

# ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

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

**T**herefore the Lord himself  
will give you this sign:  
the virgin shall conceive,  
and bear a son,  
and shall name him Emmanuel.



**4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**DECEMBER 22, 2013**

## MASS SCHEDULE

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

## CONFESSIONS

Saturdays .....3:30 - 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](mailto:ReneeGOneill@gmail.com)

## *Confirmation Youth Group:*

Dave Previtali: [StSebCYG@outlook.com](mailto:StSebCYG@outlook.com)

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 23 - 28**

Mon 7AM Judy Gianetti  
9AM Esther Tioseco

Tue 7AM Popes, Bishops, Clergy, *dec'd*  
9AM Sibeal Whitty

Wednesday **CHRISTMAS DAY**  
Dec. 25

Thu 7AM Paul & Helen Smith  
9AM Marilyn V. de Pye

Fri 7AM Joseph Lampe, *living*  
9AM Chas, Nancy, & Ruth Hoffman

Sat 7AM William (†) & Edith Walsh, *living*  
9AM Doug Connor

**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, Joanna Riccabona, Steve Schlesselmann, Derek Smith, Mary Lou Smith, Rose Tannlund, Kristin Todd, Sherry Willis, and Francisco Wong.

**CAN YOU HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH?**

“Many hands make light work!”

Today, 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.



**EPIPHANY: CHANTING OF VESPERS**

(or “Evening Prayer”)

**Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, Celebrant  
Father Samuel Weber, OSB, Choirmaster**

**Sunday, January 5, 2014**

**Here at St. Sebastian's**

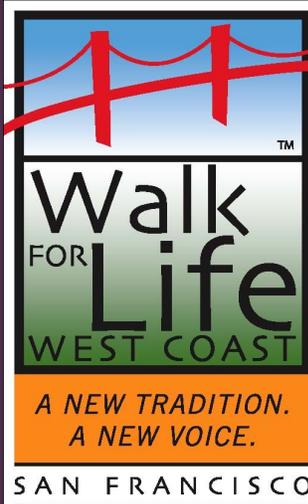
**Join Us!**

**4PM Refreshments in Parish Hall**

**4:30PM Chant-along (practice the chants)**

**5-6:00PM Vespers (Evening Prayer, in Church)  
with Benediction.**

***This will take the place of our monthly Holy Hour.***



**10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
WALK FOR LIFE—  
WEST COAST**

Saturday, January 25, 2014

Rally 12:30-1:30 pm  
Walk at 1:30pm

Civic Center Plaza  
San Francisco

[www.walkforlifewc.com](http://www.walkforlifewc.com)

**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](http://www.nazarethhousesr.com)

## THE WORD OF THE LORD TODAY

Today, we heard the prophet Isaiah say, “*The Lord himself* will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive and bear a son.” The sign will come from God, himself—not from anybody else! It is God’s doing.

We are surrounded by signs every day—not only signs like traffic lights and parking directions, but signs that tell us that God cares for us.

The sun comes up every day: God loves us, and His world behaves as he designed it.

Our hearts are beating: God loves us, and our bodies operate as He designed them.

But sometimes we experience troubling events: there are typhoons, earthquakes, fires caused by lightning, and sometimes our bodies fail to operate as they should. What do *these* signs mean? Doesn’t God still love us? Is He still in control? Why do bad things happen? What is the meaning of these signs?

Well, we don’t always interpret signs correctly. One author writes about his dog begging at the table: The author points his finger—a sign—to the dog’s bowl, meaning: *there* is your food. But what does the dog do? He sniffs the man’s *hand*, totally misunderstanding the sign. We can be like that; we can be so fascinated by signs that we can be oblivious to their *meaning*. There are places where the Virgin Mary has been reported to have appeared, and many people have reported seeing supernatural phenomena similar to the “sun dancing” at Fatima in 1917—which was witnessed by 70,000 people! While such reports may be true, many people may travel there to observe amazing celestial signs, yet miss the *significance*. They may miss the amazing fact that what they have seen *means* that Someone up there *knows* them and *loves* them, and they are seeing a sign that there’s a God! Hopefully, that realization would strengthen the person’s faith so that—all his life long, no matter what may happen—that person would know that God is present, even in bad times. *Jesus* had such deep trust in His Father—even when forced to carry his cross to the place of His execution: “Father, into Your hands I commend my spirit!”

We can hope that we will say the exact same words to our Father in Heaven.

Today, we may not see any amazing happenings such as those that might make the evening news, but have we not *heard* the Word of the Lord? Yes, we have heard words written long ago concerning a sign that God Himself would provide. What we hear at Mass is also a sign! We’ve heard the *prophecy*, and we’ve heard of its *fulfillment*! Something above the *natural* level: a “virgin will conceive”. Then hundreds of years later, in the town of Nazareth, the Virgin Mary conceives thru the power of the Holy Spirit. There are other prophecies: about Bethlehem, about Egypt, about everything that will happen to Jesus, and all of these words—or signs—inspired by that same Holy Spirit which guided the Catholic Church to write them down for all people of all times, are the Word of the Lord which we constantly hear but may not always appreciate.

Mary had the experience of being visited by a heavenly angel with a message for her from God!

Joseph, her husband, also experienced the sign of an angel which came to him in a dream.

Their trust in the Lord led them to follow the signs, no matter what the consequences!

Do we trust in the Lord who speaks to us in His Word and in the Sacraments and in countless ways thru the natural world every day? Do we *trust* in Him so that no matter what happens we will always know that He is our loving Father in Heaven?

The question is *not* “When is the Lord speaking to us?” but rather, “When is the Lord *not* speaking to us?” because there’s *never* a time when He stops communicating His love to us.

“The Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall conceive, and bear a son”, and he shall be named Emmanuel, which means “God is with us.”

We live in the time of fulfillment, and the Lord is with us.



## 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

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January 1, 2014  
is a Holyday of Obligation

### New Year's Eve

7pm Vigil Mass

### New Year's Day

7am and 9am Masses