

ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

373 BON AIR ROAD, GREENBRAE, CA 94904-1709
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17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 26, 2015



*The hand
of the
Lord
feeds us;
He
answers
all our
needs.*

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 Bill Turrentine

Deacon David Previtali

Secretary..... Agata Konopka

Parish School of Religion:

Gretchen Harris: StSebPSR@gmail.com

Confirmation Youth Group:

Deacon Dave: StSebCYG@outlook.com

MASS INTENTIONS FOR JULY 27 - AUG 1

Mon 7AM Those Struggling with Addiction
9AM Christopher Ornelas

Tue 7AM Fr. Frank Filice
9AM Patrick J. Whitty

Wed 7AM —
9AM Dr. Jeff Geissberger & Family

Thu 7AM Andra Dhein
9AM Mr. & Mrs. Michael Scibeta

Fri 7AM Patricia Hassler
9AM Knights of Columbus:
Richard Gallagher & Joe Cresalia

Sat 7AM Unbelievers
9AM Andra Dhein

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Angela, Bertha, Kristen, Mary, Monica, Patrick, Sandra L., Stephanie, Tim, Vivien, Ann Boeri, Cathy Connor, Elizabeth Cook, Nancy Lampe, Monte Maroevich, Chris Matthew, Mark Piatti, Rose Tannlund, and Sherry Willis.

PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION CHANGES

After fifteen years of directing our Parish School of Religion, Renée O'Neill has decided to step down. We thank her for her years of dedicated service to many, many children who have been entrusted to us by their parents for formation in the Catholic Faith.

One of her wonderful team of teachers, Gretchen Harris, will now direct our Parish School of Religion. Gretchen has been teaching the youngest students for a number of years, her daughters have been faithful Altar Servers, and her husband an Usher and Confirmation Catechist. We look forward to continuing the good work of spreading the Gospel.

The PSR will resume in September!

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Last Weekend	\$ 3,164.
Weekly Goal	\$ 5,200.
Missionary Appeal	\$ 2,229.

CENACLE OF PRAYER

NEXT SUNDAY

3 to 4pm

Exposition

of the Blessed Sacrament,
Rosary, Meditation, & Benediction

Spend an hour here with Our Lord.



A QUESTION FROM CATHOLIC ANSWERS.COM

Q: One huge impediment to my faith is that God never communicates with me. I pray daily, attend Mass often, and confess at least twice a month. But I still feel nothing but emptiness and silence from God. How is it possible to have a relationship with God if he won't at least have a conversation with me?

A: If God ever ignored you, you would cease to exist. He affirms you with your every heartbeat. Are you disgruntled because he isn't conforming to your standards? He speaks to you on his terms all the time. And I don't mean just through his creation. He speaks to you by the gift of faith that he has given you. He speaks to you from every crucifix you have ever seen. But most of all he speaks to you from the chalice on the altar which contains the blood that he willingly shed for you. Think of this: We are attracted to the good in things and then love them for that reason. But when God loves things, he makes them lovable by loving them. When we look at a crucifix and see how much he loves us, we also see how lovable we are! All of this is Jesus speaking to us. But we have to be focused on him and not what we want from him. As for the good feelings that you want, he obviously has not determined that they would be the best for you at this time. Mother Teresa went without such gratification for 20 years. But he still spoke to her through the graces he gave her. I'm sure she would tell you that such gratification is worth waiting for.

—Fr. Vincent Serpa, O.P.

BIBLE STUDY

The Bible Study led by Deacon Bill Turrentine meets on Sundays after the 9am Mass, down in the Parish Hall.

Drop in and take part!



HOMILY FOR TODAY

by Fr. Jeffrey Kirby, on hprweb.com

In approaching the Sacred Scriptures today, we immediately see the Church's teaching office pointing us in the clear direction of hunger. The Prophet Elisha, and the Lord Jesus, are both feeding those who are hungry. It's important that we keep this image and reality before us.

Most of us have been greatly blessed in that we have not experienced prolonged hunger, or not had ready nourishment in moments of need. We're unique in that way. In most of the world, and in the disguised part of our so-called "first world," there is tremendous hunger. I remember years ago, while serving in the Army National Guard, my unit was activated, and we were sent to Nicaragua after Hurricane Mitch devastated the internal structure of that country. When we arrived, children would line the path of our convoys. They were not begging for candy, or some luxury item, these children were along the path begging for water.

It's important for us to stay focused on the material hunger of so many in our world. If we jump to the spiritual, and only spiritualize today's biblical wisdom, we miss an essential part of our call as Christians.

Let's look at Elisha, the Prophet, in our First Reading. He encounters a group of people who are hungry. He offers only what he has, to the objection of his servant, since it is such a small amount compared to the size of the crowd and, yet, there was enough for everyone (and even some left over). All who were hungry were fed. In a similar way, the Lord works just such a miracle. He takes five barley loaves, and two fish, from a boy in the area, probably the kid's lunch for the day, and he feeds over five thousand. The miracle aspect, we leave to God. The practical lessons for us: we have to notice those who are hungry and in need, and we have to offer what we have.

As members of the baptized, as Christians in our contemporary world, we cannot be blind or indifferent to those around us. We must have eyes that see, even when things are distressing, and we must have hearts that are generous.

If our discipleship is not marked by some interaction with those in need, then our following of the Lord is incomplete. Yes, something essential to being a Christian is missing. As Christians, we should have some involvement with those in need: whether that's helping an elderly neighbor, assisting at a soup

kitchen or social outreach center, visiting the imprisoned, guiding an unwed mother, listening to someone who is grieving, and the list goes on and on. For those with open eyes, there are always people who need help: a gentle smile, a kind greeting, a helping hand, a shoulder to cry on, an ear ready to listen without judgment, and so on.

Do we look for those in need? Are we willing to let the Lord feed us, to turn to others in our need, so that we have the strength to feed the hunger of others?

This is the worthy life of our call as Christians that St. Paul speaks about in our Second Reading. As the apostle explains: "live ... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love."

As we seek to live this summons to serve others, to seek those in need, it will not be easy or comfortable. We will have to die to some egotism and self-centeredness. To serve others well, and without expectation, we need to turn to the Lord, and have fellowship with him. After feeding the five thousand, the Gospel tells us that the Lord Jesus: "withdrew again to the mountain alone." We will need to develop and deepen our time alone with the Lord, our life of prayer with him, our fellowship with him, which allows us to receive his strength and consolation. Only in turning to the Lord regularly, will we be able to serve others without frustration and anger. Only in Christ can we approach the poor, and those in need, not as benefactors, but truly as servants.

The world looks to Christian believers. It wants to see something different, something of the heart. People in need turn to believers in Jesus Christ, hoping to find in us what they know they can find in him. We are asked for our five loaves and two fish. As we give these, without reservation, and without counting the cost, this world will see the Lord's love and compassion. This world will know that it is loved, and that God is among us.

As we celebrate this Eucharist, as the Lord feeds us in this Bread of the Angels, we ask him for his strength, and for a generosity of heart. We look to him, the Bread of Life, and we ask for the grace to be bread to those who are hungry, and a help to those in need.

Further Reading: Jeffrey Kirby, *Lord, Teach Us to Pray* (Charlotte: St. Benedict's Press, 2014); Robert Baker and Benedict Groeschel, *When Did We See You, Lord* (Huntington: Our Sunday Visitor, 2005).

...ON BATTLING AGAINST THE DEVIL

“Whatever the less discerning theologians may say, the devil, as far as Christian belief is concerned, is a puzzling but real, personal and not merely symbolic presence. The more one understands the holiness of God, the more one understands the opposite of what is holy, namely the deceptive masks of the devil.”

—*Pope Benedict XVI*

“The battle against the devil, which is the principal task of Saint Michael the archangel, is still being fought today, because the devil is still alive and active in the world. The evil that surrounds us today, the disorders that plague society, man’s inconsistency and brokenness, are not only the results of original sin, but also the result of Satan’s pervasive and dark action.”

—*Pope John Paul II*
at the Sanctuary of Saint Michael May 24, 1987

—*from Anneliese Michel: A true story of a case of demonic possession* Germany-1976. Kindle Edition. by LeBlanc, Lawrence (2012-09-19).

Catholic Charities Canal Family Support
Now Hiring Part-Time After-School Group Leaders

Catholic Charities Canal Family Support program (“Kids Club”) is **currently hiring part-time, after-school group leaders for the 2015-2016 school year**. Kids Club offers after-school and summer services to elementary-aged children at the Albert J. Boro Community Center located at Pickleweed Park in San Rafael. We are seeking highly motivated and enthusiastic individuals to provide meaningful academic support and enrichment opportunities for children. This is an excellent opportunity for individuals interested in pursuing careers involving teaching and/or working with children, who would like to develop outstanding leadership skills and gain hands-on experience.

Time Commitment is Monday thru Friday from 2:15 -5:45pm, and Wednesday from 1:15-5:45pm. Compensation is from \$12.50 to \$14.00 an hour, depending on level of experience and education.

Please send résumé and cover letter to cgarcia@catholiccharitiessf.org