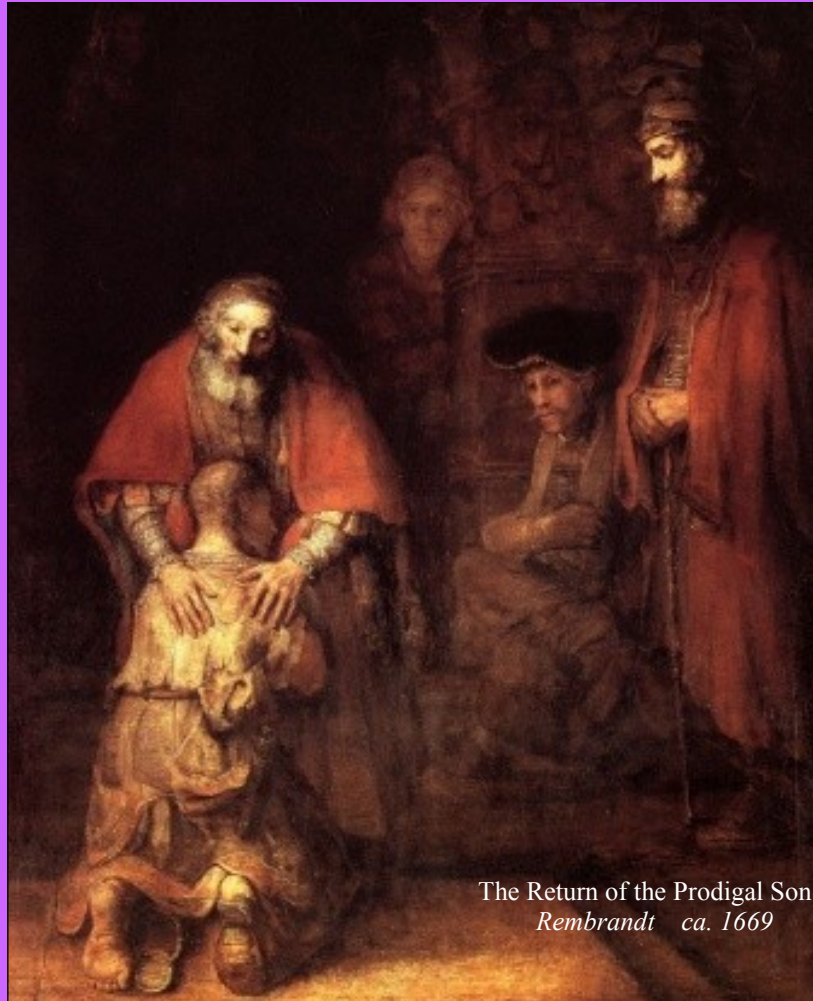


ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 10, 2013



The Return of the Prodigal Son
Rembrandt ca. 1669

He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered, '...let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.'

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

Parish School of Religion:

Renée O'Neill: ReneeGOneill@gmail.com

Confirmation Youth Group:

Dave Previtali: StSebConfirmation@yahoo.com
CYO: Bob McCullough StSebastianCYO@gmail.com

MASS INTENTIONS FOR MARCH 11-16

Mon 7AM Christina Piatti
9AM Fr. John Cleary

Tue 7AM Robert, *living*
9AM Blesila "Sally" Guillen

Wed 7AM James Maffei
9AM Dallara Family, *living*
5:15PM Luming Reyes

Thu 7AM Connecticut Shooting Victims
9AM Madeleine O'Brien

Fri 7AM Regina Slayton
9AM Emergency Responders in Connecticut

Sat 7AM Rev. Paul Perry, *living*
9AM Antonini Family, *living*

THANK YOU FOR KEEPING THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Angela, Barbara, Bertha, Carol, Claudia, Dorothy, Elizabeth, Kristen, Mary, Monica, Patrick, Sandra L., Stephanie, Tim, Verna, Vivien, Carol Abraham, Marilyn Charbonneau, Elizabeth Cook, Eileen Harriman, Margaret & Monte Maroevich, Chris & Marjorie Matthews, Mark Piatti, Steve Schlesselmann, Helen & Paul Smith, Mary Lou Smith, Rose Tannlund, and Sherry Willis.

**There are many sick, homebound,
and hospitalized parishioners,
unable to attend Mass,
who are blessed by your prayers.**

ARCHBISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL 2013

Seventy-two families, out of the 425 registered households, have responded, pledging about 68% of our goal of \$59,400. We still need \$19,100 to pay our assessment, but we are excited about the response to this year's Appeal.

When each of us takes part in this effort,
we can easily support both our Parish
and the entire Archdiocese of San Francisco.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Last Weekend	\$ 4,681.
Weekly Goal	\$ 5,200.
Average	\$ 4,442.

TODAY IS "COFFEE SUNDAY"

Be sure to come to the Parish Hall after the 9am or 11am Mass and visit with fellow parishioners.



**"Coffee Sunday" is the
second Sunday of every month.**

**If you would like to assist in serving
coffee and pastries on Coffee Sundays, please call
our co-ordinator, Pat Lindstadt at 272-3508.**

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

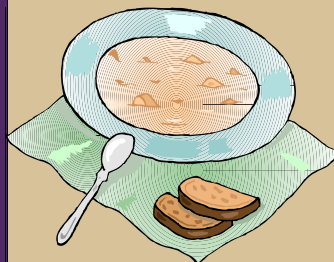
Jesus asks, "*Could you not watch with me one hour? Watch, and pray that you may not undergo the test.*" (Matthew 26:40-42).

St. Sebastian's offers Eucharistic Adoration following the 7AM & 9AM weekday Masses, when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed by the celebrant for Eucharistic Adoration. Spending time in private adoration and thanksgiving after attending Mass and receiving Jesus in Holy Communion is an ideal way to grow in appreciating the tremendous gift of God to us in the Eucharist, and a way to grow in holiness and love of God.

During the 3 o'clock "Hour of Divine Mercy" there is another opportunity for Adoration. Join fellow parishioners in reciting the Chaplet of Divine Mercy and the Rosary. The second part of the Holy Hour from 3 - 4PM is a time of *silent* Adoration.

Can you "watch and pray" one hour with Jesus?
Why not make that commitment for Lent?

CAN YOU MAKE SOUP ?



During Lent, we have a 5:15pm Mass on Wednesday evening, followed by "Soup Supper" in the Parish Hall.

We need your soup!

**If you would like to prepare a pot of soup to share
with your fellow parishioners, please call the
Parish Office at 461-0704.**

We usually have a variety of seven different soups each Wednesday. We'd love to taste your specialty!
There are only two more Soup Suppers.

Prior to leaving office, Pope Benedict XVI made this request to the faithful of the world: *“I ask you to remember me before God, and above all to pray for the Cardinals, who are called to such an important task, and the new Successor of Peter: may the Lord accompany him with the light and the power of his Spirit.”*

A PRAYER FOR THE ELECTION OF A POPE

Lord Jesus Christ,
You are the Good Shepherd,
And you never leave your flock untended.

You gave your life that we may live,
And you appoint shepherds after your own heart
To lead your people by word and example
To likewise give themselves away in love.

We thank you for the ministry of Pope Benedict XVI,
And for his service to the Church and the world.
We ask that you now give him a fruitful period
Of rest and prayer, of gratitude and praise.

We ask you, Lord Jesus, with the Father,
To send the Holy Spirit on the Church once again.

In particular, guide the Cardinals
who will shortly exercise
the obligation and privilege of electing a new Pope.
Guide their deliberations and decisions
With divine wisdom and insight.

Even now, Lord Jesus, give to the new Pope,
Whom you have already chosen,
An abundance of holiness and strength,
To carry out the mission you have entrusted to him.

May your Word reign supreme in his life,
And may his every word and action
point the Church to You,
The supreme and eternal Shepherd,
And the only mediator between God and humanity,
For you live and reign forever and ever. Amen.

—from PriestsforLife.org

THE GRAND VICTORIAN LADIES OF SAN FRANCISCO

Will open their doors on Thursday, March 21 for
a special tour arranged by Young at Heart with
host [Craig Smith](#)

9:45 depart from St. Sebastian's
by Airporter bus to Japantown.

Tour of [Queen Anne Hotel](#)
Lunch at [Pompei's Grotto](#)

Menu: Cup of Clam Chowder
Menu choices:

- 1) Shrimp Louie
- 2) Chicken Piccata
- 3) White Fish or Prawn Pasta

Coffee, Tea, Soda, & Dessert Included

Tour of Grand Victorian Ladies

[Haas Lilienthal House](#)
[Reutlinger House](#) (collection of calliopes)

Cost of all the above: \$85/members \$88/guests
Call Donna 453-3383 — Rosellen 461-9003
Last Day for Reservations: Monday, March 18

SACRED HEART CHURCH, OLEMA 57TH ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY BBQ

Sunday, March 17 Noon - 4pm

Dance Palace Community & Cultural Center
503 B Street, Point Reyes Station

Enjoy the famous Chicken Barbecue Dinner!
(BBQ Chicken, Pasta, Salad, Roll, & Milk)
Adults \$12

Children \$6

Games for kids, cash raffle, silent auction
Featuring fabulous donated items, delicious home-
baked goodies.

Event held indoors, rain or shine.

ANNUAL DAY OF RECOLLECTION Hosted by Nazareth House Auxiliary

Wednesday, March 20
at

Nazareth House, 245 Nova Albion Way, San Rafael
9:30am—3:00pm Mass at 2:00pm

Speaker: Fr. Cyril O'Sullivan

Bring a Bag Lunch; Coffee & Dessert Provided
Suggested Donation: \$10

RSVP: Before Tuesday, March 12 (limited space)
Peggy Walker 453-9305 (leave name and phone)



1260 on your AM dial

immaculate heart radio
sharing the heart of the Christian faith

THE PRODIGAL SON

--Fr. David M. Friel, *Homiletic & Pastoral Review* hprweb.com

The key to understanding today's Gospel rightly is to admit that every one of us is the prodigal son. Whether or not we have ever become mired in a rebellious, downward spiral of grave sin, we all know the basic experience of separating ourselves from another. Sometimes, we cut ourselves off from our parents, or our children. Sometimes, we separate ourselves from spouses, or old friends. Sometimes, we cut ties with God. We drift away into "a distant country," until we eventually grow tired of our self-inflicted isolation and loneliness. By God's mercy, we realize that we have forgotten our identity as his beloved children and, finally, wake up to his stupendous mercy.

There are also traces of the older son in us. Rather than wandering away, this son stays at home, yet he, too, becomes lost. This elder son is the type of person who did as he was told. He goes to work on time, doing his job faithfully. He is an obedient and respectful son. Regardless of his dutifulness, though, his heart becomes calloused. He separates himself from his family, not by fleeing to "a distant country," but by walling up his heart, leaving himself imprisoned by unhappiness and resentment. When he sees his father's joy at the return of his prodigal brother, he simply cannot abide it. His resentment reels when exposed to joy. This process is repeated in each of our hearts, when we feel forgotten and unappreciated, and we witness someone else being remembered and appreciated.

At different times in our lives, we have all played the part of these two singular, yet strikingly similar, sons. The destiny of our lives, however, is not only to be the lost child who is found by the father. What St. Paul calls the "upward calling" of Christian life is the supernatural process of becoming the father. In the father, we see an image of God himself, who actively seeks out the lost and the broken. As much as we may feel separated from his love—either by our prodigality, or by our sense of being overlooked—we never really are. The father loves both of his sons equally, and there is nothing at all they can do or say that will actually separate them from his love. This father demonstrates spendthrift generosity by going out to meet each of his sons in their need, and welcoming them back with heartfelt joy. Every Christian must imitate that example. In all the relationships of our lives, especially the difficult ones, the challenge of Christianity is to love with the same balance and effusiveness as God the Father.

The "fourth species" of pride for St. Thomas Aquinas is recognizing the perfections one has through God's grace undeservedly. But in such recognition, is also the secret desire that the Lord share these perfections with no one else. This is how pride leads to envy in the order of the seven deadly sins. This is precisely where the older brother is at; he knows his father loves him, but is so scared to lose his unique status as the beloved that he is unwilling to let it be shared. This is one of the beauties of our Catholic intellectual tradition, namely, to recognize that only the little goods in life are diminished when distributed (e.g., food and material things), while the great goods in life actually increase when given away (e.g., joy, mercy, wisdom, love). Our Father in heaven can look at each of us and truthfully say, "You are my particular and unique beloved!" This is what the Father wants us to see at the end of this story.

So, at the heart of this tremendous parable is reconciliation. We, ourselves, first require reconciliation with God, and we are subsequently charged with the imperative to work toward reconciliation with our neighbors. In the words of St. Paul, God "has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation. ... We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God." Reconciliation means not separating ourselves, like the two sons do. Rather, it means imitating the father by removing obstacles and restoring relationships.

Through prayer, it is possible to recognize the ways in which we resemble the younger and elder sons. Also, through prayer, it is possible to chart our progress on the path toward becoming the father. Only when we engage all three perspectives within this parable, will we be able to comprehend its marvelous message of mercy.