

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

April 13, 2025

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

*Francy Gonzalez
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
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

SCHEDULE FOR LENT & EASTER

Holy Thursday — April 17th

No morning Mass.
The Mass of The Lord's Supper at 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday — April 18th

Stations of the Cross at 10:00 a.m.
Confessions 11:00 am. to 12:00 pm.
The Passion of the Lord at 3:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday — April 19th

Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m.
No Confessions

Palm Sunday and Easter Masses

8:30 a.m., 11:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.



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:

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS

My dear brothers and sisters, this weekend is Passion Sunday, and we are just one week away from Easter. We are just a week away from Easter. So, we are in full celebration of the Mystery of our Redemption.

Before Palm Sunday, the Word of God brings to our attention many announcements about what the Messiah will endure for the Salvation of His people. Jesus Himself entered into a relentless discussion with the chief priests, the Pharisees, the scribes, and the Sadducees over the Law. He confirmed that He is the Son of God, equal to the Father, which they opposed as utterly blasphemous. Additionally, performing healings on the Sabbath was considered completely unacceptable to them. For all of this, He was condemned to death.

The readings for Passion Sunday first indicate the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem as King. But He is a humble King, riding on a donkey with no army around Him. Yes, "Hosanna to the Son of David." Then, we see Him as the Suffering Servant of God, ready to endure all the suffering necessary to carry out His mission. Saint Paul, in his letter to the Philippians, emphasizes His humility and humiliation: the *kenosis*, the Greek word that describes how Jesus set aside His heavenly glory to embrace our humanity and accepted the most shameful death on the cross. Yet, He will be vindicated by His Father through the glory of the resurrection.

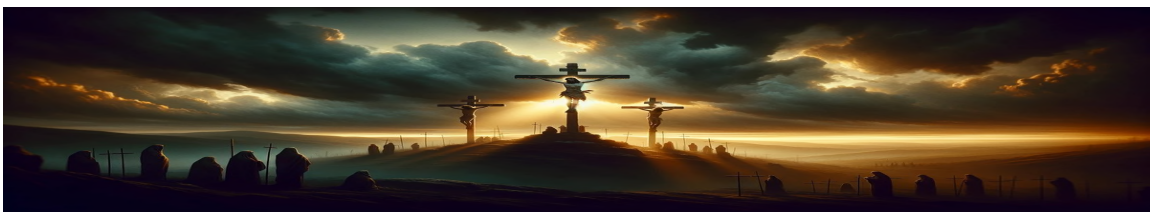
The Gospel begins with the institution of the Eucharist. Then, what occurred at the Last Supper unfolds in His Passion on Calvary. "This is my body, which will be given for you... This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you" (Lk 22:19-20). Yes, His body will be crucified, and His blood will be shed in sacrifice to take away our sins and the sins of the world.

So, in this Holy Week, we contemplate the Paschal Mystery of our Salvation. Jesus will pay the price for our Redemption; He will be the Sacrificial Lamb who takes away the sins of the world and establishes the New and final Covenant between God and humankind. The gentle and innocent Shepherd will lay down His life for His flock, which had gone astray, to bring them back into the family of God. Yes, He announced that when He is "elevated" on the cross, we shall know that He is the "I AM" (Jn 8:28). Even the high priest prophesied about Jesus' death: "You know nothing, nor do you consider that it is better for you that one man should die instead of the people, so that the whole nation may not perish... He prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for the nation, but also to gather into one the dispersed children of God" (Jn 11:50-52).

As we regret our sins and ask forgiveness from Jesus, let our hearts be filled with gratitude for what Jesus suffered for our salvation. Jesus is truly the Redeemer, the One who paid with His life so that we can be free from sin and death. Today, our world needs redemption. Who can restore truthfulness and honesty to us and to our society? In order to condemn Jesus, they brought in liars; they lied to Pilate, claiming that Jesus was attempting to be a king like Caesar. Even when we know the truth, we are often so afraid to stand up and bear witness to it. We cower because of our personal interests and fear the consequences. Sometimes, we absorb all kinds of information without verifying the truthfulness of what we learn. We cannot be good witnesses of Jesus without knowing the truth.

What about our pride? We need to be humble like Jesus, the Son of God, who accepted to die on the cross. Just as the Jews were instructed to look at the bronze serpent to be saved, we need to look at the Cross to be saved. It is from there that Jesus intercedes for us, saying: "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). Loving God, help us to hear those words from Your Son again on our behalf. But help us also to forgive others as He has forgiven us. May He restore our freedom by teaching us that we are free only when we are free from sin.

So many are still bound by pornography, sexual sins of every kind. Lord, free Your people. Through His blood, He reconciled us with the Father and with one another (Rom 5:10; Eph 2:14-22). Free our society from greed, the evils of ignorance, abortion, and irrational fears that lead to anxieties and irrational behaviors. Amen.



Mass Intentions of the Holy Week

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
Monday 8:30 am	April 14 Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
Tuesday 8:30 am	April 15 † Ossi Pierotti, by Anna Marie Pierotti
Wednesday 8:30 am	April 16 † Jim Cowgill Sr., by Marcia Hogan † Bob Roth, by Marcia Hogan † Jerry Dempsey, by Bill
Thursday 6:00 pm	April 17- Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord's Supper
Friday 10:00 am	April 18 - Good Friday Stations of the Cross
3:00 pm	The Passion of the Lord
Saturday 8:00 pm	April 19 - Easter Vigil † Dr. Dario Casas, by Gloria Casas For our Parishioners & Benefactors
Sunday 8:30 am	April 20 - Easter Sunday † Charles & Marie Maher, by Family † Elena Loughran, by her husband Bill Wellbeing of Helen McGrady, by Atlantic Tower Residents
11:00 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
6:00 pm	† Rev. Jose Hualde

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.

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

SCHEDULE FOR LENT & EASTER



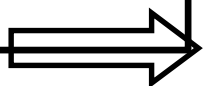
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Easter Vigil at 8:00 p.m.
No Confessions & No Mass at 5:00 pm.

Palm Sunday and Easter Masses
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PARISH EVENTS AND DATES



April 13: Sixth Sunday of the Passion of the Lord



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 celebrations 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, commemoration and Community 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 celebrate the joy 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.

ABCD

During this Holy Week, we focus our hearts and prayers on Jesus Christ, and the Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive (ABCD). May this Holy Week 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 Easter gift today www.isupportABCD.com.



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.