

ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

373 Bon Air Road
Greenbrae, CA 94904

Parish Office Hours:
MWF 9am-2pm
415-461-0704

FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

O Lord, stir up Thy might, we beg Thee, and come that by Thy protection we may deserve to be rescued from the threatening dangers of our sins and saved by Thy deliverance. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



DECEMBER 3, 2017

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

MASS SCHEDULE

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

CONFESSIONS

Wednesdays..... 7:30 - 8PM
Saturdays..... 3:30 - 4:30PM
or by appointment

ANOINTING of the SICK

Call a Priest at the Parish Office

Pastor Rev. Bill Thornton
Parochial Vicar Rev. Paul Perry
Priest in Residence... Rev. Jerome Murphy
Deacon Rev. Mr. Bill Turrentine
Deacon Rev. Mr. David Previtali
Email: DcnDave@Outlook.com
Blog (Homilies): www.DcnDave.Blogspot.com
Secretary Marianne Kambur
Parish School of Religion / Confirmation:
Gretchen Harris: StSebPSR@gmail.com

Parish Ministries & Groups

Adult Faith Formation / R.C.I.A.

Deacon Dave Previtali

Altar Society

Gretchen Harris

Bible Study - 10AM Sundays

Deacon Bill Turrentine

CYO

Robert McCullough
StSebastianCYO@gmail.com

Eucharistic Ministers to the Sick

Homebound / Hospital / Rehab Centers
Fr. Paul Perry

Garden Club

Barbara Cancilla

Greeters at Mass

Marian Previtali

Hospitality Ministers

Coffee Sundays (2nd Sunday each Month)
Jerry & Fran Doherty

Life in Christ Marian Cenacle

Elizabeth Tremel (415) 331-7861

Liturgical Lay Ministries

Lectors / EMHCs / Altar Servers
Deacon Dave Previtali

Men's Club

Faith, Food, Fellowship & Service
Meets last Mon. of the Month 7-8:30PM
Deacon Dave Previtali, coordinator

Music Ministries

Eric Maddox
Celeste Chapman celeste360@aol.com

Natural Family Planning

www.ccli.org, www.live-the-love.org

Parish Council

Marian Previtali dm121281@yahoo.com

Parish School of Religion (PSR)

Grade K-6; Confirmation: Grade 7-8
Mrs. Gretchen Harris

St. Martha Women's Club

Parish Social & Service
Marian Previtali dm121281@yahoo.com

St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Works of Mercy for Needy / Poor
Meets 4th Sat. of each Month at 10am
Phil Fant, President
Stsebastian.svdvp@gmail.com

Young Vincentians Group

High School / College Youth
in Service to the Needy / Poor
Mrs. Gretchen Harris, Adult Moderator

MASS INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER 4 - 9

Mon 7AM Grace Lawrence
 9AM John & Dinka Velcich

Tue 7AM Rod Bessolo, *living*
 9AM Souls in Purgatory

Wed 7AM Rod Bessolo, *living*
 9AM Norma Geissberger

Thu 7AM Rod Bessolo, *living*
 9AM Thanksgiving
 7PM Helen Derham

Fri 7AM Larry Gentillello, *living*
 9AM Mary King
 7PM Helen Derham

Sat 7AM Souls in Purgatory
 9AM Pope Francis, Bishops, Clergy & Religious

PLEASE INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Angela, Anna Alessandria, Terry Batmale, Joe, Kristen, Mary, Milton & Ivette, Monica, Patrick, Sandra L., Stephanie, Tim, Judy Christadore, Elizabeth Cook, Tony Gallagher, Nancy Lampe, Monte Maroevich, Mark Piatti, Rose Tannlund, & Sherry Willis.

P.S.R. UPCOMING EVENT

St Sebastian Parish School of Religion Christmas pageant is December 24 at 5pm, with Mass to follow at 5:30pm.

EXTRA CONFESSION TIME COMING!



Starting Wednesday, Dec. 6, St. Sebastian's will begin offering the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation ("confession") every Wednesday evening at 7:30PM, in addition to our regular Saturday confessions from 3:30-4:30PM. The Catechism of the Catholic Church, rooted in the Bible, teaches that by the power of the Holy Spirit this sacrament forgives all sin, restores us to fellowship with God and our neighbor, heals the wounds of selfishness in our hearts, and strengthens us with grace to live a more faithful Christian life. Church Law requires Catholics to confess at least once a year, but the experience of the saints informs us that more frequent confession is the pathway to serenity of soul and peace of heart.

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Nov. 19 Weekend \$ 3,962.
 Human Development \$ 1,141.
 Nov. 26 Weekend \$ 3,518.



The Advent Wreath, a ancient Catholic custom for counting down the weeks til Christmas, is lit at the beginning of all our Advent Masses. Families, individuals, or parish group members are encouraged to sign up for a Mass at which they will be part of the entrance procession and be the lighters of the wreath.

CENACLE OF PRAYER TODAY 3 to 4pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Rosary, Meditation, & Benediction

Spend an hour here with Our Lord on the first Sunday of each month.



Fr. Paul will play a set of Advent and Christmas carols on the organ

Thursday, Dec. 14 at 9:30am - the set will run about half an hour. All are welcome.



PARISH CHRISTMASTIME CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED. Like to sing but don't have time in your schedule for the weekly Sunday choir? Please join us NOW for the parish Christmastime Choir. We have an Advent Festival of Lessons and Carols coming up on Wed., Dec 20, as well as Masses on Christmas Eve & Day, and also for Epiphany ("Three Kings") Sunday on January 7. Add your voice to those praising God for the gift of our Newborn King and enrich your fellow parishioners worship at the same time! If this strums a chord in your heart, introduce yourself to either Chris Lyford (guitarist & singer at the 5PM Vigil Mass) or Eric Maddox (organist at the 9AM & 11AM Masses) and/or email parish liturgy coordinator, Celeste Chapman celeste360@aol.com to get on the choir roster. THANK YOU!!!

RETIREMENT FOR RELIGIOUS NEXT WEEKEND

Support elderly religious.

Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious collection helps provide prescription medications, nursing care, and more. Please give to those who have given a lifetime.

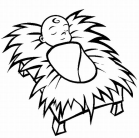
ADVENT & CHRISTMAS at ST. SEBASTIAN'S



Advent Giving Tree. Our annual parish charity for the residential youth at St. Vincent's School, Marinwood. Take a name tag and return a gift card to the parish by Dec. 17.



Holy Day- Immaculate Conception, Dec. 8. Mary, under her title of Immaculate Conception, is the patroness of our nation and Dec 8 has always been a high-ranking Holy Day of Obligation for U.S. Catholics. 7PM Vigil Mass on Dec. 7; 7 & 9AM as well as 7PM Masses on Dec. 8.



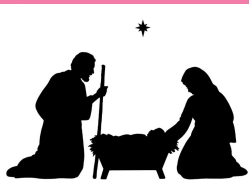
Bambinelli Mass, DEC 17, SUNDAY 11:00AM. The Bambinelli Mass, a Roman custom for the 3rd Sunday of Advent, will be celebrated at our 11AM Mass on Sunday, Dec. 17. "Bambinelli" means "little infants" and it gets this name from the custom of bringing the Christ Child figures from home nativity sets to be placed before the altar and blessed at Mass.



Festival of Lessons and Carols, Dec 20, Wednesday, 7:00PM. An Advent custom from the U.K., this service begins in a darkened church which gets gradually lighter as the readings and songs progress. Preaching will be by our parish deacons and songs by parish musicians. Christmas Cookie Reception follows in the parish hall.



Church Xmas Decorating, Sat. Dec 23, 9:30AM. Bring your creativity and energy to decorating our parish church. It is always a very enjoyable community time! Many hands make for fast and light work...so come join the fun!



Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses. Because Christmas, which is a Holy Day of Obligation, is on a Monday, things might be a bit confusing for some people. **Xmas Eve Mass on Sunday Dec 24 does not also fulfill the Sunday Mass obligation for Sunday morning.** We will have our usual Sat. 5PM Vigil Mass and Sunday morning Masses (7, 9 & 11AM) for the 4th Sunday of Advent.

Holy Day Xmas Masses are as follows:

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve 5:30PM (contemporary music) and **9:00PM** (organ)

Dec. 25 Christmas Day 7:00AM (contemporary music) **9:00AM** (organ) and **11:00AM** (organ)

ADVENT SAINTS – ST. NICHOLAS OF MYRA



St. Nicholas was a Catholic bishop from Turkey who provided for the poor and sick, and is the basis for the popular character of Santa Claus. He was born sometime circa 280 and lost both of his parents as a young man. Being a devout Catholic Christian he used his inheritance to help the poor and sick. He went on to become a priest and was later ordained, as bishop of Myra (Turkey).

There are many legends about St. Nicholas of Myra. One story tells how he helped three poor sisters. Their father did not have enough money to pay their dowries and thought of selling them into servitude. Three times, St. Nicholas secretly went to their house at night and put a bag of money inside. The man used the money so that one of his daughters could marry. On the third visit, the man saw St. Nicholas and thanked him for his kindness.

St. Nicholas is believed to have died on December 6, 343. Over the years, stories of his miracles and work for the poor spread to other parts of the world. He became known as the protector of children and was associated with gift-giving. He was a popular saint in Europe until the time of the Reformation in the 1500s, a religious movement that led to the creation of Protestantism, which turned away from the practice of honoring saints. St. Nicholas, however, remained an important figure in Holland.

The Dutch continued to celebrate the feast day of St. Nicholas, December 6. It was a common European-wide custom for children to put out their shoes the night before his feast day. In the morning, they would discover the gifts that St. Nicholas had left there for them. Dutch immigrants brought St. Nicholas, known to them as Sint Nikolaas or by his nickname Sinterklaas, and his gift-giving ways to America in the 1700s.

In America, St. Nicholas went through many transformations and eventually Sinterklaas became Santa Claus. Instead of giving gifts on December 6, he became a part of the Christmas holiday. In the 1820 poem "An Account of a Visit from St. Nicholas" by Clement Clarke Moore, he is described as a jolly, heavy man who comes down the chimney to leave presents for deserving children and drives a sleigh pulled by flying reindeer. The cartoonist Thomas Nast added to the St. Nicholas legend with an 1881 drawing of Santa as wearing a red suit with white fur trim. Originally venerated as a holy and charitable bishop, St. Nicholas had become for many the Santa Claus we know today.