

# THE EIGHTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

info@stsebastianfl.org

## Saint Sebastian Catholic Parish in Fort Lauderdale, Inc.

Parish Office (954) 524-9344  
Fax (954) 524-9347



### **MASSES**

Saturday 5 pm  
(Sunday Vigil)  
Sunday 8:30 am, 11 am & 6 pm  
**Weekdays** 8:30 am  
(Mon. through Fri. )  
**OFFICE HOURS**  
Monday-Friday 8:30 am-3 pm

### **Pastor**

**Rev. Ernest Biriruka**

### **Office Staff**

Gredys Grable  
Kathryn Cabrisas  
Judy Fisher

### **Director of Music**

Peter J. Manfredi, Jr.  
(954) 868-6137

### **Vocalist**

Cathy Spitzer

### **Facilities**

Patricio Diaz-Pizarro

### **Pastoral Council**

Nancy Adams  
Mauricio Bautista  
Elizabeth Calhoun  
Judy Fisher  
Rosemary Guerin  
Johnny Mann  
Sandi Mann  
Ed Rebholz

### **THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM**

Is arranged by appointment. Please call the office.

### **THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

(Confession) 4:00-4:45 pm on Saturday, or by appointment.

### **THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK**

Please call the office as soon as anyone is seriously ill.

### **THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY**

Please call the office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

### **PARISH REGISTRATION**

We invite anyone wishing to register in our Parish to visit or call the Parish Office, or stop by the Welcome table when you come for Sunday Mass to complete a census card and learn more about our Parish Family.



## Mission Statement

We, the family of St. Sebastian Parish, are a stewardship parish, sharing God's Gifts. We are the hands and feet of Christ on Earth. In union with the Universal Roman Catholic Church, we endeavor to become a prayerful and unified community deeply committed to Jesus Christ, and loving service in His name. We hope to be a welcoming, caring and friendly Parish Family, wherein the gifts and talents of all - young and old - are recognized, nurtured and used to build the Kingdom of God in the world.

## **FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK :**

### **LETTER OF THE HOLY FATHER FRANCIS TO THE BISHOPS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA (excerpts 1-5-9,10)**

*Dear Brothers in the Episcopate,*

I am writing today to address a few words to you in these delicate moments that you are living as Pastors of the People of God who walk together in the United States of America.

The journey from slavery to freedom that the People of Israel traveled, as narrated in the Book of Exodus, invites us to look at the reality of our time, so clearly marked by the phenomenon of migration, as a decisive moment in history to reaffirm not only our faith in a God who is always close, incarnate, migrant and refugee, but also the infinite and transcendent dignity of every human person.

2. These words with which I begin are not an artificial construct. Even a cursory examination of the Church's social doctrine emphatically shows that Jesus Christ is the true Emmanuel (cf. *Mt* 1:23); he did not live apart from the difficult experience of being expelled from his own land because of an imminent risk to his life, and from the experience of having to take refuge in a society and a culture foreign to his own. The Son of God, in becoming man, also chose to live the drama of immigration. I like to recall, among other things, the words with which [Pope Pius XII](#) began his Apostolic Constitution on the Care of Migrants, which is considered the "Magna Carta" of the Church's thinking on migration:

"The family of Nazareth in exile, Jesus, Mary and Joseph, emigrants in Egypt and refugees there to escape the wrath of an ungodly king, are the model, the example and the consolation of emigrants and pilgrims of every age and country, of all refugees of every condition who, beset by persecution or necessity, are forced to leave their homeland, beloved family and dear friends for foreign lands."

3. Likewise, Jesus Christ, loving everyone with a universal love, educates us in the permanent recognition of the dignity of every human being, without exception. In fact, when we speak of "infinite and transcendent dignity," we wish to emphasize that the most decisive value possessed by the human person surpasses and sustains every other juridical consideration that can be made to regulate life in society. Thus, all the Christian faithful and people of good will are called upon to consider the legitimacy of norms and public policies in the light of the dignity of the person and his or her fundamental rights, not vice versa.

4. I have followed closely the major crisis that is taking place in the United States with the initiation of a program of mass deportations. The rightly formed conscience cannot fail to make a critical judgment and express its disagreement with any measure that tacitly or explicitly identifies the illegal status of some migrants with criminality. At the same time, one must recognize the right of a nation to defend itself and keep communities safe from those who have committed violent or serious crimes while in the country or prior to arrival. That said, the act of deporting people who in many cases have left their own land for reasons of extreme poverty, insecurity, exploitation, persecution or serious deterioration of the environment, damages the dignity of many men and women, and of entire families, and places them in a state of particular vulnerability and defenselessness.

5. This is not a minor issue: an authentic rule of law is verified precisely in the dignified treatment that all people deserve, especially the poorest and most marginalized. The true common good is promoted when society and government, with creativity and strict respect for the rights of all — as I have affirmed on numerous occasions — welcomes, protects, promotes and integrates the most fragile, unprotected and vulnerable. This does not impede the development of a policy that regulates orderly and legal migration. However, this development cannot come about through the privilege of some and the sacrifice of others. What is built on the basis of force, and not on the truth about the equal dignity of every human being, begins badly and will end badly. ....

9. I exhort all the faithful of the Catholic Church, and all men and women of good will, not to give in to narratives that discriminate against and cause unnecessary suffering to our migrant and refugee brothers and sisters. With charity and clarity we are all called to live in solidarity and fraternity, to build bridges that bring us ever closer together, to avoid walls of ignominy and to learn to give our lives as Jesus Christ gave his for the salvation of all.

10. Let us ask Our Lady of Guadalupe to protect individuals and families who live in fear or pain due to migration and/or deportation. May the "*Virgen morena*", who knew how to reconcile peoples when they were at enmity, grant us all to meet again as brothers and sisters, within her embrace, and thus take a step forward in the construction of a society that is more fraternal, inclusive and respectful of the dignity of all.

Fraternally,

Pope Francis

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>March 1</b> † Joan Fuccillo, by Fuccillo Family † Jim Cowgill by parish Family Wellbeing of Hudson Melgren, by Joseph & Jennifer Borba Wellbeing of Wyatt Melgren, by Joseph & Jennifer Borba
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am	<b>March 2</b> Wellbeing of Angela Cowherd, by Grable family † Mert Pruzinsk, by Sandra Keyzers
11:00 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
6:00 pm	† Msgr. Patrick O'Donohue
<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>March 3</b> Wellbeing of Pablo Lopez, by Grace Middlemiss
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>March 4</b> Wellbeing of Matteo Kidd, by Anna Marie Pierotti
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>March 5</b> † Rev. Carlos Perez
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>March 6</b> Wellbeing of Bud McGrady, by Grace Middlemiss
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>March 7</b> † Hugo Biondi, by Anna Marie Pierotti
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>March 8</b> † Rev. Robert Hostler † Evelyn & Vincent Weber by Steven Weber
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am	<b>March 9</b> Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
11:00 am	† Georges Dermarkar & Marilene Dermarkar-Azer, by Sisters' and families

**REMEMBER THE SICK**

Mary Lou Mann, Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, Angela Cowherd, Don Loughran, Jr., Sandy Rodrigues, John Harris, Stephen Black, Alvaro Arevalo, Paul Ristow, Matt Keyzers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Rob Messerschmidt, Anne McCormick, Patty Marma, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney, Lila Ferzacca, Linda Spitzer, Blake-Leigh Riley, Melissa Mirabile, Marge Mitchell, Rasoul Karimi, Jean Gorman, Linda DeBold, Jay Hoover, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Vogler, Joel Rivera, Fred Zagone S.J., Anthony Cotilus, Mark Bromage, Jim Cowgill, Jonathan Hughes, Mary Kennedy, Margaret & Donato Montanaro, William Hirsch.

**A THANK YOU NOTE**



My dear Parishioners,  
I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all those who were so kind to send me a Christmas card (with or without a gift). That was so kind of you. I wanted to thank each and every one of you personally, but as weeks go by, I realize that I have run out time. But, please know that what you did for me is always very appreciated. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and generosity.  
*Father Ernest*



**RCIA and FAITH FORMATION**

Every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at 6 p.m., in the Parish Hall. The next one will be this Wednesday, March 6th.

Theme: The Sacraments.

**THE HOLY EUCHARIST**

***Conditions to receive the Eucharist***

- *Be a practicing Catholic and without mortal sin.*
- *Must confess mortal sins before receiving.*
- *Divorced who are single can receive.*
- *Those in a civil marriage or cohabitating cannot receive until they either marry in the Church or have their marriage convalidated.*
- *Note: Should you need the annulment of a previous marriage, please contact the Pastor.*

**EUCHARISTIC ADORATION**



Eucharistic Adoration takes place in our Chapel of the Divine Healer on Fridays after the 8:30 a.m. Mass until 5:00 p.m. Please consider this opportunity to spend some quiet time with the Lord in prayer.



**SEMINARIAN INITIATIVE**

During March, our Church is supporting the Seminarians by providing them with a yearly stipend. This charity gives directly to our future priests. Checks can be written to the **Seminarian Initiative, a 501 (c) (3) charity**. On the table at the Church entrance, place cash or checks in the red lockbox or mail it :Carol McMahon: 1300 N. Rio Vista Blvd. Ft.Lauderdale, FL 33316

**SCHEDULE FOR LENT**

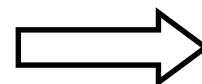


**Ash Wednesday** – Masses 8:30am & 6PM

**Parish Mission** - Thursday, March 13 6PM

**Parish Confessions**– Thursday, March 20 6PM

**PARISH EVENTS AND DATES**



**Follow us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/StsebastianFL](http://www.facebook.com/StsebastianFL)**

## March 2: The Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

### ABCD

On this Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time, we reflect on the importance of being faithful stewards of the blessings God has entrusted to us. As we continue the Archbishop's Annual Development Drive (ABCD), let us open our hearts to the call of service and generosity. This year, more than ever, your support is essential. We ask you to prayerfully consider making a gift to the ABCD. Every contribution, no matter how large or small, makes a difference in advancing the work of the Church in our Archdiocese. Make a gift today [www.isupportABCD.com](http://www.isupportABCD.com).

### Planned Giving

Planned giving is a powerful way to ensure that our faith community continues to thrive and grow for generations to come. Whether through a bequest in your will, a charitable gift annuity, or a planned donation to the parish or Archdiocese, your gift can make a lasting impact on the mission of the Church. For more information on planned giving options or to speak with someone about how you can include the parish in your will or estate plans, visit us today at [www.adomgift.org](http://www.adomgift.org).

### Stewardship

In today's readings, we are reminded that God has entrusted us with these gifts not only for our own benefit, but also for the service of others and the building up of His kingdom. As good stewards, we are called to share these blessings with others, whether through acts of charity, service, or through financial contributions that support the mission of the Church.

*"A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." - LUKE 6:43*

## **PLEASE HELP BURUNDIAN PRIESTS**

With the authorization of His Excellency Thomas Wenski, Archbishop of Miami, we will have a special collection on March 16th to assist the Burundian clergy in their needs. For any questions, please refer to Fr. Ernest. I greatly appreciate your generosity. **Fr. Ernest**

### **BIBLE SHARING**



Come for coffee and Scripture sharing **each Thursday in the Parish Hall at 9:15 a.m.** Everyone is invited. You may also join us online by dialing 848-777-1212; when prompted, put in 143143#. For more info call Mary at 954-290-1194. We are sharing from the Gospel of Luke with Arthur Cholakis facilitating.

### **ADORATION AND ROSARY**

We need adorers of the **Holy Eucharist on Fridays**. There is a sign-up paper on each exit of the Church, please sign-up. Please also join us for the Rosary, **Monday - Friday, at 7:50 a.m.** in the church. All are most welcome.



### **SANDWICH MINISTRY**

Meets once a month. We will meet on **Saturday, March 8th in Parish Hall at 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.** to make sandwiches for the needy. Please email Lois Pittler at: [Lois.pittler@gmail.com](mailto:Lois.pittler@gmail.com) for more information.

## **ST. SEBASTIAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (SSCCW)**

### **Annual St Sebastian Council of Catholic Women Luncheon and Fashion Show**

Will be held on **March 22, 2025, 11:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.** at the Coral Ridge Yacht Club. The theme is Beach Bag Bash; tickets are \$65.each. If you have any questions, please contact Sandi Mann at 954-235-4005.

### **Weekend Retreat for Women of Our Lady of Florida Center**

Ladies of St Sebastian parish and all other parishes are welcome to attend a weekend retreat, **March 28-30, 2025**. For more information contact Linda; 954-604-5507. **Please register at:** [www.ourladyofflorida.org](http://www.ourladyofflorida.org)

**FOR BETTER PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS—**With your smart phone, you can find **Mass Daily Readings and Prayers** easily. Search for : **Mass Readings USCCB** **Mass Prayer or Order of Mass** (USCCB = US Conference of Catholic Bishops)