

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

DECEMBER 28, 2025

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



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
Mauricio Bautista
Judy Fisher
Rosemary Guerin
John Mann, III
Johnny Mann, Jr.
Sandi Mann
Ed Rebholz

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.

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 HOLY FAMILY OF NAZARETH OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

My dear brothers and sisters, after the celebration of the Nativity of our Lord, we have now the full picture of the family of Nazareth. This is the perfect family: Mary, the ever-Virgin, the Immaculate Conception and Mother of God, and the perfect model of the woman in the family; Saint Joseph, the 'righteous' man who obeys every order of God, the protector of Jesus and his mother, the man who endures all kinds of sacrifices, even exile for the sake of his family. In all this, Joseph does not even say a word; he just executes what God wants of him.

The child Jesus represents the child in the family. Jesus taught us that if we want to enter the kingdom of God, we have to be humble like children. He also said that their guardian angels behold God's face. How amazing to see that God himself humbled himself to be a little child. We know that all of this came to be for our salvation; to save humankind, Jesus had to become a man among us.

Today, it is a special grace to look at the Holy Family, not only to praise God for what He has done for our salvation as we just mentioned, but also to retrieve the true meaning of the family in our time because the Holy Family is the model and example.

The human family is made up of the community of a man and a woman and their children. Indeed, Mother Church teaches the following about the family: "The matrimonial covenant, by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and which is ordered by its nature to the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of offspring, has been raised by Christ the Lord to the dignity of a sacrament between the baptized" (Canon 1055). So, the family is established through marriage, which is a lifelong union between a man and a woman only, a union that is opened to procreation. Other unions cannot be called marriage because they do not fit God's design about marriage (Gn 2:18-24; Mt 19: 3-6), hence they cannot be a sacrament. Our culture is very relaxed on marriage standards: teenage sexual relations are common and lead to a distorted view of marriage. There are couples who 'cohabit' without being married civilly or religiously; that also distort the true meaning of marriage. The Catechism of the Catholic Church names another few situations that damage marriage (Art. 2380 to 2391).

One of the gravest dangers against marriage is the relativism whereby some people, instead of accepting the marvelous gift that God gave to humanity, want to invent other forms of living that human love. But if we change God's creation, we go against nature, and therefore, even if we would have our "wish", we cannot reach true happiness. True happiness comes along when we live according God's nature and law. By celebrating the feast of the Holy Family, we are invited to protect the family and family life. Emeritus Archbishop J.C. Favalora used to recall three vital activities that makes the family stronger; that a family that eats, prays and plays together stays together and is stronger. This echoes also the popular saying that "a family that prays together stays together". Many families may find themselves divided by technology because one is glued to the computer while the other cannot put down the phone. Without dialogue and communication in the family, society will also have defective dialogue and communication. The family is the place where we learn to be human through the interaction and charity among family members. Prayer in the family makes it more configured to the family of Nazareth because prayer makes the presence of Jesus real. Recently I saw that some couples preferred to choose the passage of building on the rock for their wedding. I realized then that they had understood that making God the foundation of their family will make their family strong and steady. By imitating the virtues of the Family of Nazareth, that will be building on the rock which is God himself. We pray for the children that they be educated in the faith in Jesus Christ; we pray for the youth, that they may grow in the Christian values which will make them free by doing what is morally right and by protecting the family.

Happy Feast of the Holy Family,

Father Ernest

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2026!

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY **DECEMBER 27**
 5:00 pm † Joan Fuccillo, by Family
 † Mary-Lou Mann, by Vaughn C. Kauffman
 † David Horney, by Donald Bourke

SUNDAY **DECEMBER 28** **HOLY FAMILY**
 8:30 am † Dolores Fink, by husband Jack
 † Mary-Lou Mann, by Elizabeth Wienski
 Wellbeing of Biondi-Kid-Pierotti Family,
 by Anna Marie Pierotti

11:00 am † Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

6:00 pm Wellbeing of Parishioners and Families

MONDAY **DECEMBER 29**
 8:30 Wellbeing of Parishioners and Families

TUESDAY **DECEMBER 30**
 8:30 am Wellbeing of Priests and Religious

WEDNESDAY **DECEMBER 31** **HAPPY NEW YEAR**
 10:00 am Birthday Blessing of Doleen Borba,
 By Joseph and Jennifer Borba

THURSDAY **JANUARY 1 - MARY MOTHER OF GOD**
 11:00 am † Paul Lewandowski
 † Living & Deceased Mothers of our Parish

FRIDAY **JANUARY 2**
 8:30 am † Joanne Mowry, by Jarchow Family

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!

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

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

*Holy Mary
Mother of God*



**January 1st
Holy Day of Obligation
Mass at 11:00 AM**

ST. SEBASTIAN CHURCH

Ministry Fair

Saturday & Sunday, January 10 & 11
Join us in the Parish Hall after Mass

- ✦ Come and Learn about the Various Ministries of our Parish
- ✦ Meet Fellow Parishioners
- ✦ Get More Involved in the Activities of our Parish and Share your Talents

Wine & Cheese Social
after Sat. 5:00 PM Mass

Coffee & Doughnuts/ Snacks
After Sunday 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM Masses

ALL ARE WELCOME!

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

SSCCW TRINKETS AND TREASURES

St. Sebastian Council of Catholic Women

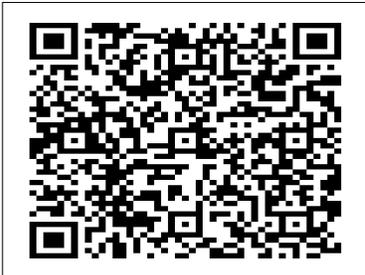
Is currently collecting items for our Annual **Trinkets and Treasures Rummage Sale**. If you have items to donate, please contact **Sandi** at 954-235-4005

FEB. 6 - 8, 2026

Please - no books, clothing or furniture

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 WWW.USCCB.ORG** For Prayers, go to **Mass Prayer or Order of Mass**. USCCB, stands for US Conference of Catholic Bishops.