

**Church of Saint Sebastian**  
**December 9, 2018 - Second Sunday of Advent**

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*From Father Jordan, O.P.*

My Dear Ones,

May the grace of Our Lord remain always with us!

Please join me in thanking Karin Schrott and the members of her awesome committee for all of their hard work, dedication, and self-sacrifice that made the Saint Sebastian Inaugural Christmas Bazaar such a great success! Last Saturday was a truly great day in the life of our Parish: there was a great spirit of friendship and joy; and a spirit of great charity! Praise God! I cannot thank Karin enough; nor am I able to adequately express my *deep and genuine* appreciation for all the committee did to bring this day to reality! Thank you to all of you who volunteered time to help at one of the stations, or worked in the kitchen, or to greet people as they arrived. And, thank you to all of you who came and shopped and spent your treasure to help keep people warm! I know that God shines His mercy and love upon us for all you did to cloth the naked, and in this case, to keep the poor warm! Thank you, Lord, for a truly great day.

Each day a pastor is greeted with many different surprises: some happy, some not so happy. On Monday of this week I had one of those not so happy surprises. Ms. Marie and I were having one of our usual Monday meeting. I knew something was not right, and I asked Marie if she was all right. Marie quietly stated that she wants to retire. I am very sad to share this news with you. Both Ms. Marie and I sat in silence for a moment; and we each had tears in our eyes. Ms. Marie's last day will be on Monday, December 17. First, I thank Ms. Marie for 19 years of service to our community: 12 as the Coordinator of Religious Education and 7 as a catechist in the Religious Education Program. Secondly, I am most grateful for the selfless dedication Ms. Marie has shown to our community. She is punctilious in every detail of her job, and her job was not a job but a ministry. You can mention a name to Marie and she will give you the entire family history. You can ask Marie for a recommendation for someone to do something, and she is able to, as they say, "hit the nail on the head." Personally, I am most grateful to Marie! When I moved here in June, Marie organized students to help me move into the Rectory. As I have

tried to transition and settle into a very different world, it has been Marie who helped me learn about and understand every bit of liturgical history attached to our community. And, Marie has been most open and appreciative of new ideas and fresh eyes: it is an understatement to say that I will miss Ms. Marie! But, the most important aspect of this is Ms. Marie's happiness and the realization of her desire, "I want to be retired – fulltime!" We will honor Ms. Marie with a very special reception on Sunday, January 6, The Feast of the Epiphany, following the 9 am Mass. Religious Education Classes on that Sunday will be joining in the celebration of Ms. Marie.

Today, the Second Sunday of Advent is the first of two Sundays in which our Advent Liturgy focuses upon John the Baptist: the prophet who wore camel hair and ate wild honey; the prophet thought to be out of his mind. It is not easy or fun to be a prophet! 99 times out of 100 a prophet bears a message no one wants to hear!! However, it is only when we listen to the prophets that mountains and hills are made low, rough ways smooth and winding ways made straight. It is only by listening to the prophet's warning do we find peace! May all of our hearts be open to the prophets God sends into our midst today.

Until we meet at the altar... *O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to Thee!*

In the Lord,

*Fr. Jordan, O.P.*

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Today's beautiful altar flowers are given in memory of our beloved parents Dr. Joseph and Sylvia Loferski from their 6 children and 16 grandchildren.

**Church of Saint Sebastian**  
**Founded October 15, 1915**

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, December 8: Second Sunday of Advent**

5:00 pm *Pro Populo*

**Sunday, December 9: Second Sunday of Advent**

9:00 am *Intentions of Allen Terrano on the occasion of his birthday*

11:00 am *Ann Waldron and Ernest Ardente*

**Monday, December 10: Advent Weekday**

7:00 am *Frederick and Barbara Keiser*

**Tuesday, December 11: Advent Weekday**

7:00 am *Intentions of Sr. Mary Barbara, O.P.*

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

**Wednesday, December 12: Our Lady of Guadalupe**

7:00 am *For a deceased infant*

**Thursday, December 13: Saint Lucy, Virgin and Martyr**

7:00 am *Sylvia Loferski, 1st anniversary, with love from her 6 children and 16 grandchildren*

**Friday, December 14: Saint John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church**

7:00 am *For the Carmelite Order, Living and Deceased Members*

**Saturday, December 15: Advent Weekday**

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

**Saturday, December 15: Vigil: 3rd Sunday of Advent**

5:00 p.m. *Richard Ely, req. by Donna Pilkington*

**Sunday, December 9: Third Sunday of Advent**

9:00 a.m. *Intentions of Mary Catherine Godlewsky - Bruno on the occasion of her birthday*

11:00 a.m. *Pro Populo*

*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!

**Developing a Culture of Stewardship**

In this season of gift giving and receiving...How can we be good stewards of our time, share our talents, and use our treasure for the good of all?

**WINE: Women's Book Club**

The **Daytime WINE Club** meets this Saturday, December 8 at 3:30 pm in the Fr. Randall Room. The **Evening WINE Club** meets December 22 at 3:30 pm to discuss *Gaze Upon Jesus* by Kelly Wahlquist. If you have any questions please email [ms.teresatesta@gmail.com](mailto:ms.teresatesta@gmail.com) (Daytime Group) or [smarieheaton@gmail.com](mailto:smarieheaton@gmail.com) (Evening Group.)



**TOWN HALL MEETING**

**There will be a Town Hall Meeting on Monday, January 14th at 7:00 pm in the Church Hall to discuss matters relating to the continued life of Saint Sebastian Parish.**

**All are welcome.**

**End of the Year Giving and Estate Planning**

At this time of the year, there are so many demands made upon our financial resources. Please consider remembering Saint Sebastian Church either through greater sacrifice for the Christmas Collection; an End of the Year Gift; or by leaving a bequest for Saint Sebastian Church from your estate. Thank YOU!!! God will never be outdone in generosity!

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**December 9, 2018 - First Sunday of Advent**



All parishioners  
 and friends are  
 warmly invited to

join Father Jordan today,

Sunday, December 9 for an

*Advent and Christmas Open House*

*in the Rectory from 12 to 2:30*

Parishioners are invited to share their

favorite Christmas Baked Good.

We hope to see you there!

***Christmas Bells are Ringing***

The **Children's Choir** will go 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 Caroling:** As an extension of our parish Outreach work, all parishioners are invited to help bring the spirit of Christmas to some of 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 pm on Sunday, December 23.** From there, we will caravan in cars to Wingate, 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 caroling, everyone is welcome to the home of Greg & Susan Elliott for refreshments. To sign up, please email: [stsebastian@cox.net](mailto:stsebastian@cox.net). For questions, please contact Susan Elliott at 831-1162 or 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?

***Join us for our many activities!***

Today	12/9	Children's Choir Rehearsal for Christmas Eve	10:00 am	Choir Loft
		Coffee An'	10:00 am	Vestibule
		Religious Education	10:00 am	Classrooms
		<b>Advent Christmas Open House</b>	<b>Noon to 2:30 pm</b>	<b>Rectory</b>
Mon.	12/10	Religious Education	4 pm	Classrooms
		CGS	4:15 pm	Atrium
		Coffee An'	4:00 pm	Vestibule
Tues.	12/11	Unfolding the Catholic Faith	7:00 pm	Fr. Randall Room
Wed	12/12	The Bible and the Virgin Mary (Fr. Jordan away 12/12-12/14)	7:00 pm	Fr. Randall Room
Sat.	12/15	Mass	9:00 am	Church
		Confessions	4:00 pm	Church
		Mass	5:00 pm	Church

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**OPPORTUNITIES FOR MEMORIALS**

Please contact Father Jordan if:

- ✠ You would like to help purchase an appropriate vestment and altar cloth which would be used during the Christmas and Easter Seasons;
- ✠ You noticed the beautiful new Green Vestment used at Sunday Mass and would like to donate this vestment in memory of a deceased loved one.



**MITTEN/HAT/SCARF TREE:** has been placed in the vestibule upon which you can pin new mittens, hats, and scarves that will be for the benefit of Saint Patrick's Mary House.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK**

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

If something uncharitable is said in your presence, either speak in favor of the absent, or withdraw, or if possible, stop the conversation.

- St. John Vianney



**Weekly Bulletin**  
**Submission Deadlines**

**Due to the upcoming Christmas holidays, the publisher of our bulletin will be printing our bulletins earlier than usual.**

**Because of these changed publication dates I have changed the dates I would need to receive any and all items you, or your committee, wish to include in any of the following bulletins. Please email me at [office@stsebastianri.org](mailto:office@stsebastianri.org) if you have any questions. Thank you!**

**Bulletin for December 16th - Items must be received by noon, Monday, December 10th.**

**Bulletin for December 23rd - Items must be received by noon, December 13th.**

**Bulletin for December 30th - Items must be received by noon December 19th.**

**Bulletin for January 6th - Items must be received by noon December 26th**

**PARISH FINANCES**

**NOVEMBER 11, 18, 25, DECEMBER 2, 2018**

Contributions at Mass	\$ 20,258.00
Monthly Maintenance	\$ 3,491.00
Online Parish Giving\	\$ 4,783.00
Holy Days	\$ 1,715.00
Total Contributions	<u>\$ 30,247.00</u>
PARISH EXPENSES	\$ 52,777.00