

Masses for the Week



Sat., December 24, 2011—Christmas Eve

4:30pm †Bill & Alice Post by Dan & Mary Steffes
Mass in Historic Church
Williams Family

4:30pm †Antoinette Licata by Betty Lomonaco
Mass in New Church
Children's Choir — Carols begin at 4pm

12:00am †Veronica Schlepers & Gregory Dekker by Corry & Theresa Dekker and Family
Mass in New Church
Adult Choir — Carols begin at 11:30pm

Sun., December 25, 2011—Christmas

10:00am †Mary McNaughton by Mitch & Barb Dalman & Family
Mass in New Church
Adult Choir

Mon., December 26, 2011—St. Stephen
No Mass — No Service

Tues., December 27, 2011—St. John
No Mass — No Service

Weds., December 28, 2011—The Holy Innocents
No Mass — No Service

Thurs., December 29, 2011— St. Thomas Becket
No Mass — No Service

Fri., December 30, 2011— The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

8:30am †Ron Poll by Don & Crystal Poll

Sat., December 31, 2011—Solemnity of Mary The Holy Mother of God

5:00pm †Deceased Members of our St. Sebastian Family
Adult Choir

Sun., January 1, 2012—Solemnity of Mary, The Holy Mother of God

8:30am Marilyn Miller by Jim & Kathy Pitsch
Sister Catherine Williams, Cantor

11:15am Gerard Miller by Jim & Linda Stein
Sister Catherine Williams, Cantor

December 17 & 18, 2011

269 out of 681 Adult Envelopes (40%).....	\$13,529.00
38 out of 183 Children Envelopes (21%).....	\$34.48
Loose.....	\$1,307.00
Votive Candles.....	\$5.00
Mass Intentions.....	\$205.00
Retirement Fund for Religious (\$6,468.39 to date).....	\$290.00
Christmas Flower Memorials(\$1,737.10 to date).....	\$30.00
Funeral Donation.....	\$290.00
Nov. CSA Payback.....	\$1,831.11
Total.....	\$17,521.59

Thank you, Msgr. Bill, Mona and to the wonderful St. Sebastian community for the outpouring of prayers, hugs, cards and emails that followed my mom's death on Dec. 2. Your support during a difficult time was much appreciated.

Mary Claire Fu

Dear Friends

Christmas arrived early this year for the forty-three of us who made a pilgrimage to the Holy Land last month. On Friday, November 18th, our bus passed through an armed checkpoint as we entered into the city of Bethlehem which is under the governance of the Palestinian Authority. The streets were quiet on this gray drizzly morning. The guide pointed out to us a valley which he described as the shepherds' fields that was still used to this day. We pulled up to Manger Square in which the Church of the Nativity stands—old and tattered yet sacred in its appearance. Here at this site pilgrims have traveled from all parts of the world for centuries to draw near the place where the newborn king was born on a night long ago.

It was a most strange feeling indeed to join the crush of a crowd of many languages as we worked our way down a short cramped staircase to kneel at a spot which commemorates the birth of our Lord. How can it be that the God of the universe would select such a site to enter the human state? How can it be that God would choose to come among us as the infant of a young Jewish woman startled by an angel that announced she would bear God's Son? How can it be that the lowly shepherds in nearby fields would be the first to hear the good news? How could this all be?

And yet it is. What the people of Israel hoped for and what the prophets foretold had come to pass in God's time, in God's way, for God's purpose. We gathered that day in the Grotto of St. Jerome to celebrate the Christmas Mass. We sang Christmas carols, proclaimed the gospel passage of Jesus' birth—and allowed tears to well up in our eyes as our hearts were touched by the mystery of God's love for us.

As we gather here at St. Sebastian's to again hear the angels proclaim the birth of Our Lord, may what our minds cannot comprehend be understood deep within our hearts—that Christ is born unto us and is with us now.

On behalf of our parish staff, I wish to extend to you and your loved ones our heartfelt wishes for a joyous and blessed Christmas!

Blessings,
Msgr. Bill

4th Sunday of Advent Continued

Knights Of Columbus Events



- Jan. 12 First Degree in Parish Hall at 6pm.
- Jan. 13 6-9pm Free Throw contest at Century Park School in Grandville.—More details coming.
- Jan. 19. Hall setup for Feast day at 6:30pm in Parish Hall.

Want to learn more about the knights? Contact Bob Grove at 878-5461.

Our Prayer List

Please continue to pray for the following and all the sick of our the Parish, their families and friends, those hospitalized and home-bound and those in care facilities.

Diane Bates	Randy Biggs	Howard Boillat
Bryan Chairmonte	Judy Crawford	Terri Dadzitis
Bonnie Funk	Sam Geiger	Valerie Hubert
Tammy Jacobs	Katie Kitzerow	Michael Marsiglia
Randy Marsiglia	Denise McEvers	Joanne McKenna
Ron Miller	Lupe Paiz	Carl (Gus) Rossi
Brian Sessions	Carol Steffes	Kate VanDyke
Peter VanEss	Rita Walsh	Margaret Weber
Karen Wegeler		

Byron Community Ministries' Food Drive will be postponed until the weekend of January 7 & 8. BCM list of needs will be in the December 31 and January 1 bulletin.

ST. SEBASTIAN NURSERY

Nursery is held during the 11:15am Mass. The nusery is located at the Parish Hall in Room #5. Rose Zerfas will be our adult helper along with the following helpers.

- Dec. 25 **NO NURSERY – CHRISTMAS BREAK**
- Jan. 1 **NO NURSERY – NEW YEAR'S BREAK**
- Jan. 8 Alyssa Skalitzky, David Nickels, Emily Nickels

Remember...
New Mass Time
Begins
Sunday,
Jan. 8
At 10:30am

Our current 11:15am
Mass will be changing to
10:30am beginning on
Sunday, January 8,
2012.

Parish Events

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30pm in the Historic Church with Father Amar Presiding. Children's Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30pm in the New Church. Choir begin at 4pm. Midnight Christmas Eve Mass in the New Church at 12:00am. Carols begin at 11:30pm. Dec. 25 Christmas Day Mass at 10:00am in the New Church. No RE Classes or Nursery—Christmas Break Dec. 26 No RE Classes—Christmas Break Dec. 27 No RCIA—Christmas Break No Adult Choir —Christmas Break Dec. 28 No RE Classes—Christmas Break Dec. 30 Feast of the Holy Family Mass at 8:30am in the Historic Church. Dec. 31 Mass for Holy Mary, Mother of God at 5pm in the new Church Jan. 1 Mass for Holy Mary, Mother of God at 8:30am and 11:15am in the new Church. No RE Classes or Nursery—New Year's Break | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jan. 2 NO RE Classes—New Year's Break Jan. 3 RCIA at 7pm in the Parish Hall Adult Choir in the New Church at 7pm. Jan. 4 RE Classes for Grades 1-6 resumes at 6pm in the Parish Hall. Jan. 5 Catholicism DVD Class at 7pm in the Parish Hall. Jan. 6 Mothers' Ministry Meeting at 9:15am (following the 8:30am Mass) Guys' Retreat in the Parish Hall at 5pm until 6:30pm Saturday, Jan. 7. Jan. 8 RE Classes resume for 3 & 4 yr. old Preschool, Kinder garten and Nursery during the 10:30am Mass. Faith Formation Classes for Year 1 & 2 in the Parish Hall at 6pm. Jan. 9 RE Classes for Grades 1-6 at 6pm in the Parish Hall. Jan. 10 RCIA at 7pm in the Parish Hall Adult Choir Practice at 7pm in the new Church. |
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4th Sunday of Advent

Youth Ministry News

DYC2012. IT'S GO TIME! Are you ready? Registration is open now for the 2012 Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference on Saturday, Feb. 25 at Cathedral Square in GR. The day features keynote speaker—Vallimar Jansen, workshops, lunch, dinner, Mass and a fiesta featuring the music of Jorge Rivera. Hundreds of teens and adults from all over the diocese are expected to attend DYC2012. You will not want to miss this high energy day of meeting new friends, growing in your faith and connecting with your Church. More information and registration forms are available online at www.dioceseofgrandrapids.org.

WANTED: an enclosed trailer (approx. 5' x 8') for use outside at Ignite's Fireshack to store comfy chairs, carpet, etc. We are looking to add some hominess to our Fireshack meetings by bring in clamshell chairs, bean bags, carpeting, etc. Those "comforts" have been donated and now we are seeking extended use of an enclosed trailer to store them. Do you have a trailer we can use?

NOTE: Confirmation Year 2 students, the Diocese has given us the date for Confirmation. It is Tuesday, March 13 at 7pm at the Cathedral of St. Andrew. Please mark you calendars and let your sponsors know. Thank you!

Six Week Outlook

- Sun. Dec. 25 **Christmas Break**
- Sun. Jan. 1 **New Year's Break**
- Fri-Sat, Jan 6-7 **Boys' "Warriors at Heart" Retreat** at St. Sebastian Parish Hall
- Sun. Jan. 8 **Faith Formation Classes for Year 1 & Year 2** in the Parish Hall from 6pm to 8:15pm.
- Sun. Jan. 15 **Ignite Meeting** at the Fire Shack 5-7:30pm
- Sun., Jan. 22 **Faith Formation Classes for Year 1 & Year 2** in the Parish Hall from 6pm to 8:15pm.

In God's Love & Service,
Patrick Rossi
YM Coordinator
878-1619 ext. 103
Patrick@stsebastianmi.org

We would like to thank Msgr. Bill and the parishioners of St. Sebastian's for your prayers, support and expressions of sympathy after the death of our sister, Yvonne Rondeau. A special thank you to the Care Ministry for the prayer shawl, book and visit. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring community.

Jerry & Elaine Woodcox & family

Elementary Religious Education



May your hearts be lifted in praise this Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus and the joy He brings to our lives. Wishing all of you Christmas Happiness to warm your hearts and homes with special joy.

Our Monday night 6th Grade class is looking for names, addresses and pictures of active overseas military per-



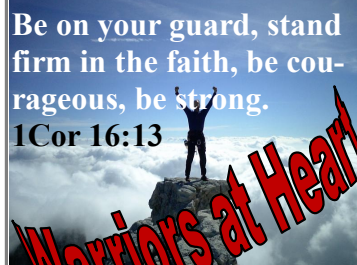
sonnel. If you have a loved one serving, please place the information in an envelope and bring to the Parish Hall or drop it in the offering basket. They will be putting together a Military board and sending out cards that the RE children will make for them. Thank you!

Empty cartridges and toners can be dropped off at the Parish Hall or at Church in the Narthex in the basket under the coat racks. It helps our program save money on items like dry erase markers, certificate paper, cardstock, etc. Thank you in advance!

UPCOMING DATES

- Dec. 25, 26 & 28 **NO RE CLASSES—CHRISTMAS BREAK**
- Jan. 1 & 2 **NO RE CLASSES—NEW YEAR'S BREAK**
- Jan. 4 **RE Classes resume for Grades 1-6 at 6pm to 7:15pm.**

In God's Love and Service,
Debbie Mayer
Director of Religious Education
878-1619 ext. 102
debbie@stsebastianmi.org



Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous, be strong.
1Cor 16:13

High School Guys' Retreat

Hosted by **Ignite** in union with St Pius X, St Stephens and St Mary's

January 6-7, 2012

Friday 5:00pm until Saturday after 5:00 Mass
St. Sebastian Parish Hall

Cost is \$20 - Registration forms are located in the Narthex, or online at http://stsebastianmi.org/files/Guys_Retreat_Registration.pdf

For additional registration information; Contact Rod Wood at 616-318-8099 or email rodnejwood@gmail.com