

# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 22, 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.

**“FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT 2026****IN LENT, WE FIGHT TO OVERCOME OUR TEMPTATIONS**

The first Sunday in Lent brings to our attention how Jesus triumphed against temptations. His temptations are in three categories and seem to summarize all the temptations we can face.

First, Jesus was asked to change stones into bread so that he could eat. After fasting for 40 days, surely he would have wanted to eat!! But he did not change stones into bread. He wanted to teach us that we should not yield to material temptations, all that relates to food and material possessions. Yes, Jesus knows that we need “bread”, but *‘man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes forth from the mouth of God’* (Dt 8:3). God’s word gives life, God’s word is bread of life in the same way as the Eucharist. And this is why we should make an effort to read the Word of God as to make of it our spiritual nourishment. We can read from the Bible as well as from our missals.

The Second temptation consisted of jumping down from the parapet of the temple. Jesus could have done so and thus demonstrated his divine power. But the devil was enticing him to seek human praise by the crowds that were below the parapet. But Jesus refused. Pride is number one among the capital sins. In a way, that was the sin of our first parents Adam and Eve: they wanted to be like God and independent from Him. The temptation of atheism involves claiming the same powers as God. Using what we have in order to win human applause makes us fall into pride. The Psalm says: “*Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name give the glory...* ”. (Ps 115:1).

Finally, the devil wants Jesus to adore him so as to obtain the kingdoms of the earth! There is a popular rumor that some politicians worship the devil in order to obtain or maintain their political power. That is why some leaders can do wrong things but still remain in power or be elected again and again. Especially I hear it about some African presidents who become president for life! Anyway, power is a temptation and many people would do anything to have power, whether they lie and cheat, kill and bribe other people, or worship the devil, they would do anything to get power. By the way, we know also that “absolute power corrupts absolutely”. But God is the only one who is almighty and to whom nothing is impossible, and therefore the one who deserves adoration. Jesus overcame his temptations thus setting an example for us that if we fight through prayer and penance, we will be able to overcome our temptations. Jesus will help us overcome temptations.

In the announcements last week, I suggested some areas we can work on during this Lenten Season:

-**Prayer:** personal prayer and also common prayer. When I see how people take time to walk their dog(s), it leads me to think that they can have time for daily Mass during the week (not Sunday, because Sunday we are all supposed to attend). Can you come to a daily Mass, at least once a week? Can you spend an hour with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament on Friday? The Chapel is open for prayer during the day, can you stop by and visit Jesus? How about an effort to pray the Rosary? Maybe you could think of the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at 3pm? How about Bible reading? How about Confession?

-**Works of Charity?** I urge all those who did not participate in the ABCD drive to do so. We have not yet reached the goal of \$141,000 assigned to us by the Archdiocese. This weekend also we are raising funds for Respect Life ministry to defend and protect the unborn and their parents. Maybe you can make a substantial offering to these or to our parish. Of course there is more to do, especially for those in need. So, let us make an effort not only of being converted and overcoming our temptations, but also of helping our neighbor in need.

**Happy Lenten Season!**

**Father Ernest**

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21

5:00 pm † Joan Fuccillo, by Family  
Wellbeing of The Lenihan Family,  
by Johnna Kelleher  
Wellbeing of Taylor Ellis,  
by Grace Middlemiss

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 22

8:30 am † Dolores Hesse Fink, by Husband Jack  
† Georges and Marilene Dermarker  
by Sisters and Family  
Wellbeing of Stephen Tarazona,  
by Gredys Grable

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

6:00 pm † Rev. Robert Gargiulo

### MONDAY FEBRUARY 23 St. Polycarp

8:30 am Wellbeing of Gerard LeBlanc,  
by Grace Middlemiss

### TUESDAY FEBRUARY 24

8:30 am † Anna Maria Marchetti, by Anna Marie Pierotti

### WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 25

8:30 am † Sister Patricia Switzer, by Nancy Adams

### THURSDAY FEBRUARY 26

8:30 am † Sister Mary Marvin, by Nancy Adams

### FRIDAY FEBRUARY 27 St. Gregory of Narek

8:30 am Wellbeing of The Paulin Family,  
by Abernethy 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, Mona Terry, Bill Loughran, Douglas Ham, Taylor Ellis. Monica Albelo, James Lauber, Jul Lenihan, Marian Lenihan.

## SAVE the DATE

- Annual Luncheon at Coral Ridge Yacht Club  
March 21, 2026

## 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



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.

**We meet at the parish hall**

## 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.*

*We should also make an effort to have the right attire and be punctual for Mass.*



**"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. Please continue your support of our neighbors in need through the SVDP poor boxes in the church.

**First time must provide proof of residency in Broward County.**

### **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!**

**St. Vincent de Paul report for January 2026 (5 Fridays)** served 1087 clients representing 3429 individuals. The Expenses were \$4746.23

Each month, Mass is celebrated for the past and present benefactors. The next Mass will be on Wednesday, February 25, at 8:00 AM at Blessed Sacrament Church.



# DONATE BLOOD

**Saint Sebastian Catholic Church**  
**Sunday, February 22**

**10:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

**ABCD 2026**

ABCD bulletins, by weekend are available for selection on the ABCD materials website: 2026 ABCD Parish Leadership Manual – ADOM  
Lenten Invitation to Do Good

As we enter the season of Lent, we are called to prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Supporting ABCD is a meaningful way to live. Visit [www.isupportABCD.com](http://www.isupportABCD.com) to help. Together we can bring hope to those in need.

**PLANNED GIVING:**

A bequest is one of the easiest gifts to make. With the help of an advisor, you can include language in your will or trust specifying a gift to be made to family, friends or the Archdiocese of Miami, or any of its parishes, schools or agencies as part of your estate plan. Visit [www.adomgift.org](http://www.adomgift.org) for a free Wills Guide.

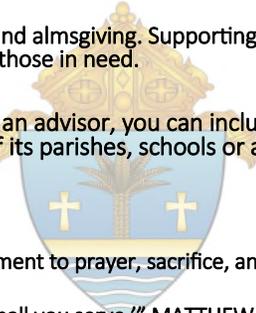
**STEWARDSHIP**

Stewardship Service

As we enter the season of Lent, we are invited to renew our commitment to prayer, sacrifice, and generosity. Stewardship calls us to reflect on how we use God's gifts to do good and seek peace in our world.

"It is written: 'The Lord, your God, shall you worship and him alone shall you serve.'" MATTHEW 4:10

Tempted between the riches and power of this world and service to God, Jesus chose service to His Father. If we wish to truly follow Jesus, we, too, must decide to turn away from worldly power and riches and put God at the center of our lives. Lent is our time to prune ourselves of earthly things and develop and nurture heavenly things. Lent is time to repent living Stewardship and letting go of the other "gods" we have put before God.



**St. Sebastian Council of Catholic Women**

*Invites you to our*

**Annual Fashion Show**



**Saturday, March 21, 2026**

**12:00 pm - 3:00 pm**

**At The Coral Ridge Yacht Club**

**Tickets \$65.00 each**  
*please contact Kate Heffner*  
**716-491-5504**  
*or stop by the Church office*

**SSCCW TRINKETS AND TREASURES**



**ST. SEBASTIAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

Would like to thank you all for your incredible support of our Annual Trinkets and Treasures Rummage Sale.

We collected \$3200.00

**THANK YOU!**

**SANDWICH MINISTRY**



**HELP FEED THE HOMELESS**

*Hello Everyone,  
Just a little reminder that we will be meeting on Saturday, FEBRUARY 28th in the Parish Hall at 8:30 AM to make sandwiches.  
Thank you for keeping our Ministry going. For those of you who will be in town, please let me know if you plan to be there on the 28th.*

*Lois Pittler: 561-307-2128*

*Thank you all and BLESS YOU!!*

**BIBLE SHARING**

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

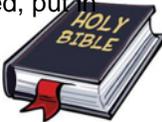
The Ministry started a new book on Thursday, February 5, 2026. Don't miss it!

The Gospel According to Saint John.

The facilitators for this book will be Madlean Boutram and Lourdes Fernandez, 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**



St. Sebastian Catholic Church

**SCHEDULE FOR LENT**

PARISH MISSION - Tuesday, March 3rd at 6:00 pm.

PARISH CONFESSIONS - Tuesday, March 24 at 6:00 pm

HOLY WEEK - March 29th - April 5th

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Every Friday in the church during Lent, after Mass



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION**

You may use this QR code to donate to our



**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.