Holy Masses

Saturday Vigil: 5:30 PM (4:00 PM Saint John Church)
Sunday: 11:00 AM; 5:00 PM (9:00 AM Saint John Church)
Weekdays: Monday, Wednesday & Friday 7:30 AM
(Saint John Church Tuesday & Thursday 7:30 AM)

Sacrament of Baptism

1st & 3rd Sundays after 11 AM Mass
Please call the Parish Office to schedule 860-347-2638.
Baptismal preparation classes required for all parents.

Sacrament of Marriage

Preparation must begin one year in advance. Please call the Parish Office before other arrangements for marriage are made.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 10:15 to 10:45 AM
(Saturday 3:15 to 3:45 PM
Sunday 8:15 to 8:45 AM Saint John Church)

First Fridays

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:00 PM, Mass 7:00 PM

Religious Education Classes

Sunday 9:30-10:50 AM for Grades 1, 4, 5, 6
& First & Second Confirmation Classes (Grades 7 & 8)
Monday 4:45-6:00 PM First Reconciliation
& First Communion (Grades 2 & 3)

Pastoral Visits

Sick Calls - Please call the Rectory.
Holy Communion - Please call Ralph Coligan at 860-716-1182, Fred Terrasi at 860-347-9042, or any Extraordinary Ministers of the Holy Communion.

Registration

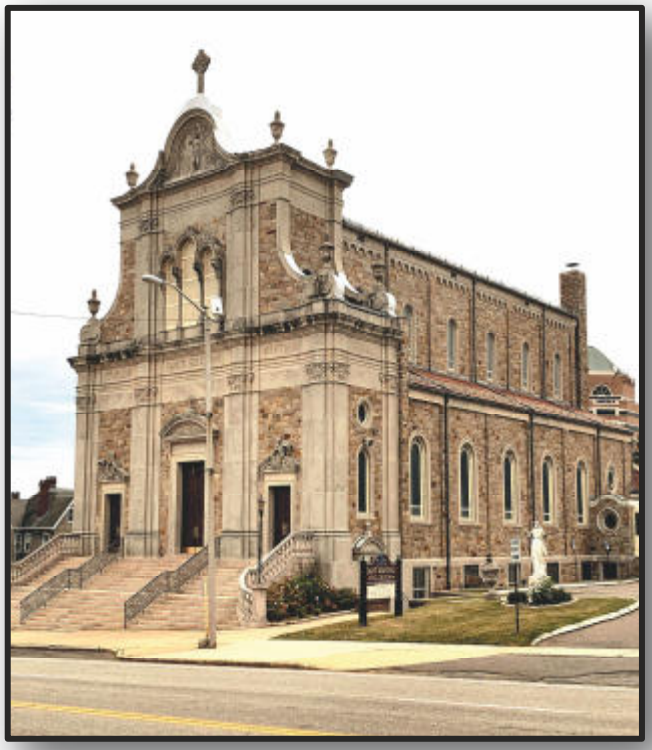
Please notify the Parish Office of any change of address or phone number. New Parishioners, please register as soon as possible. Visit our website **saintsebastianmiddletownct.weebly.com** to download the membership form, fill in and email or drop in collection basket.

Saint Sebastian Pray For Us

Saint Sebastian Church

Established in 1931

155 Washington Street, Middletown CT



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Rev. George Richards, Parochial Vicar

Parish & Cemetery Secretary
Palma Rose Cannata

Financial Secretary
Mary Ann Majors

Organist

Gina Fredericks 860-349-8050

Parish Trustees

Frank Marchese & Attorney Joseph Milardo

Pastoral Council President

Robert Blade

Director of Religious Education

Sister Lizzy & Sister Marykutty
917-841-3235
Email: dremiddletown@gmail.com

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Friday
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Contact Information

Parish Office: 860-347-2638
Fax: 860-347-6736
Cemetery: 860-346-4815
Website: saintsebastianmiddletownct.weebly.com
Parish Office Email: church6892@att.net
Pastor's Email: pastorst.sebastian@gmail.com

Our Church is Handicap Accessible & Air Conditioned

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, December 12
5:30 PM Vigil Solemn Community Mass
†Connie Barone (9A), by Camille, Nancy, Elaine & Gail
†Frank & Eva Tringali, by Barone & Rosano Families
†John, Mary & Patricia O'Connell, by Family
†Sebastiano Savastra (19A) & Nicolo Micciulla (BR), by Family
†Angelina Augeri (A), by Sons Gino, John & Attillio
†Carmela Weber, by Family
†Josephine LoGiudice, by Son Frank
†Agostino, Marianna & Giuseppe Marchese, by Frank & Ann Marie Marchese & Family
†Lucia Albanese (BR), by Niece Mary

Sunday, December 13 Third Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM †Salvatore, Marianna, Sebastiano, Adelina & Giuseppe Lombardo, by Dora DiMauro & Josie Milardo
†John Russo, by Parents Salvatore & Nella & Sister Ann Marie Ruel & Family
†Nicholas Giuliano (BR), by Family
5:00 PM †Joseph & Maria Barone by Family

Monday, December 14
7:30 AM †Marianna Fazzina, by Husband Sebastian & Children Salvatore & Josephine

Tuesday, December 15 7:30 AM [St. John's Church]

Wednesday, December 16
7:30 AM †Salvatore Mangiameli, by Family

Thursday, December 17 7:30 AM [St. John's Church]

Friday, December 18
7:30 AM †Gino Fazzino, by Family

Saturday, December 19
5:30 PM Vigil Solemn Community Mass
†Carmelo Russo, by Son Sebastian & Family
†Guerino DeMelis, by Wife Rose, Children & Grandchildren
†Rosina "Rose" DiMauro (A), by Family
†Gino & Rosetta Rafala, by Daughter Loretta & David Tringali
†Vincent Munno, by Wife Angela & Family
†Mary Gurciullo, by Husband Mario
†Louis "Gino" Fazzino, by Mario Gurciullo
†Kathleen Larensen (2A), by Daughter Kristin Lagana & Family
†Salvatore, Stella & Joseph Liseo, by Frank & Ann Marie Marchese
†Giuseppe (9A) & Frank (20A) Salafia, by Wife/Mother Maria & Family
†Marianna Fazzina, by Husband Sebastiano & Family
†Salvatore Salafia, by Father Santo & Family
†Lucia Pizzo (Month's Mind), by Family

Sunday, December 20 Fourth Sunday of Advent
11:00 AM †John Russo, by Parents Salvatore & Nella & Sister Ann Marie Ruel & Family
†Joseph D. Mazzotta, by Family
†Emilio Annino (12A), by Wife Filomena & Family
†Joseph Fazzino (2A), by Daughter Rose Kuhl
†Edward Misenti, by Granddaughter Maryann Misenti

Sunday, December 20 (Continued)
5:00 PM †Concettina Benzi & Concetta Fazzino, by Daughter/Daughter-in-Law Franca Fazzino

Sanctuary Lamp
Pinuccia Salafia (5A)
By Husband Franco, Children & Grandchildren

Blessed Sacrament Candle
Giuseppe & Rosa and Sons Carmelo & Angelo Bruno, & Daughter Angelina Bruno Pitruzzello
By Daughters/Sisters Lucia DiMauro & Concetta Scianna

Blessed Mother Candles
Sebastiano & Rosaria C. Savastra
By Family

Nicola Micciulla
By Family

Two Saint Lucy Candles
By Sebastian Giuliano

Collection Report

Weekly $6,325.00
Fuel/Building Maintenance $731.00

Newly Baptized in our Church
Lincoln John Sullo
Son of John & Rachel (DiLeo)

Congratulations to the Winners of the Saint Sebastian Feast 100th Anniversary Raffle

$2,000 First Prize ~ Lisa Troy
$1,000 Second Prize ~ Anna Pizzo
$ 500 Third Prize ~ Louis Sarno

I would like to thank everyone who purchased raffle tickets. Because of your generosity and support, a profit of $11,000 was made.

I sincerely thank Miss Connie Didato for her service on behalf of the Parish Council to in support our fundraiser.

God Bless all of you who participated.

Father James

Donations Have Been Made to Saint Sebastian's Renovation Fund
In Loving Memory of
Carmela Marchese
By Carmelo & Anna Morello
Frank & Nelli Filingeri
Guido Mazzotta & Olivia Parnasso
James & Enza O'Connell

MERCY HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Alissa DeJonge, President of Mercy High School proudly announces First Quarter Honor Roll for our Parish:

Gabriella Antogiovanni – Honors
Arianna Bafumi - High Honors
Alexandra Cosentino - High Honors
Alyssa Elmeer - High Honors
Sophia Engels - High Honors
Jenna Janiszcak - Honors
Sofia Pepitone - Honors

Congratulations!

December 14 Filomena Annino

December 16 Lena Tobias

Our Lady of Calvary Women's Retreat Center

A beautiful peaceful grounds in Farmington, Connecticut, is offering one day retreats this year on Saturdays from 9 to 5. Our parish has signed up to attend Saturday, January 9, 2021. This year's theme is, **"All Around Us We Have Known You".** The cost is $150 which includes breakfast, a delicious lunch, conferences, Reconciliation and Mass. For more information you can go on line or call Tina Loomis at 860-346-1176

Third Sunday of Advent

"Rejoice always, pray constantly, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" – 1 THESSALONIANS 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Prayer for the Coronavirus

Dear Lord, we ask for your divine intervention to bring a quick end to this pandemic. Please heal the sick and comfort the grieving. May your peace replace every worried, anxious, and fearful thought

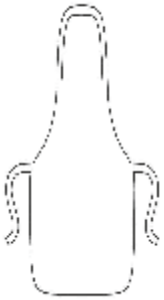
We ask for strength, protection, and energy for medical professionals, first responders, and emergency workers. We pray for wisdom, knowledge, and guidance for leaders in every arena.

Please reverse and minimize the financial devastation that is occurring. Please provide for all who are displaced and in need in any way. We ask for your grace and mercy and for you to do what only you can do. May people look to you to be their source of help, strength, and hope during these uncertain times.

In the name of Jesus, we ask these things. AMEN.

If you haven't picked up your Memorial Service Candle in Memory of your Loved One, please stop by or call the Parish Office (860-347-2638).

Food donations to the Amazing Grace Food Pantry are greatly appreciated. Bins are located at each Church entrance.



The St. Theresa Guild Apron Fundraiser is still going on. Please place your order by Monday, December 14 for pickup on Wednesday, December 16 from 4:30 to 6 pm in the Church Hall. Make checks payable to St. Sebastian Church and mail to Libbi Carta, 486 Saybrook Road, Middletown, CT 06457; OR drop your order in the Church Collection Box. The costs is $20 per apron. They come in red (short) or white (long) with 2 pockets.

Readings at Today's Mass

First reading Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favor from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm: ***My soul rejoices in my God.***

My soul glorifies the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God, my Savior. He looks on his servant in her nothingness; henceforth all ages will call me blessed. ***R>My soul rejoices in my God.***
The Almighty works marvels for me. Holy his name! His mercy is from age to age, on those who fear him.
R>My soul rejoices in my God.
He fills the starving with good things, sends the rich away empty. He protects Israel, his servant, remembering his mercy. ***R>My soul rejoices in my God.***

Second reading 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

May you all be kept safe for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel John 1:6-8,19-28

'There stands among you the one coming after me'
A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light. This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.' Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptizing if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptize with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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St. Sebastian Church would like to communicate with you using your email address. Given the present conditions, emails are safe from viruses or any other germs. It is more efficient and expediating. It is instant and costless. Please send your email address to pastor.st.sebastian@gmail.com or fill out the form below and drop it in the Tithe Box. If you do not have an email address, do not worry about it.

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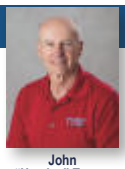
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