

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

January 4, 2026

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 EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD

My dear brothers and sisters, this weekend we celebrate the Epiphany of our Lord. By etymology, Epiphany means “manifestation”. So, the feast of the Epiphany celebrates the manifestation of the Lord to the Gentiles who are represented by the three kings who came from far away to pay homage to Jesus. In fact, this means that Jesus is manifested to the whole world because now salvation is not only offered to the Jews but to the entire humankind. ‘All the ends of the earth have seen the saving power of our God’. Ps 98:3

Of course, Herod is not happy about the birth of a king and out of political jealousy and ambition he wants to kill the baby Jesus, but Joseph will follow the angel’s advice and take the child to Egypt to save him. This reminds us of those who emigrate because their life is in danger and as Christians, we are constantly reminded of being kind and hospitable toward the immigrants.

The Epiphany reminds us also that we are called to share the good news to other peoples. While the Jews looked as the Christ as the Messiah sent just for them to resolve their social and political concerns. But Jesus will make it clear that he came for all human beings. His last orders to his apostles were that they should go to the whole world and preach his Good News of salvation, baptizing and making of all the peoples his disciples. We are called to bring his light to every human being. This appears to correspond to what John wrote saying that “What came to be through him was life, and the life was the light of the human race”. In other words, Jesus is indeed the “life and light of the world”. How do we understand Jesus as the life and the light of the world?

Jesus is the life of the world in every way. The same John says that “All things came to be through him”. God the Father created all things, visible and invisible through his all-powerful Word. But God continues to sustain his creation, which is about material life. And God sent his Son to redeem his creation. So, Jesus gives spiritual life as well to the human beings. There is no life away from Jesus; in other words, if we live away from or without Jesus, we do not have the true fulfilment. Each human being is created in the image of God and our vocation is to be with God now and for eternity. Obviously, we find God’s life in His Word, in the Eucharist and in the other means that God provides for us.

His Word enlightens the world. He is the Truth. Many people are searching for wisdom; they want to know the meaning of life. God is the one who can reveal to us the true meaning of life because he is the one who created it and sustains it. But in our pride, sometimes we want to invent all kinds of things to live by and push God aside. How many atheists think that religion is obsolete and useless; their spiritual life is nearly reduced to nothing.

On the other hand, faith is not just a speculative knowledge; faith is life. If we say “Lord, Lord ...” (Lk 6:46) but do not put into practice what we believe in, then God’s life is not in us. We live in a world where we need to know and distinguish between right and wrong. Only Jesus can teach us what is right and what is wrong. God is the true moral authority. We hear very often some people say: “nobody tells me what to do”. But how would have the moral certitude to know what is right and what is wrong without God’s help? Yes, we learn from nature, science and history; so, through the right reasoning we can reach some moral certitude. But it takes that kind of ascetism, discipline and inner strength. In general, because of our sinfulness, we fail to do the good we know and commit the wrong we did not like as Saint Paul wrote in the Romans (7:15). It is truly Jesus who can give us the inner life and strength so as to follow the right path.

This why we can affirm again that Jesus is that ‘life that gives light to the human race’. This year I suggest that each one of us continue to explore this theme and make an effort to meet Jesus in prayer, in his Word and in the Eucharist in order to grow more in his Life.

Happy New Year 2026!

Father Ernest.



Mass Intentions

SATURDAY	JANUARY 3
5:00 pm	† Joan Fuccillo, by Family † Sister, Dr. Helen Bourke, by Donald Bourke † Molly Yen, by Donald Bourke
SUNDAY	JANUARY 4 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:30 am	† Thelma Reiter, by Family † Hmielewski And Karcher Families, By Susan Karcher † Elena Loughran, by Husband Bill
11:00 am	† Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
6:00 pm	Wellbeing of Parishioners and Families
MONDAY	JANUARY 5 St. John Neumann
8:30 am	† Charles McGarry, by Family † Joseph Lee Donnelly Jr. , by Helen and Mary Louise Toomey
TUESDAY	JANUARY 6 St. Andre Bessette
8:30 am	† Joseph Lee Donnelly Jr. , by Helen and Mary Louise Toomey † Eleanor Sand, by Judy Fisher
WEDNESDAY	JANUARY 7 St. Raymond of Penyafort
8:30 am	† Msgr. James Fetscher
THURSDAY	JANUARY 8
8:30 am	Wellbeing of Adena Lisefski, by Grace Middlemiss
FRIDAY	JANUARY 9
8:30 am	Wellbeing of Pablo Lopez, by Grace Middlemiss

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 counter-tops 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! Happy New Year!

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, Mona Terry, Bill Loughran, Bill Poulson, Douglas Ham, Taylor Ellis. Monica Albello, 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

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

GOD is Calling

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

ALL ARE WELCOME!

SSCCW - JANUARY BREAKFAST MEETING

The St. Sebastian Council of Catholic Women is holding the January Breakfast meeting on Friday, January 9th in the Parish Hall following the 8:30am Mass.

We will be participating in the Respect Life Baby Shower and will be collecting baby items from ages newborn to two years old. All women of the Church are invited and please feel free to bring a friend.

We hope to see you there!

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.