

Church of Saint Sebastian

November 18, 2018 - 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

My Dear Ones,

May the Grace of Our Lord remain always with us!

Today is the 33rd Sunday of the Church Year – the penultimate Sunday before another Year of Grace concludes next Sunday with the celebration of the Solemnity of Christ the King. Where does time go?

In today's bulletin you receive the Annual Parish Financial Report. I am deeply grateful to the many parishioners who give of their time and talent to make this report credible, transparent, and a reality.

There is good news in the report: we are a generous Parish with a great heart for the service of the poor! It is also good news that much of our deficit is from costs beyond our control. However, the report demonstrates clearly that there are challenges before us: controlled spending; the necessary salaries and benefits for an expanding staff to adequately address the mission and needs of the Parish; increased Programming as the Parish grows; growing the number of parishioners; and increased revenue.

In addition, there is the Tower Project that has loomed over us for several years: we are having the Tower repaired in 2019. I am currently receiving bids from various contractors for the restoration of the Bell Tower and tuckpointing the entire Church. Shortly after Thanksgiving those submitting bids will meet with members of the Diocesan Facilities Office and myself to explain their approach to the project and how they arrived at the proposed cost. The initial numbers are lower than expected. Work is scheduled sometime after Easter. I will keep you posted.

On Thursday of this week we celebrate our "American Holy Day": Thanksgiving. I am reminded of the words of a hymn, "*Friends on earth and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild; Lord. Of all, to Thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise!*" Each year I am more aware of those on earth and especially those above – Thank you, Lord for loving us through both of these friends! We need an increase of gentle and mild thoughts: as a nation and a world we have become so aggressive, so harsh in the tone of our words: like the people of different colors and religions on that first Thanksgiving, let us commit ourselves a new to our grateful, gentle, mild, and true hymn of grateful praise!

I hope you will be able to join us for *Mass at 9am on Thanksgiving Day!* Please bring canned goods, etc. to be brought forward at the Offertory and blessed before it is giving to Mary's House. This is the constant dynamic of the Eucharist: to offer gifts in Thanksgiving and then to give them away. This is exactly what Christ does every day: He offers Himself to the Father for us, and then He gives Himself to us that we might live: now and forever!

As I come to the altar on Thanksgiving Morning, each and every one of you are in my heart: I am deeply grateful to be

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17

9:00 am *For the Healing of the Victims of Clergy Sexual Abuse*

SAT. NOV. 17, Vigil: 33rd SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

5:00 pm *Phyllis Pilkington and Rev. Thomas Carneval, Req. by daughter and niece*

SUNDAY, NOV. 18, 33rd SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

9:00 am *Stephen Daniels, 5th anniversary, Requested by his wife Irene*

11:00 am *Sylvia Loferski, Birthday remembrance, req. by Belle Calenda*

Monday, Nov. 19

7:00 am *All the deceased of the Parish*

Tuesday, Nov. 20

7:00 am *Parents who have lost children*

7:20 am *Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help*

Wednesday, Nov. 21, The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

7:00 am *Annamarie Maraldo Strain*

Thursday, Nov. 22, Saint Cecelia, Virgin and Martyr

9:00 am *Thanksgiving Day Mass
In thanksgiving for all God's blessings*

Friday, Nov. 23

7:00 am *Edmund John Haus, Requested by Dorothy Haus*

SAT. NOV. 24, Vigil: 34th SUNDAY IN ORD. TIME

5:00 pm *Reverend Francis C. Cooney, 25th anniversary, Fifth Pastor of Saint Sebastian Church*

SUNDAY, NOV. 25: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

9:00 am *Patricia Wilson, Birthday Remembrance, Requested by her family*

11:00 am *Pro Populo*

here with you. Transitions are never easy, but facing them with faith, hope and love allows them to be moments of grace, God's activity, in our lives: each of you are grateful - moments of grace to me! A Blessed Thanksgiving to you, my dear ones!

O, Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee!

In the Lord,

Fr. Jordan, O.P.

Church of Saint Sebastian

Founded October 15, 1915

Welcome

In my own name and on behalf of the People of Saint Sebastian's, welcome to our Parish! If you are visiting, coming back to the Church and Mass after some time away, or looking for a Parish, you are most welcome here at Saint Sebastian's.

If you would like more information about Saint Sebastian's, the works we do, or joining the Parish, please talk with our Pastor, Father Jordan, or ask any of our parishioners. Welcome and please join us again!

Book of Remembrance

If you haven't had the chance to do so, please write the names of your beloved dead in the Book of Remembrance located by the Baptismal Font and Paschal Candle. If you have filled out an All Souls' Envelope with the names of your deceased, your names have already been entered in the Book of Remembrance.

Bible Study

Join Father Jordan and your fellow parishioners for a new Bible Study class on **Wednesday, November 28**. The topic is: *The Bible and the Blessed Virgin Mary*. Please contact Father Jordan for more information, **Pre-registration is not required but is very helpful.** jordan.kelly@opeast.org.

What and Why: Unfolding the Catholic Faith

The *What and Why* class has begun and the next class will be on **Tuesday, November 27** (due to the *Thanksgiving holiday*). Contact Father Jordan, jordan.kelly@opeast.org for more information.

Developing a Culture of Stewardship

Last Sunday's Gospel has caused me to consider how I might give more of my time and talent from ***my need*** rather than from any ***surplus*** in my life? God has given me some interesting ideas! How about you?

Down to the Wire:
13 days until the Inaugural Church of Saint Sebastian Christmas Bazaar"!

Save the date: Saturday, December 1

I have seen the merchandise that will be available at our inaugural Saint Sebastian Church Bazaar and there are some great gift ideas!

A wonderful artist will be available for children's face painting — available even for the children at heart! The bazaar will be a success with your help.

I am sure there are still opportunities for you to offer your time and your talent. To find out, please contact Karin Schrott at: karin.schrott@gmail.com. Remember: *each one – reach one!*



~ While waiting for your child during Religious Education or Children's Choir Practice, please do enjoy visiting with some of your fellow parishioners and have some coffee and nibbles ~ Every Sunday in the Parish Hall after the 9:00 a.m. Mass and on Monday during Religious Education.

Join us for our many Parish Activities and Meetings listed:

Today	11/18 Children's Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Eve / Religious Education	After 9:00 a.m. Mass	Choir Loft & Basement
Today	11/18 Coffee and homemade baked goods!	After 9:00 a.m. Mass	Vestibule
Today	11/18 Community Outreach Committee Meeting	After 9:00 a.m. Mass	Rectory
Monday	11/19 Religious Education	4:00 p.m.	Classrooms
Monday	11/19 CGS	4:15 p.m.	Atrium St. Sebastian - 913

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Christmas Bells are Ringing

The Children's Choir is Christmas Caroling on **Sunday, December 16**. Please see Vittoria, the Children's Choir Director, in the choir loft following the 9 a.m. Mass if your son or daughter would like to join the Choir in this heartwarming activity!

Christmas Carolers United: All parishioners are invited to help bring the spirit of Christmas to the elderly in our area. We will serenade the residents of three nursing homes with familiar carols and brighten their day, as we encourage them to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' birth. Gather at St. Sebastian's at **1:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 23**. From there, we will caravan in cars to Wingate as well as Tockwotten and Bethany homes. (Songbooks and directions will be provided, but you can bring jingle bells, Christmas regalia, and plenty of good will!) No special musical talent is required, but a jolly enthusiasm makes our caroling a huge success. After the caroling, everyone is welcome to the home of Greg & Susan Elliott, for refreshments. To sign up, please go to saintsebastian@cox.net. For questions, please contact Susan Elliott at 401-831-1162 or 401-345-8635. What better way can we herald the coming of Our Lord than by bringing His Love to those who would enjoy it so?

EACH ONE, REACH ONE!

Have you ever had an invitation change your life for the good? My invitation for the good was to become a Dominican Friar. I urge you to invite a friend to come to Mass with you here at Saint Sebastian! The best way to grow is for **"each one, to reach one!"** Invite someone to come to Mass with you next weekend.

St. Sebastian's Church Presents
"Warm Heart, Warm Hearth"

Christmas Bazaar

For the Benefit of the "Keep the Heat On" Program



SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018
9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

Fresh Wreaths and Poinsettias
Advent Wreaths and Calendars
Christmas Decorations and Ornaments
Penny Social
Gift Basket Raffles
50/50 Raffle
Handmade Items
Stocking Stuffers
White Elephant Room
Baked Goods
Children's Crafts
Christmas Cafe
Visit from Santa Claus

St. Sebastian's Church on the East Side in Providence,
67 Cole Avenue, Providence, RI (handicapped accessible)

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK

Prayers are asked for our friends, family, fellow parishioners, and especially for **Elie Saroufim, Clarence Wroblewski, Helen Cox-Nadal, and Stanley Nadal**. If you would like someone included in the Prayers for the Sick, please call the Church Rectory.

The Parish Book Club will meet Wednesday, November 28th at 7:00 pm at Denny Roberts' home located at 132 Everett Avenue. We'll discuss *Ella Minnow Pea* by Mark Dunn. New members are invited to attend.

Monday	11/19	Coffee An'	4:00 p.m.	Church Vestibule
Tuesday	11/20	Christmas Bazaar Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.	Church Hall
Tuesday	11/20	Prayer Shawl Ministry	7:00 p.m.	Father Randall Room
Wednesday	11/21*	Unfolding the Catholic Faith*	Cancelled*	Thanksgiving Holiday
Thursday	11/22	Thanksgiving Mass	9:00 a.m.	Church
Friday	11/23	Mass	9:00 a.m.	Church
Friday	11/23**	Parish Office**	Closed**	Thanksgiving Holiday
Saturday	11/24	Mass	9:00 a.m.	Church
Saturday	11/24	WINE Book Club	3:30 p.m.	Father Randall Room
Saturday	11/24	Confessions	4:00 p.m.	Church
Saturday	11/24	Mass	5:00 p.m.	Church

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OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMORIALS

Please contact Father Jordan if:

- ✠ You noticed the beautiful new Green Vestments used at Sunday Mass. If you would like to donate this vestment in memory of a deceased loved one, please connect with Father Jordan;
- ✠ You would like to help purchase an appropriate vestment and altar cloth that would be used during the Christmas and Easter Seasons;
- ✠ You would like to memorialize a new crucifix for the daily Mass Chapel. The San Damiano Crucifix that will hang in the daily Mass Chapel is a replica of the one which spoke to Saint Francis of Assisi saying, **“Go! Rebuild my Church!”** At this critical time in the history of our beloved Church, this crucifix will be a constant reminder for all of us to share in the work of the New Evangelization.

No better way to begin Thanksgiving Day than by coming to the greatest Thanksgiving Meal ever offered: The Mass!

Please bring canned goods and other dry foods to bring up during the Offertory Procession. All of the food collected will be blessed and taken to Mary's House Meal and Kitchen Pantry.

PARISH FINANCES: NOVEMBER 11, 2018

TOTAL PARISHIONER DONATIONS \$ 4,712.00

At time of printing, total parish expenses were not available.

A sincere thank you for your continued support!

Please consider enrolling in Parish Giving, our online stewardship program for parish contributions. You can register online at www.Parishgiving.org or on our parish website at www.stsebastianri.org.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH HOLIDAY OPPORTUNITIES

PARISH WINTER COAT DRIVE If you're cleaning out your closets, save any winter coats that are in good condition and bring them to the Parish Winter Coat Drive taking place during the month of November. There is a coat rack **in the Father Randall Room** for your donations through Thanksgiving Day. The coats collected will be delivered benefitting the *Rhode Island Buy Nothing Day Winter Coat Exchange* held the day after Thanksgiving.

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE The Outreach Committee thanks parishioners for their ongoing contributions of food for the hungry in our community. All donations assist Mary's House Meal and Kitchen Pantry at Saint Patrick's Church. At this time of year in which we give thanks for our many blessings, Saint Sebastian Parish remembers those who are hungry in our Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive. The Drive began last weekend and continues through Nov. 25th. There are several ways you can participate: *for those who wish to donate by cash or check, please use one of the envelopes found in the pews and place it in the collection basket; food may be placed in the back of church; or, when you come to Mass on Thanksgiving Day bring your food donations with you, and during the Offertory Procession bring them to the foot of the altar.* All of the food will be blessed and taken to Saint Patrick's.

EMBRACE A FAMILY Our Parish tradition continues as we make part of Christmas a reality for those who are not able. If you would like to "Embrace a Family" this holiday season, please RSVP to the following email, saintsebastian@cox.net, and indicate your willingness to participate in this wonderful program!

