiced.”

—John Paul II, *The Gospel of Life*, n.8.

### Words to Consider during the Fortnight for Freedom

“[W]e hold it for a fundamental and undeniable truth that religion, or the duty which we owe our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence. The Religion then of every man must be left to the conviction and conscience of every man; and it is the right of every man to exercise it as these may dictate.”

—James Madison,  
*4<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America,  
Memorial and Remonstrance  
Against Religious Assessment, 1785.*

**REFERENCES TO GOD IN  
THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE**

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their **Creator** with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. ... We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the **Supreme Judge of the world** for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states; ... And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of **Divine Providence**, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.

**The Pledge of Allegiance and “Under God”**

In February, 1954, with President Eisenhower sitting in Lincoln’s pew, George MacPherson Docherty, the pastor at the church Lincoln attended, New York Avenue Presbyterian Church, delivered a sermon based on the Gettysburg Address titled “A New Birth of Freedom.” He argued that the nation’s might lay not in arms but its spirit and higher purpose. He noted that the Pledge’s sentiments could be those of *any* nation, that “there was something *missing* in the pledge, and that which was missing was the characteristic and definitive factor in the American way of life.” He cited Lincoln’s words “*under God*” as *defining* words that set the United States *apart* from other nations.

President Eisenhower had been baptized a Presbyterian just a year before. He responded enthusiastically to Docherty in a conversation following the service. Eisenhower acted on his suggestion the next day and on February 8, 1954, Rep. Charles Oakman (R-Mich.), introduced a bill to that effect. Congress passed the necessary legislation and Eisenhower signed the bill into law on Flag Day, June 14, 1954. Eisenhower stated “*In this way we are reaffirming the transcendence of religious faith in America’s heritage and future; in this way we shall constantly strengthen those spiritual weapons which forever will be our country’s most powerful resource, in peace or in war.*”

The phrase “*under God*” was incorporated into the Pledge of Allegiance June 14, 1954, by a Joint Resolution of Congress.

—from Wikipedia

An excerpt from *Oral Testimony of Most Reverend William E. Lori, Bishop of Bridgeport*  
*On behalf of the*  
*United States Conference of Catholic Bishops*  
*Before the Committee on the Judiciary*  
*United States House of Representatives*  
*February 28, 2012*

... I would like to discuss the various absurd consequences that have flowed from the HHS mandate. ...

**“Choice” suddenly means “force”**

Let me quote from the letter I issued in my own Diocese:

“[HHS] announced last week that almost all employers, including Catholic employers, will be forced to offer their employees health coverage that includes sterilization, abortion-inducing drugs, and contraception. Almost all health insurers will be forced to include those “services” in the health policies they write. And almost all individuals will be forced to buy that coverage as a part of their policies.”

I emphasize this word—“force”—precisely because it is one of the key differences between a mere dispute over reproductive health policy and a dispute over religious freedom.

This is not a matter of whether contraception may be prohibited by the government. This is not even a matter of whether contraception may be supported by the government. Instead, it is a matter of whether religious people and institutions may be forced by the government to provide coverage for contraception or sterilization, even if that violates their religious beliefs.

It is not a matter of “repackaging” or “framing” this as a religious freedom dispute. It is a matter of acknowledging the basic fact that government is forcing religious people and groups to do something that violates their consciences.

## ABOUT TODAY'S GOSPEL

In today's Gospel, a woman who has suffered from a hemorrhage for twelve years approaches Jesus merely to *touch* his clothes, and she is immediately healed. Jesus tells her that it is her faith that has saved her.

In 1871, in Pontmain, Our Lady appeared to four children, and under her feet, they could read words which were appearing on a large scroll: "My Son allows himself to be *touched*."

Yes; we can "touch" Jesus, through our *prayers*. Jesus was happy to have been *touched* by that woman, and he'll be happy if we *touch* him as she did: *expecting* that he will help us, but leaving the details up to him as to how he will help us. We can also *touch* Our Lady and the saints in the same way.

A woman named Colleen Willard, visiting Medjugorje, where Our Lady is said to have appeared, prayed to Our Lady and was *instantly* answered! Sitting in a wheelchair behind a crowd outside the house of a visionary named Vicka, listening to Vicka talk about Our Lady, Colleen prayed, "Oh, Mary, Vicka has seen you face-to-face, so please let me *see* her and it will be as if I'm seeing *you*." Instantly, she heard Vicka say, "Momento. Momento." Vicka walked through the crowd, which parted, and prayed over Colleen who was behind them all.

Char Vance, who was not yet Catholic at the time, was also in the same town, watching young and old people exhibiting obvious signs of faith as they ascended the mountain. Feeling that she had no faith, from her heart, she *touched* God by saying, "O God, heal my head, 'cause that's where the all my trouble is." A monk then approached her, and mentioned that the crucifix on his Rosary had once been touched to the stigmatic wounds of a holy mystic named Therese Neumann. "I would like your permission to place it on your head," he said. She was shocked to think that "Someone is tapped into my thoughts!" Later, she'd exclaim, "I knew without a doubt that God existed!"

Not all of our prayers may be answered so quickly, or as we would prefer. But each prayer is heard! Yes, we can "*touch*" God all the time with our prayers. He is pleased when we touch him in faith, and He will answer us.