

FIFTH 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:

A Catechism of the Catholic Church

"JESUS CHRIST SUFFERED UNDER PONTIUS PILATE, WAS CRUCIFIED, DIED AND WAS BURIED"; (#571)

"The Paschal mystery of Christ's cross and Resurrection stands at the center of the Good News that the apostles, and the church following them, are to proclaim to the world. God's saving plan was accomplished "once for all" by the redemptive death of his Son Jesus Christ."

"THE TRIAL OF JESUS" ; (#595, 596, 597, 598)

Division among the Jewish authorities concerning Jesus

"Among the religious authorities of Jerusalem, not only were the Pharisee Nicodemus and the prominent Joseph of Arimathea both secret disciples of Jesus, but there was also long-standing dissension about him, so much so that St. John says of these authorities on the very eve of Christ's Passion, "many... believed in him," though very imperfectly. This is not surprising, if one re-calls that on the day after Pentecost "a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith" and "some believers... belonged to the party of the Pharisees," to the point that St. James could tell St. Paul, "How many thousands there are among the Jews of those who have believed; and they are all zealous for the Law."

The religious authorities in Jerusalem were not unanimous about what stance to take toward Jesus. The Pharisees threatened to excommunicate his followers. To those who feared that "everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and destroy both our holy place and our nation," The high priest Caiaphas replied by prophesying: "It is expedient for you that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation should not perish." The Sanhedrin, having declared Jesus deserving of death as a blasphemer but having lost the right to put anyone to death, hands him into the Romans, accusing him of political revolt, a charge that puts him in the same category as a Barabbas who had been accused of sedition. The high priest also threatened Pilate politically so that he would condemn Jesus to death.

Jews are not collectively responsible for Jesus' death

The historical complexity of Jesus trial is apparent in the Gospel accounts. The personal sin of the participants (Judas, the Sanhedrin, Pilate) is known to God alone. Hence we cannot lay responsibility for the trial on the Jews in Jerusalem as a whole, despite the outcry of a manipulated crowd and the global reproached contained in the apostles' calls to conversion after Pentecost. Jesus himself, in forgiving them on the cross, and Peter in following suit, both accept "the ignorance" of the Jews of Jerusalem and even of their leaders. Still less can we extend responsibility to other Jews of different times and places, based merely on the crowd's cry: "His blood be on us and on our children!" a formula for ratifying a judicial sentence. As the Church declared at the Second Vatican Council:

...[N]either all Jews indiscriminately at the time, nor Jews today, can be charged with the crimes committed during Passion.... [T]he Jews should not be spoken of as rejected or accursed as if this followed from holy Scripture.

All sinners were the authors of Christ's Passion

In her Magisterial teaching of the faith and in the witness of her saints, the Church has never forgotten that "sinners were the authors and the ministers of all the sufferings that the divine Redeemer endured." Taking into account the fact our sins affect Christ himself, the Church does not hesitate to impute to Christians the gravest responsibility for the torments inflicted upon Jesus, a responsibility with which they have all too often burdened the Jews alone:

We must regard as guilty all those who continue to relapse into their sins. Since our sins made the Lord Christ suffer the torment of the cross, those who plunge themselves into disorders and crimes crucify the Son of God anew in their hearts (for he is in them) and hold him up to contempt. And it can be seen that our crime in this case is greater in us than in the Jews. As for them, according to the witness of the Apostle, "None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory." We, however, profess to know him. And when we deny him by our deeds, we in some way seem to lay violent hands on him.

"Nor did demons crucify him; it is you who have crucified him and crucify him still, when you delight in your vices and sins."



Mass Intentions

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
11:00 am	† James Cowgill Sr., by Beth & Greg McGowan † Suzanne Cashin, by Darryl Roukema
6:00 pm	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
Monday 8:30 am	April 7 † Roy Biondi, by Anna Marie Pierotti
Tuesday 8:30 am	April 8 † John Koons, by wife Rosie † Albertina Biondi, by Anna Marie Pierotti
Wednesday 8:30 am	April 9 † Joan Fuccillo, by family † Joseph L. Barcello, by family
Thursday 8:30 am	April 10 † Msgr. James Fetscher, by Judy Fisher
Friday 8:30 am	April 11 † Albert J. Mainellie, by Jack Tavone
Saturday 5:00 pm	April 12 † Joan Fuccillo, by family
Sunday 8:30 am	April 13 † Jim Cowgill, by Joan Morris Wellbeing of Imelda Anaya, by Gredys Grable
11:00 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
6:00 pm	† Rev. Angel Villaronga OFM

REMEMBER THE SICK

Mary Lou Mann, Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, Imelda Anaya, 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.

SCHEDULE FOR LENT & EASTER



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

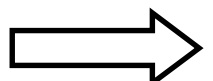
Holy Thursday — April 17th at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday— April 18th Stations of the Cross at noon & The Passion of the Lord 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



April 6: Fifth Sunday of Lent



Church News

ABCD

As we journey through this sacred season of Lent, we are reminded of the importance of reflection, repentance, and acts of charity. On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we focus our hearts and prayers on the Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive (ABCD). May this Lenten season draw us closer to one another and to the heart of our Savior, as we seek to be instruments of His love and mercy. Make a gift today www.isupportABCD.com.

Planned Giving

As we reflect on the ultimate gift of sacrifice that Christ made for us, let us also think of how we can share our blessings in a way that extends far beyond our lifetime. Your planned gift, no matter the size, is an enduring testament to your faith and a legacy of generosity that will continue to serve others. This season of reflection invites us to examine not only our hearts but also how we can make lasting contributions to the work of God's kingdom. Visit us today at www.adomgift.org.

Stewardship

This season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving reminds us that everything we have is a gift from God. Our stewardship allows us to live out the values of compassion, generosity, and faith, helping to sustain the work of the Church and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those in need. As we draw closer to the celebration of Easter, let us open our hearts and consider how we can contribute to the greater good, using our resources to honor God and serve our community.

"...For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ..." (PHILIPPIANS 3:8)

The first commandment says that we should not put other gods before the Lord. Living Stewardship by sharing all of our gifts - our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the Church helps us keep God first in everything. It helps us from putting other gods before God. It helps us from becoming a slave to our possessions. It helps us to use our gifts for the glory of God and not for the glory of ourselves.



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.



SANDWICH MINISTRY

Meets once a month to make sandwiches for the needy.

Saturday April 26th at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall

Please email Lois Pittler at: Lois.pittler@gmail.com for more information.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY

In March they served 870 clients. They also help several of them with partial rents, utility bills, etc. Once again, we could not do this without the incredible generosity of many individuals, who support us on a regular basis. **SVDP Thrift Store and Truck Donation Ministry will no longer be accepting any donations at the retail store or via their truck program. We are still collecting your non perishable food items for the Feeding the Hungry, the carts at the entrances of our church.** We thank you for all you do and wish your families a blessed Easter. Pat Burke



CRS'S RICE BOWL

Since the federal administration has drastically cut poverty-focused aid to CRS many emergency food and medical programs now have no money and no resources to continue CRS' life-saving programs. **Due to this emergency situation increased donations to Rice Bowl are needed**

now more than ever! Thanks so much for your commitment to our poor and hungry brothers and sisters throughout the world. **You can find the Rice Bowl boxes at every Church exit. Please consider donating. Thank you!**

FOR BETTER PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS

With your smart phone, you can find Daily Mass Readings and 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.