

# ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

DECEMBER 20, 2015



*Lord, make us turn to you; let us see your face and we shall be saved.*

## 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 ..... Bill Turrentine

Deacon ..... David Previtali

Secretary..... Agata Konopka

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*Parish School of Religion:*

Gretchen Harris: StSebPSR@gmail.com

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*Confirmation Youth Group:*

Deacon Dave: StSebCYG@outlook.com

## MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 21 - 26

Mon 7AM Christina Piatti  
9AM Leonide Crosby, *living*

Tue 7AM Joseph Lampe, *living*  
9AM Kathleen Paloggi

Wed 7AM Fr. Frank Filice  
9AM Mary Basso, *living*

Thu 7AM Popes, Bishops, Clergy, Religious, *living*  
9AM Rita Hutter  
5:30PM & 9PM  
Christmas Eve Masses

Fri 7AM, 9AM, & 11AM  
Christmas Day Masses

Sat 7AM Joyce Massucco, *living*  
9AM Fr. Frank Filice

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

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

### CAN YOU HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH?

*"Many hands make light work!"*

Today, Dec. 20 after the 11am Mass, 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.

### 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!*



### SUNDAY COLLECTION

Weekly Goal	\$ 4,200.
Last Weekend	\$ 3,462.
Retirement for Religious	\$ 2,015.
Immaculate Conception	\$ 2,038.



## Christmas Masses

### Christmas Eve

Thursday - December 24

5pm Children's Pageant

5:30 pm Vigil Mass

9 pm Vigil Mass

### Christmas Day

Friday - December 25

7am, 9am, and 11am Masses

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*January 1, 2015  
is a Holyday of Obligation*

### New Year's Eve

5pm Vigil Mass

### New Year's Day

7am and 9am Masses

## **EXCERPTS FROM POPE BENEDICT XVI'S SPIRITUAL THOUGHTS SERIES:** **"CHRISTMAS"**

### **"Presence"**

Advent, this powerful liturgical season that we are beginning, invites us to pause in silence to understand a presence. It is an invitation to understand that the individual events of the day are hints that God is giving us, signs of the attention he has for each one of us.

*---Homily at First Vespers of Advent, November 28, 2009*

### **"Waiting"**

The question is: Is the humanity of our time still waiting for a Savior? One has the feeling that many consider God as foreign to their own interests. Apparently, they do not need him. They live as though he did not exist and, worse still, as though he were an "obstacle" to remove in order to fulfill themselves. Even among believers—we are sure of it—some let themselves be attracted by enticing dreams and distracted by misleading doctrines that suggest deceptive shortcuts to happiness. Yet, despite its contradictions, worries and tragedies, and perhaps precisely because of them, humanity today seeks a path of renewal, of salvation, it seeks a Savior and awaits, sometimes unconsciously, the coming of the Savior who renews the world and our life, the coming of Christ, the one true Redeemer of man and of the whole of man.

*---Pope Benedict XVI, General Audience December 20, 2006*

### **"Preparation"**

Christmas is a privileged opportunity to meditate on the meaning and value of our existence. The approach of this Solemnity helps us on the one hand to reflect on the drama of history in which people, injured by sin, are perennially in search of happiness and of a fulfilling sense of life and death; and on the other, it urges us to meditate on the merciful kindness of God who came to man to communicate to him directly the Truth that saves, and to enable him to partake in his friendship and his life. Therefore let us prepare ourselves for Christmas with humility and simplicity, making ourselves ready to receive as a gift the light, joy and peace that shine from this mystery.

*---General Audience, December 17, 2008*

### **"Sign"**

God's sign is his humility. God's sign is that he makes himself small; he becomes a child; he lets us touch him and he asks for our love. How we would prefer a different sign, an imposing, irresistible sign of God's power and greatness! But his sign summons us to faith and love, and thus it gives us hope: this is what God is like. He has power, he is Goodness itself. He invites us to become like him. Yes indeed, we become like God if we allow ourselves to be shaped by this sign; if we ourselves learn humility and hence true greatness; if we renounce violence and use only the weapons of truth and love.

*---Homily at Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 24, 2009*

### **"Changing"**

Only if people change will the world change; and in order to change, people need the light that comes from God, the light which so unexpectedly [on the night of Christmas] entered into our night.

*---Homily at Mass for the Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord, December 25, 2008*



## THE YEAR OF MERCY

DECEMBER 8, 2015 - NOVEMBER 20, 2016



On December 8, the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the close of the Second Vatican Council, Pope Francis opened a Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica that remains sealed except during jubilee years. When he crossed the threshold, this door became a "Door of Mercy."

*This is the year to become more merciful in our own lives and bring God's mercy to others.*

## WHAT IS A JUBILEE YEAR?

Celebrating a jubilee every 50 years was an ancient Hebrew custom (see Leviticus 25:8-13). It was a year of rest and restoration, when captives were set free, debts were paid, and land was not sown or harvested.

In the 1300s, the Catholic Church adopted the tradition of proclaiming a jubilee every 50 years to encourage people to return to a life of holiness. By the 1400s, a jubilee was proclaimed every 25 years so each generation could participate in the celebration. Our last "ordinary" jubilee took place during the year 2000, marking the second millennial anniversary of Christ's birth.

But there is also a Catholic tradition of proclaiming an "extraordinary jubilee" outside the 25-year cycle. Our last "extraordinary jubilees" were held in 1933 and 1983, marking the 1900th and the 1950th anniversaries of Christ's death and resurrection.

## WORD OF LIFE

"We know what true, authentic love looks like. It looks like the man on the Cross. This deep, pure love that motivated Jesus to offer his life for ours, is the love that will answer the longing in our hearts, if we let it.

—USCCB 2015-16 Respect Life Program "  
"10 Surprising Tips for Love the Culture Won't Tell You"