

**Church of Saint Sebastian**  
**February 3, 2019 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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***From Father Jordan, O.P.***

My Dear Ones,

May the grace of Our Lord remain always with us!

***THANK YOU FOR A GREAT CELEBRATION OF SAINT SEBASTIAN AND POT LUCK! ☺***

Last Saturday was one of the happiest days I have had since arriving at Saint Sebastian. I hope you enjoyed yourself as well! Both the Mass and the dinner exceeded all of my expectations! The choir under the direction of both Stephen Higgins and Andrew Garrepy was outstanding, and the celebration of all the weekend Masses was reverent and joyful! Thanks to Bud McGann for the elegant Worship Programs. (Bud now does the Worship Program each week.) The hall was set for 100 people, and I counted between 90 and 95 people at the dinner.

***THANK YOU*** for being there and for bringing so many wonderful and delicious dishes. We all owe a great thank you to Mary Brennan, Business and Office Manager. Mary guided me in the choices for the decorations in the Parish Hall, always finding the best deal. But even more so, it was Mary who spent Saturday making sure everything that needed to be out was out, and that everything looked just right! Thank you, Mary! Thanks be to God for His abundant blessings to our community.

In the midst of our celebration our country and our faith found themselves faced with a tremendous difficulty: The Reproductive Health Act signed by Governor Andrew Cuomo of New York on January 22<sup>nd</sup>. Many of our bishops have been severely criticized of doing too little about this bill and its author. As your pastor, I believe that I would be negligent in my responsibility to you if I did not address this issue.

First, let's admit that this is not a topic about which people want to be in conversation. In our postmodern society, we are most careful to be sure no one is offended, and we do all we are able to assure that every point of view is validated. This can lead to the great error of silence in the face of something which is objectively wrong; and, as has been said, "bad men need nothing more to compass their ends, than that good men should look on and do nothing."

It is impossible to address the moral and physical complexity of the abortion issue in this short space.

However, it is possible to touch upon the dangers contained in New York's Reproductive Health Act.

Both the title of his act, as well as the first premise for its purpose, the protection of the reproductive health of women, is a euphemism that defies understanding. The doctors who fill our congregation can imagine with horror what the fullness of New York law allows and promotes: the life of the infant in the womb can be terminated at any time. Throughout history we have witnessed many horrific acts: the actions proposed in this bill stand as the most horrific of the laws our country sanctions. As Catholics, this bill and what it contains pleads for our voices and our prayers to say, "Enough! Stop! This is NOT the way to protect women's reproductive health."

Having been privileged to work with many mothers and fathers who have aborted their child (children), I hosted a conference about the effects of abortion upon men. I thought that if 25 men attended, we would be successful. God showed me: 500 men came from throughout the country for a 3-day conference about what abortion had done in their lives. The Church must always teach the truth; embrace and comfort those misled by sin; lead people to forgiveness and the freedom that is the particular grace of living in the truth; and assure those who have been in this situation that they are loved by God, by us, and we want them to be in our midst! The Church must decry the discrimination, injustice, bigotry and lies laid forth in the Reproductive Health Act. May the Christ, the Lord of life, enlighten our minds and the eyes of hearts to welcome and embrace all life from conception until natural death.

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

In the Lord,

***Fr. Jordan, OP***

*The Church of Saint Sebastian*

***Rev. Jordan Kelly, O. P., Pastor***

***Trustees:*** Charles Rogers, Catherine Taylor

***Finance Committee:*** Charles Brusso, Ann Carnevale, Grace Dugan

***Parish Council:*** Sarah Garcia-Mata, Mary Hill, Jamie Hill, Janice Opalenski, Patricia Recupero, Ellen Reinhardt, Fred Reinhardt, Rob Whelan

# Church of Saint Sebastian

## February 3, 2019 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### COFFEE AND CRAFTS TODAY

**Sunday February 3rd after the 9 am Mass.**  
**Valentines for Veterans**  
 Taking place in the church basement. Please  
 join us in thanking our Servicemen and  
 Servicewomen.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Prayers are asked for our friends, family, fellow parishioners, and especially for **Bee B., Ray Graham, Frank Dumont, and Elie Saroufim.** If you would like someone included in the Prayers for the Sick, please call the Church Rectory.

### **LITURGY TOOL BOX**

#### The Importance of Sunday

*As a little boy Sunday was a very specific day: Noon Mass; drive an hour to my grandmother's house; dinner with the whole family; get in the car and go home. Sunday never really changed, but we didn't mind: Nona's food was great, and we had at great deal of fun at the kids' table. These Sunday rituals really formed all of us. I offer you these thoughts of Archbishop Sample about the significance of Sunday.*

The Second Vatican Council declared that Sunday is "the primordial feast day". "Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, it is the day of Christians, it is our day." Sunday is a day like no other, a day when we recall and relive together "the old has passed away, behold, the new has come."

Since this is precisely what is celebrated in the Most Holy Eucharist, Sunday on the one hand and the celebration of the Holy Mass on the other go together, a true "match made in heaven". It follows that Sunday is the day above all days, when the faithful followers of Christ gather for Holy Mass "to listen to the word of God and take part in the Eucharist. It is as if the Risen Lord were standing in the sanctuary of our churches, calling each of us to come to him and inviting us to his banquet, this coming Sunday and for all eternity.

For Catholics the Eucharist is the center of our faith, the center of our lives, and the center of our Sunday. Participation in the communal celebration of the Sunday Eucharist is a testimony of belonging and of being faithful to Christ and to his Church. St. John Chrysostom taught: "You cannot pray at home as at church, where there is a great multitude, where exclamations are cried out to God as from one great heart, and where there is something more: the union of minds, the accord of souls, the bond of charity, the prayers of the priests."

In the gift of the Eucharist "Jesus Christ entrusted to his Church the perennial making present of the Paschal Mystery... The thought of this leads us to profound amazement and gratitude This amazement should always fill the Church assembled for the celebration of the Eucharist."

For Catholics Sunday is the beginning and the highlight of the week, a day which brings great joy to the Christian life. "Sunday is the day of joy in a very special way, indeed the day most suitable for learning how to rejoice and to rediscover the true nature and deep roots of joy.

### Won't You Join Us?

Sunday	2/3	Valentines for Veterans	10:00 am	Church Hall
		Religious Education	10:00 am	Classrooms
Monday	2/4	Religious Education	4:00 pm	Classrooms
		CGS	4:15 pm	Atrium
Tuesday	2/5	Prayer Shawl	7:00 pm	Fr, Randall Room
Wednesday	2/6	Bible Study	7:00 pm	Fr. Randall Room

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Founded October 15, 1915

**IMPORTANT DATES FOR FAMILIES WHO ARE RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS**

**Save the date: March 30, 2019 : Sacramental Family Retreat**

**Save the date: April 28, 2019: Sacrament of Confirmation**

Bishop Robert Evans will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on 14 of our Parishioners on *Sunday, April 28 at the 11:00 am Mass*. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

**Save the date: May 12, 2019: First Holy Communion**

Twenty-one of our parishioners will receive their First Holy Communion on *Mothers' Day – Sunday, May 12 at the 9:00 am Mass*. A reception will follow in the Parish Hall.

**PARISH FINANCES: 1/27/2019**

Mass Contributions	\$ 4,456.00
Online Parish Giving	\$ 951.00
Total Weekly Donations	\$ <u>5,407.00</u>
Diocesan Collection	\$ 804.00
Total Parish Expenses	\$ 18,933.00
<b>Shortfall of Funds</b>	<b>\$13,526.00</b>

*We sincerely thank you for your continued support!*

**VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE!**  
**[www.stsebastianri.org](http://www.stsebastianri.org)**

Below is your monthly letter from one of your sponsored students. We hope this will help you feel more connected to the students you are supporting through St. Sebastian Church. (Copies of all letters have also been mailed to Fr. Randall).

Thank you again for your support of St. Patrick Academy students. We are so grateful for your generosity.

All the best,  
Cara Massey - Director of Development

Dear St. Sebastian Catholic Church,

This month has been hectic, mostly because exams were this month. But I was able to raise my grade in pre-Calculus. Every other subject I have had adequate grades that I am happy about, but I know I can do much better in the upcoming quarter.

Besides my academic life, I have been busy with basketball. Our team practices every day to become better. I love playing basketball and I love the struggle that I feel when I practice but I am a bit sad that it is my last year and that it will soon end.

In a way, I wish this year, or this basketball season, was longer. I love how our team works well together and how quick we are to pick each other up. As this year continues, I hope that I can experience more precious memories with my basketball team and my classmates.

Anyway, thank you for sponsoring and pushing me to be a better athlete and student. Your help has given me motivation to keep going when life is stressful.

Thank you!  
Amy Hidalgo

**Save the date: March 9 & 10, 2019: PARISH LENTEN MISSION AND PASTA WITH THE PADRES**

Join us March 9th and 10th for a weekend of reflection, led by Fr. Matthew Dougherty, O.Praem. At this beginning of Lent we will pause and reflect how Lent 2019 can be the best Lent ever!

1. When: Attend any of the weekend Masses as Father Matthew unveils the plan for the Best Lent Ever!
2. Sunday: Following Sunday's 11:00 am Mass there will be Eucharistic Adoration; plan to spend some time with the Blessed Sacrament in quiet adoration.
3. At 4:00 pm: Closing Vespers and Benediction with preaching that ties the day together.
4. At 5:00 pm: *Pasta with Padres* – enjoy a homemade spaghetti dinner ***prepared and served by the Padres!***  
\$5 per person; \$10 per family.

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**MASS INTENTIONS**

**Saturday, February 2, Vigil: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

5:00 pm *Pro Populo*

**Sunday, February 3, Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 am *INTENTIONS OF ADOLF SCHROTT, on the occasion of his 94th birthday, requested by his family*

11:00 am REVEREND ANGELO D'AGOSTINO, S.J., M.D., birthday remembrance, req. by Belle Calenda

**Monday, February 4, St. Catherine de'Ricci, O.P., Virgin**

7:00 am *FOR THE NUNS OF SAINT DOMINIC MONASTERY, Linden VA*

**Tuesday, February 5, Saint Agatha, Virgin and Martyr**

7:00 am *FOR ALL WHO LIVE WITH OR WHO HAVE DIED FROM BREAST CANCER*

7:30 am Novena Prayers - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

**Wednesday, February 6, Saint Paul Mikiu and Companions, Martyrs**

7:00 am *FOR THE SPREAD OF AND MORE FAITHFUL LIVING OF THE FAITH*

**Thursday, February 7**

7:00 am *FOR ALL OUR DECEASED PARENTS*

**Friday, February 8, Saint. Josephine Bakhita, virgin**

7:00 am *FOR THE END OF RACISM*

**Saturday, February 9**

9:00 am *FOR THE HEALING OF THE VICTIMS OF CLERGY SEXUAL ABUSE*

**Saturday, February 9, Vigil: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

5:00 pm URSULA SHEA, 4th anniversary requested by her family

**Sunday, February 10, Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9:00 am *PRO POPULO*

11:00 am *WILLIAM TRACEY, requested by John and Mary Cappelli*

**Our hands and hearts are instruments through which God shows his love.** Help us wrap each of our lonely homebound or seriously ill relatives and friends with a shawl made by our PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY of our Parish. Everyone is invited to join in at the next meeting of the PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY Tuesday, February 5th at 7:00 pm in the Father Randall Room.

*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.

**Join in praying for the Bishops of the World as they meet with Pope Francis.**

**NOVENA PRAYER FOR ST. JOSEPH'S INTERCESSION**

*Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God, I place in you all my interest and desires.*

*Oh St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine Son all spiritual blessings, though Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of Fathers.*

*Oh, St. Joseph, I never wear contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him close in my name, and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, patron of departing souls,, pray for me.*

*Amen.*

**FAITH FORMATION WHILE YOU STAY AT HOME!**

A number of parishioners would like to take part in different Faith Formation events offered at the Parish, but because of family and work obligations are unable, or find it too difficult, to get to the programs offered at Saint Sebastian.

Now you can "join" with your fellow parishioners from the comfort of your own home. Follow CREDO by following these easy steps:

1. Go to: [saintbenedictpress.com/register](http://saintbenedictpress.com/register)
2. Create profile
3. Go to the far right hand corner and click on streaming; there will be a drop down bar, choose "Credo".
4. Enter Code: CR00101