

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

NOVEMBER 30 2025

St. Sebastian Catholic Parish in Fort Lauderdale, Inc. (954)524-9344

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Hope



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

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you haven't registered yet as a parishioner of St. Sebastian, we invite you to do so in order to be recognized as a member of our parish.

You can find the registration form in the church, at the office, or online.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Takes place in our **Chapel of the Divine Healer** on **Fridays** after morning Mass until 5:00 pm.

We still need adorers of the **Holy Eucharist** for the following times: 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm & 3-4 pm.

Please contact the office if you are able to come to any of those hours.

Thank you!

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 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch: 1:00 pm—1:30 pm

Pastor

Rev. Ernest Biriruka

Office Staff

Francy Gonzalez-Rojas
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
Maurício Bautista
Judy Fisher
Rosemary Guerin
John Mann, III
Johnny Mann, Jr.
Sandi Mann
Ed Rebholz

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.

STAY AWAKE, BE PREPARED FOR THE DAY OF THE LORD

My dear brothers and sisters, this weekend we start the Advent Season. As usual, the liturgy will first emphasize the second coming of the Lord and then in the last two weeks, we will hear more about the birth of Jesus.

So, this weekend the Word of God from the prophet Isaiah announced the Messiah as somebody who will bring peace. The house of the Lord will be established on the highest mountain and be like a beacon; all nations will flock to it and will receive instruction from the Lord. As a result, the instruments of war will be transformed into tools of food production; nations will live in peace with one another. In our world so devastated by wars, persecutions and divisions, especially in Ukraine and Africa, it is good to hear this message.

But to welcome the day of the Lord, we need to be prepared and stay awake. Equal to no other, Saint Paul indicates to us how we can be prepared. First, we need to keep in mind that that day is closer to us than when we first believed.

"...the day is at hand. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us conduct ourselves properly as in the day, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in promiscuity and lust, not in rivalry and jealousy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provisions for the desires of the flesh". Rm 13: 12-14.

'To be awake' as the Lord says, means to stay in state of grace, stay united with him. Jesus warns us that we can get distracted by usual activities of life and not pay attention at 'that day' of his coming. Like in the days of Noah or Lot: people were just living their lives, doing business, celebrating marriages, and so forth. Maybe today we can add: people were travelling from resort to resort; they were watching movies in theatres or watching games in the giant stadiums, attending concerts and all kind of shows; they were watching stocks markets or shows on Television... They were busy; they were enjoying good food in restaurants. *"So too, you must be prepared, for at an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come" (Mt 24:44).*

While we keep in perspective his second and final coming in glory, we know also that Jesus will 'come to us individually' on that day when we will die. So how do we stay awake and prepare for that day? We know the general answer, but it may vary according to particular situation of each of us: first we need to be converted and give up works of darkness which are sins. And conversion could be a process through our whole life. Second, we stay awake through prayer and good works of charity. We saw that we can go off focus through all kinds of distractions- not necessarily sinful-, but all kinds of pursuit through which we forget to give time to God, and lose the good habit of being united with God in prayer. How many Catholics who no longer attend Sunday Mass? How many who have forgotten the Sacraments? God invite us to go to his house with joy so as to receive instruction and nourishment. So, Advent means for us to stir up again in us that love of God and love of neighbor and truly walk in God's way, the way of peace and righteousness.

Father Ernest

Let us make an effort to attend Mass during the week!

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 29

5:00 pm † Joan Fuccillo, by Family
 † Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba
 † Grace and Murray Toomey
 By Helen and Mary Louise Toomey
 Wellbeing of Studdle Family

SUNDAY NOVEMBER 30 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT—HOP E

8:30 am † Charles, Marie and Ann Maher,
 By Maher Family
 † Mary-Lou Mann, by Elizabeth Wienski
 † Biondi Marchetti and Pierotti's Families,
 By Anna Marie Perotti

11:00 am † Living Deceased Members of our Parish

6:00 pm † Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba

MONDAY DECEMBER 1

8:30 am † Mary-Lou Mann, by Elizabeth Wienski
 † James Jordan, by Johnny and Sandi Mann

TUESDAY DECEMBER 2

8:30 am † Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba
 Wellbeing of Robin McCluskey,
 by, Donald Bourke

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 3 Saint Francis Xavier

8:30 am † Sister Mary Rowley, S.C.
 † Wilfredo Diaz, by The Diaz Family
 Wellbeing of Georgianna Eschen,
 by Donald Bourke

THURSDAY DECEMBER 4 Saint John Damascene

8:30 am † Mary Brunetti, by Brunetti Family

FRIDAY DECEMBER 5

8:30 am † Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba
 † Betsy Powell, by The Mann Family



REMEMBER THE SICK

Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, Don Loughran, Jr., John Harris, Stephen Black, Alvaro Arevalo, Paul Ristow, Matt Keysers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Rob Messerschmidt, Anne McCormick, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney, Linda Spitzer, Blake-Leigh Riley, Melissa Mirabile, Marge Mitchell, Rasoul Karimi, Jean Gorman, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Vogler, Joel Rivera, Fred Zagone S.J., Anthony Cotilus, Mark Bromage, Jonathan Hughes, Donato Montanaro, William Hirsch, Gary Demberg, Bill Fuccillo, Lawrence Biondi S.J., Angela Cowherd, Michael Fisher, Sean Ennis, Danielle Barisch, Deborah Castillo, Georgianna Eschen, Ruth McKelvie, Cathy Day, Ted Day, Mona Terry, Bill Loughran, Bill Poulson, Douglas Ham, Taylor Ellis. Monica Albelo

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for the men and women that you have called to discern the calling to priesthood and religious life. We pray for 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



Next class will be on **Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. In the Parish Hall.**

Classes are held on the **first and third Wednesday of each month** for adults who wish to become Catholic, and for adults who are baptized Catholic but have not received Communion and/or Confirmation.

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 are married in the Church.
- Note: For any question or to begin the annulment process for a previous marriage, please contact the Pastor.



"...Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." (Matt. 25:35,40).

These words of Jesus can be seen as relevant to our current times.

How much food do you have in your pantry, or countertops that will expire, or you'll throw out after losing your appetite for it. Through our weekly contributions of non-perishable food and hygiene items to the needy of Fort Lauderdale, we respond to Jesus. "To care is to share."

PLEASE REMEMBER— in addition to food and hygiene items, the Pantry needs plastic grocery bags for food distribution, and empty **clean egg cartons for 12 eggs.** You can also place these items in the shopping carts. If you know of anyone in need, please tell them that a drive thru grocery distribution takes place every Friday from 1:30-4:00 PM at Blessed Sacrament Church, and closes at 3:15 PM. The Food Bank is currently in special need of canned meat, fish or similar protein items.

First time must provide proof of residency in Broward County.

THANK YOU! Your donations are greatly appreciated!

PARISH EVENTS AND DATES



**Solemnity of the
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Of the Blessed Virgin Mary**



**MASSES at
8:30 AM
&
6:00 PM**

DECEMBER 8th

SILENT AUCTION

Dear Parishioners,
Adding to the joy of the
Christmas Gala,
we will feature a Silent Auction!
We ask you to donate:

- **Boat Rides** - both small and large boats, for a sunset cruise with bubbly and appetizers or perhaps a stop at a restaurant or picnic at Whiskey Creek?
- **A cocktail party** in your beautiful backyard or balcony with an ocean view.
- **Restaurant Certificates** from ***star to your favorite café.
- **Dinner in your home.** Chef XYZ or Chef you!
- **Your vacation home** - Mountains views? Swaying palms? Cityscape?
- **Show or Sports Tickets?**
- **Artwork**

**PLEASE CALL ROSEMARY GUERIN WITH YOUR
IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS.
954-816-4166**

ST. SEBASTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

Christmas Gala

DEC 5 | 6:30PM-11:00PM
In the Parish Hall

**THE COUNTDOWN IS ON!
DON'T MISS OUT!**
Get your TICKETS now.
After Weekend Masses
Or at the Parish Office (954)524-9344
FINAL DAY TO PURCHASE
Wednesday
December 3rd

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

You may use this
QR code to
donate to our Parish



FOR BETTER PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS

With your smart phone or computer, you can find Daily Mass Readings and Prayers easily. Search for: Daily Bible Readings: WWW.USCCB.ORG
For Prayers, go to Mass Prayer or Order of Mass.
USCCB, stands for US Conference of Catholic Bishops.