

# ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

373 BON AIR ROAD, GREENBRAE, CA 94904-1709  
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## 3rd Sunday of Advent



**December 14, 2014**

### 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  
Deacon ..... Rev. Mr. David Previtali  
Secretary..... Nancy Lampe

### *Parish School of Religion:*

Renée O'Neill: ReneeGOneill@gmail.com

### *Confirmation Youth Group:*

Deacon Dave: StSebCYG@outlook.com

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 15 - 20

Mon	7AM	Lazio, Alioto, Cincotta Fam., <i>dec'd</i>
	9AM	Mary Lou Santino
Tue	7AM	Poor Souls in Purgatory
	9AM	Clara Bonavia
Wed	7AM	Tim O'Hara, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Don Kreps
Thu	7AM	Thérèse Haddad, <i>living</i>
	9AM	Giuseppe Maggiora
Fri	7AM	Poor Souls
	9AM	Poor Souls in Purgatory
Sat	7AM	Gregorio Guasch
	9AM	Christina Piatti

### PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Angela, Bertha, Joe, Kristen, Mary, Monica, Nancy, Patrick, Sandra L., Sherie, Stephanie, Theresa, Tim, Vivien, Ann Boeri, Ed Buel, Cathy Connor, Elizabeth Cook, Bill Grier, Monte Maroevich, Chris Matthew, Mark Piatti, Steve Schlesselmann, Mary Lou Smith, Rose Tannlund, and Sherry Willis.

### ADVENT CONFESSION OPPORTUNITIES

The last opportunities for Confession before Christmas will be from 10:30 until Noon on Wednesday, Dec. 17, and on Saturday, Dec. 20, from 3:30—4:30pm

“Cleansing is necessary; but after the rooting out of evil, there must come the filling with good. The best way to avoid evil is to do good. The loveliest garden I ever saw was so full of flowers that there was scarcely room for a weed to grow. In no garden is it enough to uproot weeds; flowers must be sown and planted until the space is filled. Nowhere is this truer than in the world of thoughts. Often we may be troubled with wrong thoughts. If we go no further than to say to ourselves, “I will not think about that,” all we do is fix our thoughts upon it more and more. The cure is to think of something else, to banish the evil thought by thinking a good thought. We never become good by *not* doing things, but by filling life with lovely things.”

—from The Gospel of Luke, Translated with an Introduction and Interpretation by William Barclay

## “BAMBINELLI SUNDAY”

Today, we will bless the “Bambini”, the little images of Jesus, according to an old Roman tradition, so that they can then be taken home and place it in the manger.



## 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.



## A PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY MEN & WOMEN

### **O God of Mercy,**

We beg you now to protect in a special way those who are defending us and the Country we love.  
Bless them and take care of them.

If they are tired, give them strength. If they are wounded and suffering, give them comfort.  
If they are lonely, touch them with Your gentle hand and let them know that You are near them.

And if it be Your holy will that they should give up their lives for us, grant them a peaceful death and a home with You in heaven.

Hasten the day, dear Lord, when along with them and their families, we may all enjoy the blessings of peace once more.

Amen.

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**Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA**

### 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 after the 7am & 9am Masses had a great time visiting with each other, eating, and listening to the Christmas music played by Fr. Paul & Celeste Chapman on the piano. All the kids enjoyed the food and atmosphere.

We look forward to doing it again next year!

God bless everyone who helped us celebrate our parish community!

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL FOOD PANTRY

Your generosity stocked the shelves of the pantry so that many people who live within our parish are able to receive your gifts, much to their delight. The members of the St. Vincent de Paul society want you to know that your gifts are very much appreciated by their clients. Thank you!

### CAN YOU HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH?

*"Many hands make light work!"*

On Sunday, Dec. 21 at 2PM, we will be decorating the church for Christmas, 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.

### END-OF-THE-YEAR CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Dear Parishioners,

At this time of year, many of you have the generous habit of sending donations to various charities, and sharing with them the bounty which God has bestowed upon you.

Please keep St. Sebastian Church in mind as well. It is your support which keeps this parish alive, enabling us to practice our faith in this beautiful church. We thank you in advance for your kindness.



## Christmas Masses

### Christmas Eve

Wednesday - December 24

5pm Children's Pageant

5:30 pm Vigil Mass

9 pm Vigil Mass

### Christmas Day

Thursday - December 25

7am, 9am, and 11am Masses

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January 1, 2015

is a Holyday of Obligation

### New Year's Eve

7pm Vigil Mass

### New Year's Day

7am and 9am Masses

## OUR JOURNEY THROUGH ADVENT

“Gaudete” (Rejoice) Sunday

God wants us to rejoice. He wants us to be happy. It's true. Isaiah, the great prophet, speaking on behalf of God, says that the LORD has anointed him “to bring glad tidings to the poor”, and he goes on to say, “I rejoice heartily in the LORD.” Jesus, himself, would quote this portion of Isaiah in the synagogue, when he unrolled the scroll of the prophet in order to read this particular text, and then he amazed everyone by stating, “Today, this Scripture is fulfilled in your presence.”

Today, in our Responsorial, we then hear the words of Mary, as she pours out a song of praise to God during her visitation to Elizabeth: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior...” Mary's hymn of praise is called the “Magnificat”, named for the Latin translation of the original text which is sometimes rendered in English as: “My soul *magnifies* the Lord.” Mary rejoices! Elizabeth rejoices! Even the still-in-the-womb baby John the Baptist leaps for joy because Jesus is near, hidden within Mary's womb.

Then we hear Saint Paul saying: “Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. In all circumstances give Thanks.” Saint Paul orders us to rejoice!

We also hear from the beginning of the fourth Gospel, from Saint John, about an official delegation from Jerusalem that was sent to bring back information about John the Baptist. They asked him if he was the “Christ” (the Messiah, or Anointed One), or if he was “Elijah”, or if he was “the Prophet.” No. No. No. John said that he was like the voice in the wilderness that Isaiah had mentioned, calling to people to prepare the way of the Lord. John humbly denied being anybody “special”, in fact, he said that he was unworthy to untie the sandal strap of the person whose way he was preparing, the person who would baptize, not with water but with the Holy Spirit!

John told the authorities that this great person was “among you”, but that they didn't recognize him! Our Lord, Jesus, is “among us” today in *many* ways, especially in the Sacraments. We would do well to consider whether or not we really *recognize* him or *hear* him as he, our joy, dwells among us today.

## HELP PUBLISH A GREAT BOOK!

Deacon Bill Turrentine of St. Sebastian's has written a new book entitled Your Love Story which presents God's beautiful plan for marriage by challenging our society's distorted view of sexuality and marriage *and* unfolding the loving truth of solid Catholic teaching. The book will be graced with a forward by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone.

Now, to have the book published, the Couple to Couple League seeks to raise \$40,000 through a crowd source funding campaign, but there's only a limited time in which the funds can be raised.

So Deacon Turrentine is asking for our prayers and generous donations to help spread the word to young Catholic couples across the country who so much need to learn to profound truth about marriage.

Go to [flowerfund.com/yourlovestory](http://flowerfund.com/yourlovestory) and see for yourself the value of this book and how *you* can be part of its birthing. Time is of the essence!

Check out [www.yourlovestory-book.com](http://www.yourlovestory-book.com)



Bill Turrentine, author of *Your Love Story*, is a deacon at St. Sebastian Church in the Archdiocese of San Francisco. He is the chairman of the board of



the Couple to Couple League, a Catholic nonprofit that teaches Natural Family Planning in the context of God's beautiful plan for marriage. For 30 years Deacon Bill and his wife, Patricia, have been counseling couples preparing for marriage. Married for 36 years themselves, they have five sons, two daughters-in-law and six grandchildren.