

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

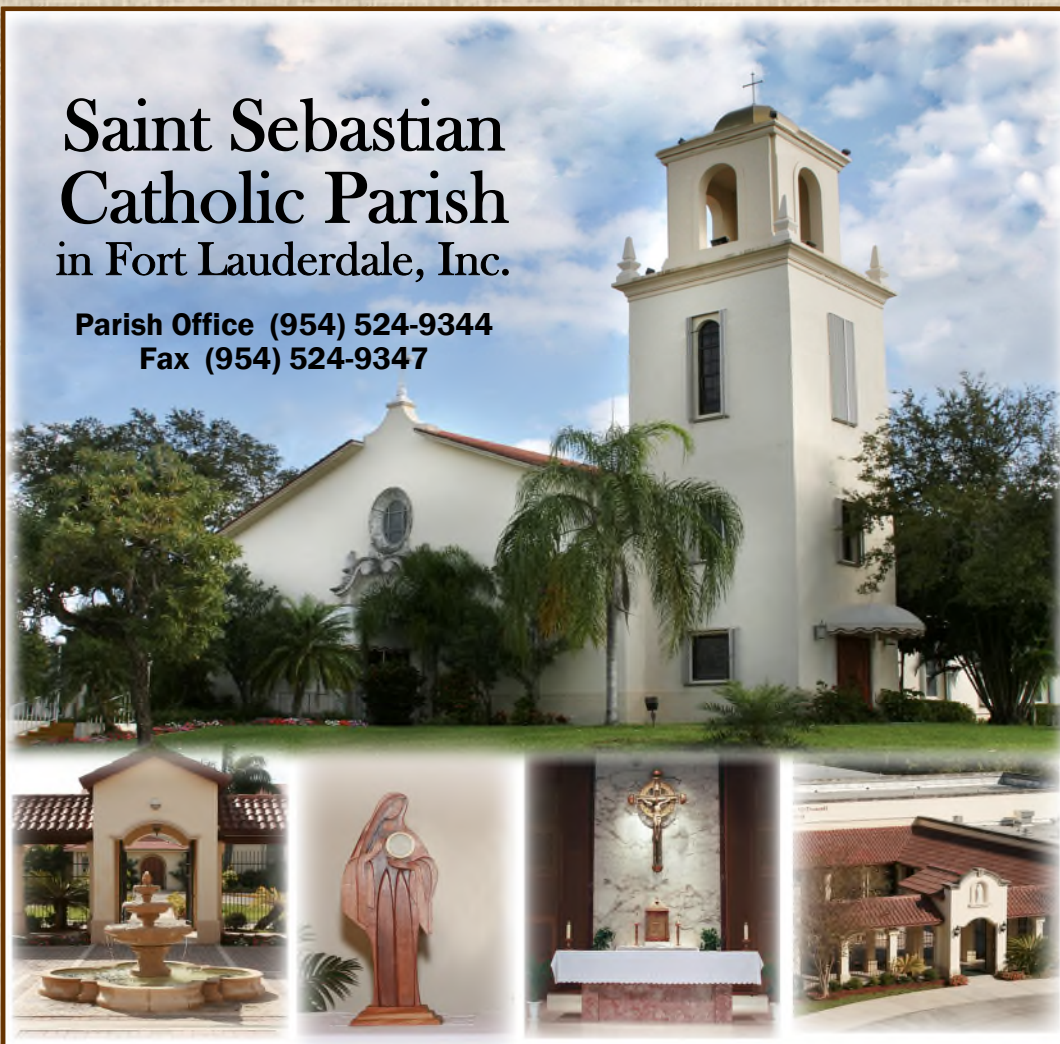
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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  
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 :

### HOMILY OF JOHN PAUL II

Sunday, 1 March 1998 (Extract)

“*Jesus ... was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness, tempted by the devil*” (Lk 4:1-2).

Before he began his public activity, Jesus, moved by the Holy Spirit, withdrew into the wilderness for 40 days. Here, as we read today in the Gospel, he was put to the test by the devil who presented him with three temptations that are common in every person's life: the pleasure of material possessions, the seduction of human power and the presumption of subordinating God to our own interests.

Jesus' victorious struggle against the tempter does not end with the days he spent in the desert, but continues during the years of his public life and culminates in the dramatic events of Easter. It is precisely by his death on the Cross that the Redeemer ultimately overcomes evil, liberating humanity from sin and reconciling it with God. From the beginning, the Evangelist Luke appears to predict the fulfilment of salvation on Golgotha. Indeed, he ends the narrative of the temptations by mentioning Jerusalem where, in fact, Jesus' paschal victory would be sealed.

The scene of Christ's temptations in the desert are renewed every year at the beginning of Lent. The liturgy invites believers to enter the desert with Jesus and to follow him on the distinctive penitential journey of this Lenten season which began last Wednesday with the austere rite of ashes.

“*If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved*” (Rom 10:9). The words of the Apostle Paul, which we have just heard, clearly explain the style and form of our Lenten pilgrimage. What is penance, if not a humble and sincere return to the sources of faith, by promptly rejecting temptation and sin and increasing our prayerful intimacy with the Lord?

Indeed, Christ alone can free man from what enslaves him to evil and selfishness: from the frantic search for material possessions, from the thirst for power and control over others and over things, from the illusion of easy success, from the frenzy of consumerism and hedonism which ultimately destroy the human being.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is what the Lord clearly asks of us in order to enter the true atmosphere of Lent. He wants us to learn in the wilderness of these 40 days how to face the enemy of our souls in the light of the Word of salvation. (...)

“*Then we cried to the Lord ... and the Lord heard our voice*” (Dt 26:7). The profession of faith of the people of Israel recounted in the first reading presents the basic element around which the whole of the Old Testament tradition revolves: deliverance from slavery in Egypt and the birth of the chosen people.

The Passover of the Old Covenant constitutes the preparation and proclamation of the definitive Passover in which the Lamb who takes away the sin of the world will be sacrificed.

Dear brothers and sisters, at the beginning of the Lenten journey let us return to the roots of our faith to prepare through prayer, penance, fasting and charity to participate with hearts inwardly renewed in Christ's Passover.

May the Blessed Virgin help us with worthy fruits of conversion during this Lent to share Christ's journey from the desert of temptations to Jerusalem, in order to celebrate with him the Passover of our Redemption.”

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 8</b>
5:00 pm	† Rev. Robert Hostler † Jim Cowgill by Parish † Evelyn & Vincent Weber, by Steven Weber
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 9</b>
8:30 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
11:00 am	† George Dermarker & Marilene Dermarker-Azer, by sister's family
6:00 pm	† Rev. Edward Moan OMI Wellbeing of the Cowgill family, by the Abernethy family
<b>Monday</b>	<b>March 10</b>
8:30 am	Wellbeing of Mary Kennedy, by Abernethy family Wellbeing of Frank Krauser, by Abernethy family
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>March 11</b>
8:30 am	† Albert J. Mainellie, by Jack Tavone
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>March 12</b>
8:30 am	Wellbeing of Msgr. James Fetscher, by Abernethy Family
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>March 13</b>
8:30 am	Wellbeing of Pope Francis, by Abernethy Family
<b>Friday</b>	<b>March 14</b>
8:30 am	Wellbeing of Bill Loughran
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>March 15</b>
5:00 pm	† Ossi Pierotti, by Anna Marie Pierotti † Mary Jane O'Hara DiPesa, by Patti Mcgee Wellbeing of Helene McGrody, by Grace Middlemiss
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>March 16</b>
8:30 am	† Charles, Marie & Ann Maher, by Maher Family † Grace & Murray Toomey, by Helen & Louise Toomey † Jim Cowgill, by Joan Morris
11:00 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
6:00 pm	† Barbara Pawek, by Richard Bowes & Freddie Morales

## 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, 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, 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 Wednesday, March 19th.  
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.

## EUCCHARISTIC 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

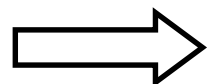


**Parish Mission**— Thursday, March 13, 6:00 p.m.

**Parish Confessions**— Thursday, March 20, 6:00 p.m.

**Stations of the Cross**— Friday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the Church . Adoration in Chapel after stations.

PARISH EVENTS AND DATES



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

## March 9: First Sunday of Lent

### ABCD

As we enter this season of Lent, a time of reflection, prayer, and renewal, we are invited to deepen our commitment to God's work in the world. Lent calls us to turn our hearts toward the needs of others and to examine how we can live more fully in alignment with God's will. It is in this spirit of selflessness and generosity that we also reflect on our role in supporting the mission of our Archdiocese through the Archbishop's Annual Development Drive (ABCD). Together, we can make a difference [www.isupportABCD.com](http://www.isupportABCD.com).

### Planned Giving

As we begin this holy season of Lent, we are called to a time of prayer, penance, and reflection. This season offers us the opportunity to deepen our relationship with God and renew our commitment to living out our faith. In this spirit of renewal, we also invite you to consider how you can leave a lasting legacy of faith through planned giving. To learn more please feel free to contact us today via email at [kblanco@theadom.org](mailto:kblanco@theadom.org) or call us at 305-762-1053.

### Stewardship

As we begin the sacred season of Lent, we are invited to reflect on our relationship with God and how we are living out our call to be faithful stewards of the gifts He has entrusted to us. Lent is a time of self-examination, prayer, and sacrifice, a time when we are invited to renew our commitment to God by offering back to Him all that we have—our time, talents, and treasure. *"I have now brought you the first fruits of the products of the soil which you, O Lord, have given to me."* - DEUTERONOMY 26:10

## **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 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)**