

FOURTH 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
Francy Gonzalez
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
John Mann

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 :

FROM THE CHURCH'S ORIGIN, FOUNDATION, AND MISSION

A Catechism of the Catholic Church; (#770, 771, 772, 773, 774, 775, 776)

"The Church is in history, but at the same time she transcends it. It is only "with the eyes of faith" that one can see her in her visible reality and at the same time in her spiritual reality as bearer of divine life.

The Church — both visible and spiritual

"The one mediator, Christ, established and ever sustains here on earth his holy Church, the community of faith, hope, and charity, as a visible organization through which he communicates truth and grace to all men." The Church is at the same time:

- a "society structured with hierarchical organs and the mystical body of Christ;
- the visible society and the spiritual community;

the earthly Church and the Church endowed with heavenly riches."

These dimensions together constitute "one complex reality which comes together from a human and a divine element":

The Church is essentially both human and divine, visible but endowed with invisible realities, zealous in action and dedicated to contemplation, present in the world, but as a pilgrim, so constituted that in her the human is directed toward and subordinated to the divine, the visible to the invisible, action to contemplation, and this present world to that city yet to come, the object of our quest.

O humility! O sublimity! Both tabernacle of cedar and sanctuary of God; earthly dwelling and celestial palace; house of clay and royal hall; body of death and temple of light; and at last both object of scorn to the proud and bride of Christ! She is black but beautiful, O daughters of Jerusalem, for even if the labor and pain of her long exile may have discolored her, yet heaven's beauty has adorned her.

The Church — mystery of man's union with God

It is in the Church that Christ fulfills and reveals his own mystery as the purpose of God's plan: "to unite all things in him." St. Paul calls the nuptial union of Christ and the Church "a great mystery." Because she is united to Christ as to her bridegroom, she becomes a mystery in her turn. Contemplating this mystery in her, Paul exclaims: "Christ in you, the hope of glory."

In the Church this communion of men with God, in the "love [that] never ends," is the purpose which governs everything in her that is a sacramental means, tied to this passing world. "[The Church's] structure is totally ordered to the holiness of Christ's members. And holiness is measured according to the 'great mystery' in which the Bride responds with the gift of love to the gift of the Bridegroom." Mary goes before us all in the holiness that is the Church's mystery as "the bride without spot or wrinkle." This is why the "Marian" dimension of the Church precedes the "Petrine."

The universal Sacrament of Salvation

The Greek word *mysterion* was translated into Latin by two terms: *mysterium* and *sacramentum*. In later usage the term *sacramentum* emphasizes the visible sign of the hidden reality of salvation which was indicated by the term *mysterium*. In this sense, Christ himself is the mystery of salvation: "For there is no other mystery of God, except Christ." The saving work of his holy and sanctifying humanity is the sacrament of salvation, which is revealed and active in the Church's sacraments (which the Eastern Churches also call "the holy mysteries"). The seven sacraments are the signs and instruments by which the Holy Spirit spreads the grace of Christ the head throughout the Church which is his Body. The Church, then, both contains and communicates the invisible grace she signifies. It is in this analogical sense, that the Church is called a "sacrament."

"The Church, in Christ, is like a sacrament — a sign and instrument, that is, of communion with God and of unity among all men." The Church's first purpose is to be the sacrament of the *inner union of men with God*. Because men's communion with one another is rooted in that union with God, the Church is also the sacrament of the *unity of the human race*. In her, this unity is already begun, since she gathers men "from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and tongues"; at the same time, the Church is the "sign and instrument" of the full realization of the unity yet to come.

As sacrament, the Church is Christ's instrument. "She is taken up by him also as the instrument for the salvation of all," "the universal sacrament of salvation," by which Christ is "at once manifesting and actualizing the mystery of God's love for men." The Church "is the visible plan of God's love for humanity," because God desires "that the whole human race may become one People of God, form one Body of Christ, and be built up into one temple of the Holy Spirit."

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm	March 29 Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
Sunday 8:30 am	March 30 † Dolores Hesse Fink, by husband Jack † James Cowgill Sr., by Bill Fuccillo
11:00 am	† Rev. Ross Garnsey
6:00 pm	† Rev. Vincent Le Gere
Monday 8:30 am	March 31 Wellbeing of Kate Ryder, by Grace Middlemiss
Tuesday 8:30 am	April 1 † Rev. Timothy Carr
Wednesday 8:30 am	April 2 † Margaret Barrosse Wellbeing of Jill and Ed Rebholz, by Marcia Hogan Wellbeing of Lourdes Cowgill, by Marcia Hogan
Thursday 8:30 am	April 3 † Msgr. John Donnelly
Friday 8:30 am	April 4 † Msgr. Armando Balado
Saturday 5:00 pm	April 5 † Joan Fuccillo, by family † Sister Patricia Switzer
Sunday 8:30 am	April 6 † James Cowgill Sr., by Bill Fuccillo Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
11:00 am	† James Cowgill Sr., by Beth & Greg McGowan † Suzanne Cashin, by Darryl Roukema
6:00 pm	† Rev. Anthony Bonfiglio

REMEMBER THE SICK Mary Lou Mann, Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, Angela Cowherd, Don Loughran, Jr., 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, Msgr. James Fetscher, Pamela Jennings.

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS
Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for the men and women that you have called to discern priesthood and religious life. We beg your continued blessing on our Archdiocese of Miami and on all our families. Call forth more women and men of generous spirit and fervent love whom you desire for this holy work. We make this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.



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, April 16th. 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. We still need people to sign up for Eucharist Adoration from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.



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 & EASTER
Stations of the Cross— Friday after the 8:30 a.m. Mass in the Church . Adoration in Chapel after stations.
Holy Thursday— April 17th at 6:00 p.m.
Good Friday— April 18th at 3:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil— Saturday, April 19, 8:00 p.m.
Palm Sunday and Easter Masses— 8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.



PARISH EVENTS AND DATES

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StsebastianFL

March 30: Fourth Sunday of Lent

ABCD

As we continue our journey through Lent, a season of deepening prayer, reflection, and sacrifice, we are reminded of the many ways we are called to live out our faith in service to others. This week, we turn our focus to the Archbishop's Annual Development Drive (ABCD), a vital initiative that supports the mission and ministries of our Archdiocese.

How You Can Participate:

- Make a donation or pledge using the ABCD envelopes available at the church or online.
- Consider setting up a recurring gift to provide ongoing support to these vital ministries.
- Pray for the success of the ABCD and the continued growth of our Archdiocese.
- Visit the ABCD today to make your donation. www.isupportABCD.com.

Planned Giving

Planned giving offers a meaningful way to support the Church's mission beyond our lifetime. By making a gift through your will, trust, or other planned giving options, you can help secure the future of our parish and Archdiocese, ensuring that the vital ministries that sustain our faith community continue to thrive for many years to come.

Why Consider Planned Giving?

- A Lasting Impact:** Your planned gift provides long-term support for the Church and its ministries, leaving a legacy of faith and generosity.
- Support Future Generations:** Planned gifts help ensure that future generations will continue to benefit from faith formation, outreach programs, and the education of our seminarians.
- Tax Benefits:** Planned giving options may provide you and your family with tax advantages while also making a lasting contribution to the Church.

Please feel free to contact us via email at kblanco@theadom.org or call us at 305-762-1053 today!

Stewardship

This Lent, we invite you to reflect on how you are called to live as a steward of all God has entrusted to you. Consider ways you can deepen your commitment to stewardship—whether through increased participation in parish life, volunteering your time, or giving generously to support the work of the Church.

How You Can Live Stewardship: Commit to a daily prayer practice or join a parish ministry to use your time in service.

Share your talents by getting involved in a ministry that aligns with your gifts.

Make a financial gift or pledge to support the ongoing work of our parish and the Archdiocese.

Thank you for your continued generosity. May this season of Lent draw you closer to Christ as we all strive to live more fully as faithful stewards of God's love and grace.

BURUNDIAN PRIESTS MISSION

We are deeply grateful for your generous support of the Burundian Clergy Mission. Thanks to your contributions, we successfully achieved our objectives. **Fr. Ernest**

SANDWICH MINISTRY



Meets once a month to make sandwiches for the needy. Please email Lois Pittler at: Louis.pittler@gmail.com for more information.

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 at each exit of the Church; please sign up. We still need Adorers for the following times: 1-2 p.m., 2-3 p.m. & 3-4 p.m. Please also join us for the Rosary, **Monday - Friday, at 7:50 a.m.** in the church. All are most welcome.

ST. SEBASTIAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN (SSCCW)

Wish to thank everyone who donated to this year's luncheon/Fashion Show by attending the luncheon, purchase of the cash raffle tickets and /or purchase of the gift basket raffle tickets. You made the fund raiser a HUGE Success!! The Cash Raffle Winners were: Marguerite Ward \$300., Linda Gaudio \$100., Karen Borski \$300., Denise Weston \$500.

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

FOR BETTER PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS

With your smart phone or computer, you can find Daily Mass Readings & Prayers easily.

Search for: **Daily Bible Readings USCCB**. For Prayers, go to **Mass Prayer or Order of Mass**. USCCB stands for US Conference of Catholic Bishops.