

Church of Saint Sebastian January 6, 2019 - Feast of the Epiphany

From Father Jordan, OP

My Dear Ones,

May the Grace of Our Lord remain always with us!

A Blessed Feast of the Epiphany! Happy “Little Christmas”! As a child growing up this was a wonderful day! At Mass, the Children’s Choir would sing all the songs we sang for Midnight Mass; and like our Children’s Choir on Christmas Eve, we would wear our special “Christmas Angel Robes.” Because the Feast was celebrated on its traditional day, January 6, we were often in school. The Sisters made sure it was a special day: the older grades would go and sing to the younger grades and the younger grades had treats for the upper grades. The cafeteria prepared a special “Epiphany Lunch” of traditional ethnic foods. The day would end with an all school assembly during which our Pastor, Father Pekarik, would give a talk about the significance of the Epiphany, and his talk always ended with a “surprise” that like the wise men, we were to find our way home immediately and the school day ended early. Why all this fuss about the Epiphany?

Today’s Feast, transferred to a Sunday in the revision of the Liturgical Calendar by the Second Vatican Council, demonstrates to us that although the searching of the Magi was completed when they found the Christ Child, a new - interior journey began in them which would change their whole lives. The Magi went in search of justice because they longed for the renewal of the world. They were pilgrims in search of the justice that they expected from God – the justice that would set right all the wrongs and all the sufferings of their lives. They imagined a King, and they found a Child. And the Child was not even rich, He was so poor they adored Him in a manger surrounded by cattle and lying in straw. How could such a King bring them justice?

As the Magi discovered, God is so often manifested in our lives in the way we least expect, not according to our plans or our imaginings. Like the Magi, we discover this difference begins our interior journey. The Child in the manger, God made flesh, asks us to change our ideas about power, about God and about humanity, and about ourselves. The Christ Child asks us to become like Him as we offer Him our hearts and pour ourselves out in loving service for others; no

lesser gift is sufficient for Him! The Christ Child asks us to conform our lives to His divine exercising of power, to God’s way of being. Jesus invites us to become people of truth, of justice, of goodness, of forgiveness, of mercy. How does this inner journey take place?

Like the Magi, we must “go into the house” and encounter Jesus. To find the Savior, we need to enter the house, which for us is not the manger, but our hearts and the Church. As the Magi encounter Jesus, they fall down in adoration; and their adoration blossoms into acts of faith and love, which acknowledges Jesus, born of Mary, is the Son of God, made man. We experience the same encounter as we come to the manger today and anytime, we enter the Church.

I am sure our grade school Sisters wanted us to have this encounter with Jesus as they made Epiphany Day so special. They hoped that this encounter with Jesus would lead us to know, love and serve God with every fiber of our being. ***What has been your encounter with Christ this Christmas?*** You need not bring gold, frankincense or myrrh: bring your heart; our Infant King will do all that needs to be done!

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

In the Lord,

Fr. Jordan, O.P.

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



A Gentle Reminder: There is NEW Bulletin deadline for Mass Intentions and any ministry's advertising. Please submit any information for the Bulletin *by 3:30 pm on Monday afternoon*. This will allow Mary and Father Jordan greater flexibility to see what and how much information needs to be in the Bulletin for a given week. It will also allow more time to check on any questions there may be about information submitted for the Bulletin.

Father Jordan



*CELEBRATING, REMEMBERING,
 AND EVEN SIMPLY JUST BECAUSE....*

I love flowers! Flowers lift my spirit; flowers remind me of dear friends who loved flowers; flowers are one of the easy ways I celebrate whatever or whoever. And, flowers in Church can bring me before God! After all, shouldn't the author of Beauty be surrounded by that what is most Beautiful and worthy of the Mysteries they celebrate?

For a contribution of \$75 or more flowers will be placed either in front of the Main Altar, the Blessed Sacrament, or Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The bulletin will note that the Altar Flowers this week are given in memory of; in celebration of; or just because. Please contact Mary Brennan or Fr. Jordan for more information.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE

www.stsebastianri.org

Won't You Join Us?

Sunday	1/6	Celebration for Marie Brito	10:00 am	Church Hall
Monday	1/7	Religious Education	4:00 pm	Classrooms
		CGS	4:15 pm	Atrium
		Coffee An'	4:00 pm	Vestibule
Wednesday	1/9	Bible Study	7:00 pm	Fr. Randall Room
Saturday	1/12	Movie Night following 5:00 pm Mass		Church Hall

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MITTEN/HAT/SCARF TREE

Please pin new mittens, hats, and scarves to our tree in the vestibule. All items 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 **William Tracey, Elie Saroufim, and Stanley Nadal**. If you would like someone included in the Prayers for the Sick, please call the Church Rectory.

The next **PARISH MOVIE NIGHT** will be held on Saturday, January 12 following the 5:00 pm Mass. The movie being shown is **The Apostle of Divine Mercy**. Snacks are provided.



Our Lady's Candle intention: Mae Badeau, birthday remembrance, requested by her daughter Belle Calenda.

PARISH FINANCES: 12/16 & 12/23/2018

Mass Contributions	\$ 9,797.00
Online Parish Giving	\$ 1,300.00
Total Parishioner Donations	<u>\$ 11,097.00</u>
Total Parish Expenses	\$ 21,545.00

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.

O Worship the Lord in the Beauty of Holiness, and the Holiness of Beauty

The beauty of our worship reflects both the grandeur of God and our loving self-offering to God. We are blessed with a wonderful congregation, a beautiful church, and our prayerful celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Please email me with your reflections about how our liturgical life may become even more beautiful, and bring us ever more fully into the presence of God: jordan.kelly@opeast.org



THE BEST GIFT EVER

Have you ever wondered about what gift to give to someone to let him or her know how much he or she means to you? Look no further! Give the gift of having a Mass offered for the intentions of the persons who mean so much to you: a birthday remembrance; in thanksgiving for God's goodness in your life; when someone is ill or dies; remembering a husband and wife on their wedding anniversary and more are reasons to have a Mass celebrated for someone. The requested offering for Mass is \$25. Please contact Mary Brennan in the Parish Office to reserve a Mass or for more information.



Annual Potluck Supper—January 26th, 2019

In honor of St. Sebastian, whose Feast Day is January 20th, all parishioners are invited to a Potluck Supper to be held in the Church Hall on Saturday, January 26th following the 5:00 pm Feast Day Mass. More information will follow, but mark your calendars now and plan to attend!

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MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, January 5, Vigil: The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

5:00 pm *Evelyn Mastriano*, birthday remembrance requested by her family

Sunday, January 6, The Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord

9:00 am *Intentions of Marie Brito*

10:00 am *Coffee to honor Ms. Marie Brito*

11:00 am *Steven Leo Picciano on his first birthday*

Monday, January 7, Christmas Weekday

7:00 am *Mario Brunetta*

7:20 am Novena Prayers - Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Tuesday, January 8, Christmas Weekday

7:00 am *Elie Saroufim*

Wednesday, January 9, Christmas Weekday

7:00 am *Kyla Vinacco*

Thursday, January 10, Christmas Weekday

7:00 am *Lenny Murphy*

Friday, January 11, Christmas Weekday

7:00 am *Brother Jack Dennis Ginder, O.P*

Saturday, January 12, Christmas Weekday

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

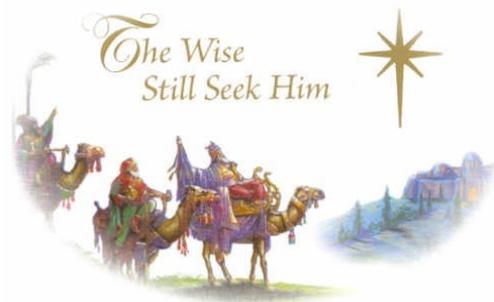
Saturday, January 12, Vigil: The Baptism of the Lord

5:00 pm *Jeremy Gravell*

Sunday, January 13, The Baptism of the Lord

9:00 am Pro Populo

11:00 am *For the Well-Being of our Country*



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.

Thank You

Thank you, Ms. Marie!

Please join us in saying thank you to Ms. Marie as she begins "retirement-full time!" on Sunday, January 6th. Join us for the 9:00 am Mass and the reception that will follow in the Church Hall.

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 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!



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.