

ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

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

DECEMBER 1, 2013

Advent has a two-fold character as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs our mind and heart to await Christ's *second* coming at the end of time.

Advent thus is a period of devout and joyful expectation.



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
Secretary Nancy Lampe

Parish School of Religion:

Renée O'Neill: ReneeGOneill@gmail.com

Confirmation Youth Group:

Dave Previtali: StSebCYG@outlook.com

MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 2 - 7

- Mon 7AM Unbelievers
9AM Elizabeth & Martin
- Tue 7AM Special Intention
9AM Grace Lawrence
- Wed 7AM Wilner Family, *living*
9AM Joseph Calleja
- Thu 7AM Nicholas & Joseph, *living*
9AM Ed Lampe
- Fri 7AM Carlos Ponce-Orezzoli
9AM Randa Stenson
- Sat 7AM Souls in Purgatory
9AM Norma Geissberger

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

Angela, Bertha, Bobby, Carol, Joe, Kristen, Mary, Monica, Patrick, Sandra L., Sherie, Stephanie, Tim, Vivien, Ann Boeri, Marilyn Charbonneau, Cathy Connor, Elizabeth Cook, Peter Crane, Deborah Ek, Anna Filice, Ann Gonzales, Leonce Halphen Jr., John Legnitto, Monte Maroevich, Chris Matthew, Michele Mullen, Mark Piatti, David Randolph, Steve Schlesselmann, Derek Smith, Mary Lou Smith, Rose Tannlund, Kristin Todd, Sherry Willis, and Francisco Wong.

SOCKS & UNDIES FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The St. Vincent de Paul Dining Room is in great demand for *new* socks and *new* undies for its clients. Red barrels will be at both entrances of the church for the next few weeks to collect your donations. Thank you in advance for your generous response, and for your faithful help in the past.

MANGER OR NATIVITY SCENE

The tradition of having a nativity scene or "crèche" was made popular by St. Francis of Assisi. It is a reproduction of the cave in Bethlehem with Mary, Joseph, the infant Jesus in a manger, shepherds, angels, and animals. The Advent tradition of children placing one piece of straw in the manger for each good deed they've done combines the spirit of conversion and the coming of Jesus.

The above information is from www.ewtn.com

CENACLE OF PRAYER

TODAY

3 to 4pm

Exposition

of the Blessed Sacrament,
Rosary, Meditation, & Benediction

Spend an hour here with Our Lord.



YOUNG AT HEART'S CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

**Tuesday, December 3 in the Parish Hall
Catered Lunch starting at 11:45AM**

Entertainment by "Singers Marin"

Breaded Chicken Breast, Mashed Potatoes,
Fresh Vegetables, Spring Mixed Green Salad,
French Bread, Pumpkin Cake, Coffee & Tea
Plus: Bottles of White Wine on each Table

\$32./members \$35./guests

Donna Boyd 453-3383 or Rosellen Staats 461-9003

RSVP ASAP

Sorry, no "Bring Your Own Bag Lunch" today.

**YOU ARE INVITED TO OUR
PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

in Appreciation of Christmas

**Sunday, December 8
In the Parish Hall**

After the 7AM and 9AM Masses

Free! No Charge!
but Reservations are Required

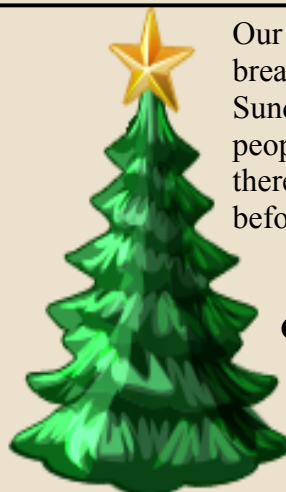
**RSVP by Dec. 2
to 461-0704**



Our December 8th free pancake breakfast will be like "Coffee Sunday", but more fun, with more people! We hope that *you* will be there for this joyful get-together before Christmas.

**Join in the
Christmas Caroling.**

**Call the Office at 461-0704
so that we'll mix up
enough pancake batter.**



PHILIPPINE TYPHOON RELIEF COLLECTION

The Archdiocese of San Francisco will take up a **special collection this weekend**. The collection will be sent to **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**, which has the necessary distribution infrastructure to ensure that those most in need of our help will receive it. CRS is known for its effective response to emergencies, with people on the ground providing water, food, shelter, protection from abuses, and other basic needs.

Our parishioners should make checks **payable to St. Sebastian Church** with **"Philippine Typhoon"** on the memo line.

Catholic Marin Breakfast Club December Meeting

**Friday, December 6, in St. Sebastian Hall
following the 7:00 a.m. Mass**

**William Cardinal Levada,
former Archbishop of San Francisco
and former Prefect of the
Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith
will celebrate Mass and speak afterwards**

**Members Breakfast: \$8
Visitors Breakfast: \$10**

ADVENT

The word Advent is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. Advent always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, (November 30) and continuing until December 24. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the "Parousia", and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event.

Since the 900s, Advent has been considered the *beginning* of the Church year. This does not mean that Advent is the most important time of the year; Easter has always had that honor.

The traditional color of Advent is purple or violet which symbolizes the penitential spirit.

The above information is from www.ewtn.com



ST. SEBASTIAN'S "GIVING TREE"



St. Sebastian's will again participate in the Christmas Gift-Giving Program for the Saint Vincent's School for Boys and the Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma. You are invited to take one or more tags from the "Giving Tree" up near the sanctuary until mid-Advent, and return the tag with a Gift or Gift Card to the church a couple weeks before Christmas.

Thank you in advance for your generosity.

COLLECTION FOR RELIGIOUS NEXT WEEKEND

The U.S. bishops' annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held **Dec. 7-8** in parishes across the nation. Now in its 26th year, the collection benefits more than 34,000 senior Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests. The U.S. bishops initiated the collection in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among religious communities. Proceeds are distributed to eligible communities to help underwrite retirement and health care expenses. Since the collection began, Catholics have contributed \$698 million.

THE CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER IS BACK UNTIL DECEMBER 31!

The American Taxpayer Relief Act allows you to make a tax-free gift to the parish directly from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). This means that you can give directly from your IRA to the parish without first having to recognize the distribution as income on your tax return. To be eligible for this favorable tax treatment, gifts are limited annually to \$100,000, you must be at least age 70½ when the gift is made, and contributions must be paid directly from the IRA. Charitable gifts made from an IRA count toward your IRA minimum required distribution.

For information, contact the development office (development@sfarchdiocese.org or 415-614-5580).

ADVENT THOUGHTS

There was a time when the world awaited the Messiah. *Centuries* passed. Many people *stopped* watching and waiting. Many stopped being faithful to God, even though He had *revealed* Himself to the Hebrew people through prophets and by miraculous help from Heaven. But it *seemed* that one day was like any other, and that there was nothing new under the sun. In the fullness of time, however, God sent His Son. The time had come. Now, we number our years A.D.—the year of Our Lord.

The greatest joy for those who lived back then would have been to have recognized the Messiah. When Simeon held the baby Jesus, he said in joy, “Now, Lord, you can dismiss your servant in peace.” He was ready to die because he had seen and held—and recognized—the promised One.

On the other hand, what a great disappointment for all those who failed to recognize their Savior when He was in their midst! What a terrible thing it was to have actually *insulted* and *persecuted*, and then to have *killed* the very One who had come to save the world and each and every person in it! How horrible. They all knew of the prophecies that one day a Messiah would come, yet many did not watch for Him.

What about *us*? Jesus will not be born *again* as a baby. We are not watching and waiting for the Messiah to be born. He *was* born 2013 years ago. He redeemed humanity. He died and rose from the dead, never to die again. Yet, He has told us all to “Be watchful! Be alert!” Because Jesus will come again in glory.

Just as the time *did* come when He was born, the time *will* come when we will stand before our God. And how terrible if we do not recognize Him. How horrible it will be if we find that we have *persecuted* Him. How ashamed we shall be if we find that we have *ignored* Him, passed Him by, let him suffer and starve, hungry and cold, eventually to die unloved.

Be watchful! Be alert!

Jesus told us exactly how we will be judged: “Whatever you do to the least of those around you, you did to *me*.”

We should *watch* for opportunities to meet Jesus and to serve Him. We should be *alert* to Jesus “in the distressing disguise of the poorest of the poor” so that we will *recognize* him when He comes to us, and so that we might one day hear Him say, “Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter into your Master’s joy!”