

ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

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

When John the Baptist heard in prison of the works of the Christ, he sent his disciples to Jesus with this question, "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" Jesus said to them in reply, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them. And blessed is the one who takes no offense at me."



3rd Sunday of Advent

DECEMBER 15, 2013

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday Evening.....5 PM
Sundays7AM, 9AM, & 11AM
Monday - Saturday ..7AM & 9AM

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays3:30 - 4:30PM

EXPOSITION & ADORATION

Mon-Fri 7:30-8:55am, 9:30-10:30, 3-4pm

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 16 - 21

Mon	7AM	Sharyn Morena
	9AM	Dolly MacDonald
Tue	7AM	Thérèse Haddad, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Dr. Robert Klimek
Wed	7AM	Ron Fries
	9AM	Mary King
Thu	7AM	Elizabeth & Martin
	9AM	Randa Stenson
Fri	7AM	Ed Lampe
	9AM	Gregorio Guasch
Sat	7AM	Firefighters & Police, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Joseph Lampe, <i>living</i>

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Angela, Bertha, Bobby, 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.

ADVENT CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES

On Wednesday, Dec. 18, there are extra hours for the Sacrament of Confession: from 10:30AM-Noon. The Sacrament is also available every Saturday afternoon from 3:30PM to 4:30PM. It's a great way to "prepare the way of the Lord" for Christmas.

CAN YOU HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH?

"Many hands make light work!"

On Sunday, Dec. 22 at 2PM, we will be decorating the church for Christmas, and you are welcome to come and lend a hand in putting up garland, decorating the trees, changing the altar cloths, and other tasks that bring beauty to our church and help us celebrate the birthday of our Lord.

It's an enjoyable time of working together with fellow parishioners. We'd love to have you join us.



3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Third Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as *Gaudete* Sunday, so-called from the first word of the antiphon at the Introit (the "Entrance Antiphon"): *Gaudete in Domino semper* (Rejoice in the Lord always), taken from the Latin translation of Philippians 4:4-5, sets a tone of joyful expectation for the Lord's birth and Second Coming, as does the permitted use of rose-colored vestments.

WORD OF LIFE

“**B**rother 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.”

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

NAZARETH HOUSE

A faith-based, non-profit, assisted-living community in San Rafael since 1962.

Nazareth House offers various-sized accommodations and a wide range of services, including 3 meals a day, housekeeping, and laundry; diverse activity programs, large landscaped gardens; different levels of assisted-living; a nurse on duty 24 hours a day.

Currently, there are vacancies and you are invited to visit. Call Lynetta at 479-8282 to make a reservation for a tour and lunch.

245 Nova Albion Way
San Rafael, CA 94903
(415) 479-8282
www.nazarethhousesr.com

PANCAKE BREAKFAST THANKS

Thank you to all who helped set up, cook, serve, and clean up for last week's wonderful free Pancake Breakfast. Those who attended had a great time visiting with each other, eating, and listening to the Christmas music played by Fr. Paul on the piano.

Many are surely looking forward to doing it again next year!

God bless everyone who helped us celebrate our parish community!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

Donations may be left in the red barrels near the entrances of the church.
Your gifts are always appreciated!

Jam	Mustard
Peanut Butter	Cereal, (hot & cold)
Tuna	Sugar
Chili	Pancake Mix
Canned Fruit	Syrup
Tea	Macaroni & Cheese
Coffee	Detergent
Paper Towels	Dish Soap
Toilet Paper	Toothpaste
Ketchup	Toothbrushes
Mayonnaise	

Outdated or opened food items cannot be accepted.

Now, baskets will be prepared by our volunteers so that our clients will receive them for Christmas. Thank you for your kindness!

Please do not bring any other items such as clothing! We cannot handle them and end up dumping them.

St. Vincent de Paul Society Car Donation Program

SVdP needs donated cars to help Marin's poor and homeless. All donations generated stay in Marin to aid Marin's poor. New Federal Tax laws guarantee your greatest deduction by donating directly to SVdP.

For questions and donations, contact:
Bill Eberhart at 258-5226.



Christmas Masses

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day

Wednesday - December 25
7am, 9am, and 11am Masses

January 1, 2014
is a Holyday of Obligation

New Year's Eve

7pm Vigil Mass

New Year's Day

7am and 9am Masses

THOUGHTS ON TODAY'S GOSPEL

Jesus says, “Blessed is the one who takes no offense at me,” because the Jewish people had different ideas of what the Messiah would be like. Many hoped for a superman who’d destroy all their earthly enemies and wipe out all the “bad people” as was done in Sodom and Gomorrah, or when Noah and his family escaped in the ark. Others, perhaps, wanted the Messiah to make their nation a superpower among all the other nations. Many people took “offense” at Jesus because he didn’t come to do those things that they expected a messiah to do.

And how did the Lord and King of the universe come to this earth?—as a poor baby, borrowing an animal’s feeding trough, living as a refugee to avoid being murdered. He came to live a life of humility, of service to others. The first thirty years of his life were lived in total obscurity! In other words, he didn’t look at all like a king! And to all those who were hoping that the Messiah would beat up all the bad guys and pay ’em back for what they’d done, Jesus would say, “Love your enemies!” “Do good to those who hate you!” “Forgive seventy times seven times!”

We must admit that even *we* can “take offense at Jesus” —if we think that we know better than he how to run the universe. If we do not really try to conform our wills to his, and to see things—to see others—the way he sees them, we are *bound* to be disappointed. We’re bound to take offense at Jesus! Of course, that’s a sign that we’re still blind and in need of healing.

Whenever we profess our faith, we say that we believe that Jesus is equal to God. He’s God *in person*. We believe that he came, lived, died, rose from the dead, and now lives in glory. Jesus sent John the Baptist the message that “the blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the good news proclaimed to them.”—signs that God is with us. Yet John was in prison, and many Christians would suffer persecution, and there are *still* wars, and people are *still* being killed even today!

But... knowing that the reign of God is at hand—even now—perhaps we can smile, as John must have done—perhaps even *laugh* in the face of danger! Because we know the truth! Death has been conquered! Let us never consider Jesus a “stumbling block” and take offense at him, but rather, let us “be patient”. Let us *listen* to Jesus, and join in communion with him and be victorious over sin and death with him—by striving to love our neighbors, especially those closest to us, and by forgiving our enemies, and doing good to those who hate us. Only *love*, not worldly power, can conquer evil in this world. And only if we try to *love*, as Jesus did, will we be able to *see* clearly that the Messiah, Emmanuel, is with us *now*, and will *always* be with us. And we can smile as John the Baptist must have smiled, and say, “Amen!”