

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT— LOVE

DECEMBER 21, 2025

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



2000 Marietta Drive (S.E. 25th Ave.)

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

[info@stsebastianfl.org](mailto:info@stsebastianfl.org)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: [FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT : LOVE](#)

**TODAY IN THE TOWN OF DAVID A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN FOR YOU! (Luke 2:11)**



What a great joy to celebrate Christmas!!! Merry Christmas to each and everyone of us, to all our family members, all our fellow Americans and to the whole world. The angels sang 'Glory to God in the highest heaven and peace to people whom He loves'. Lk 2:14

Yes, God so loved the world that He sent his Son to save the world. Indeed, this is the good news of great joy for us and for all the people as proclaimed by the angel to the shepherds in Bethlehem. The liturgy of the Midnight Mass has for the first reading a passage of Isaiah which reports that the people who walked in darkness have seen a great light, that those who were in the land of gloom are now greatly rejoicing as if it was the first day of harvest or the day of victory over their enemies (Is 9). A Savior is born to us. John professed that 'the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us'. (Jn1:14).

This is all it is about: That God came down to save us. For that reason, he became incarnated in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As our Creed states, "conceived by the power of Holy Spirit, born of the Vir-

gin Mary". The Mystery of the Incarnation consists in the fact that the Son of God united his divinity to humanity ("hypostatic union") and became one of us. He united his divinity to our humanity so that we can share in his divine life. This Christian hymn quoted in art. 526 of the Catechism states:

"O marvelous exchange! Man's Creator has become man, born of the Virgin. We have been made sharers in the divinity of Christ who humbled himself to share our humanity".

**Again, this is how the Catechism answers to why the Word was made flesh: (CCC#456 to 460)**

"With the Nicene Creed, we answer by confessing: "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was made man."

The Word became flesh for us in order to save us by reconciling us with God, who "loved us and sent his Son to be the expiation for our sins": "the Father has sent his Son as the Saviour of the world", and "he was revealed to take away sins":

Sick, our nature demanded to be healed; fallen, to be raised up; dead, to rise again. We had lost the possession of the goods; it was necessary for it to be given back to us. Closed in the darkness, it was necessary to bring us the light; captives, we awaited a Saviour; prisoners, help; slaves, a liberator. Are these things minor or insignificant? Did they not move God to descend to human nature and visit it, since humanity was in so miserable and unhappy a state?

The Word became flesh so that thus we might know God's love: "In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him." "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

The Word became flesh to be our model of holiness: "Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me." "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me." On the mountain of the Transfiguration, the Father commands: "Listen to him!" Jesus is the model for the Beatitudes and the norm of the new law: "Love one another as I have loved you." This love implies an effective offering of oneself, after his example.

The Word became flesh to make us "partakers of the divine nature": "For this is why the Word became man, and the Son of God became the Son of man: so that man, by entering into communion with the Word and thus receiving divine sonship, might become a son of God." "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." "The only-begotten Son of God, wanting to make us sharers in his divinity, assumed our nature, so that he, made man, might make men gods."

*Merry Christmas!!!*

**Father Ernest**

**Mass Intentions**

<b><u>SATURDAY</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER 20</u></b>
<b>5:00 pm</b>	† Joan Fuccillo, by Family † Bertha Cordova, by Donald Bourke † Marie and Albert Bourke, Donald Bourke Birthday Blessing of Maria Pierotti, by Anna Marie Pierotti
<b><u>SUNDAY</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER 21</u></b> <b><u>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT— LOVE</u></b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	Blessings for all our Volunteers and Families
<b>11:00 am</b>	† <b>Living &amp; Deceased Members of our Parish</b> Wedding Anniversary of Lizette and Luis Marrero
<b>6:00 pm</b>	Wellbeing of Jufir Layos, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba
<b><u>MONDAY</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER 22</u></b>
<b>8:30</b>	† Rev. Padraig Horgan
<b><u>TUESDAY</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER 23</u></b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	† Carolina Malpica, by Family
<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER 24</u></b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	† Msgr. James Fetscher
<b>5:00 pm</b>	† <b>Living &amp; Deceased Members of our Parish</b>
<b><u>THURSDAY</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER 25 - CHRISTMAS !</u></b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	† Charles, Marie and Ann Maher, By Maher Family Wellbeing of Doleen Borba, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba Wellbeing of Joseph Borba, by his wife Jennifer
<b>11:00 am</b>	† <b>Living &amp; Deceased Members of our Parish</b>
<b><u>FRIDAY</u></b>	<b><u>DECEMBER 26</u></b>
<b>8:30 am</b>	† Thomas Vaughan, by Tom Casey



**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,

**RCIA and FAITH FORMATION**



Next classes will be on **Wednesday, January 7th and January 21st, 2026, at 6:00 pm 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 for your donations! Merry Christmas!**

**REMEMBER THE SICK**

Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, 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, 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, James Lauber.

**SAVE the DATE**

- **Ministry Fair** - January 10 & 11
- **Saint Sebastian Feast** - January 20
- **Men's Club, Italian Dinner** - January 23
- **Trinkets and Treasures** - February 6, 7 & 8
- **Annual Luncheon at Coral Ridge Yacht Club**  
March 21, 2025

**ST. SEBASTIAN CATHOLIC CHURCH**

*To all our Parishioners, Friends and Visitors; We wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

*May your homes be filled with joy and your hearts with peace as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. We look forward to sharing a blessed 2026 with all of you.*

*Fr. Ernest and Staff!*



**THIS IS THE TIME**



We would like to ask each Parishioner to please make a Christmas Gift to our Parish.

Our Goal is \$150,000 like last year.

As you know, our Parish faces many repairs and needs to build up its financial stability.

Thank you very much!

**Fr. Ernest**

**ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

- \***December 24** *Wednesday*, Mass at 8:30 AM  
Christmas Carols at 4:30 PM, Christmas Eve Mass at 5:00 PM
- \***December 25** *Christmas Day*, Masses at 8:30 & 11:00 AM.  
Parish Office closed December 25, 26, and January 1st
- \***January 1st** *Holy Day of Obligation*, Holy Mary Mother of God, Mass at 11:00 AM

**Children's CHRISTMAS Collection**



To help children in need to have a Joyful Christmas Celebration.

Please donate :

Toys, games, school supplies, children's Bibles!  
New items, please!

**Thank you very much!**

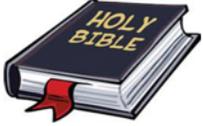
**BIBLE SHARING**

Join us for **Scripture sharing every Thursday** in the Parish Hall from 9:15 to 10:30 am.

We are sharing **The Acts of the Apostles. With the help of Fr. Ernest.**

You may also join us online by dialing 848-777-1212; when prompted, put in 1431434#.

For more information, please contact **Miriam Rivas** at 954-673-1522



**LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY**

We invite everyone to join us in **praying the Rosary, Monday - Friday, at 7:50 am, before daily Mass**, in the main Church.

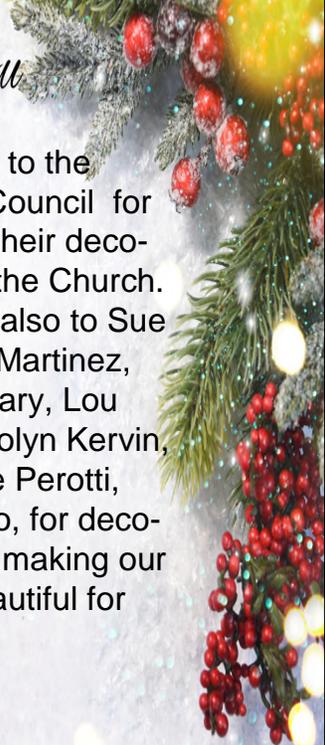
**A Rosary a day keeps the devil away.**

**Fr. Ernest**



*Thank You*

Our thanks to the Women's Council for the use of their decorations for the Church. Thank you also to Sue and Scott Martinez, Susie O'Leary, Lou Carey, Carolyn Kervin, Anna Marie Perotti, and Patricio, for decorating and making our Church beautiful for Christmas!



**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, USCCB** or go to **WWW.USCCB.ORG** For Mass Readings or Order of the Mass. (USCCB, stands for the US Conference of Catholic Bishops)