

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 8, 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

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.

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.

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.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 8, 2026

JESUS AND THE SAMARITAN WOMAN

“On this 3rd Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to meditate on the encounter between Jesus and the Samaritan woman. It is quite a moving story because the Jews and the Samaritans had been separated way back in history and they had no social relations among them.

But Jesus quite provocatively asks for water to drink from this stranger, a Samaritan woman, who had come to get water at Jacob's well near Sychar. The woman was so surprised that, Jesus, a Jew would ask her to give him a drink. Jesus answered: “If you knew the gift of God and who is asking you, ‘Give me a drink’, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.”

Living water? We all know that water gives life, without it no life is possible on earth. In the first reading from Exodus, we read how the Israelites quarreled with God and Moses because they were thirsty and thought they were going to perish in the desert. That took place in the desert of Massah and Meribah. But God allowed Moses to make the miracle of getting water from the rock, and the people and their flock were able to drink. While when Jesus talked of ‘living water’ one could understand at first the king of running water, fresh in contrast to the sitting water of the well, the water he intends to give quenches the thirst for ever, and will lead to eternal life; it is the water that gives eternal life.

Jesus wanted to understand he is the prophet, even more than a prophet: he is the Messiah, the Anointed One of God that they were expecting and that he is the one who can give that water of eternal life. The woman was very amazed and said: “I know that the Messiah is coming, the One called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.” This woman was privileged to receive this direct revelation so that she could be sure that Jesus was indeed the long-awaited Messiah. Yes, Jesus is the one who can give the kind of water that gives eternal life.

Human beings are looking for happiness, they are thirsty, and they cannot be satisfied until they meet Jesus. This Samaritan woman had been looking for happiness but without success; she had been married five times and her sixth husband was not legitimate either. She could surely appreciate failures and deceptions in life. So Jesus was inviting her to know he will give the fulfilling living water. This is what his disciples also will learn: they were worried about giving him some food to eat but he told them “My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to finish his work.”

Among our quests for happiness, we are reminded of how we can be satisfied. If we put our trust in God, ‘the Rock of our salvation’. Lent is about that journey toward the ‘land of milk and honey’ toward the Pascal Mystery of our salvation. We learn to set the right priorities so that we may not be misled by earthly concerns but in all, to know that ‘God is in our midst’. Thus as Saint Paul exhorts us, to hope in him: “And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given us.”

Father Ernest

Happy Lenten Season!

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY MARCH 7
 5:00 pm † Joan Fuccillo, by Family
 † Mary Stevens, by Isabel and Cal Jarman
 † John Lewandoski, by The Jarchow Family

SUNDAY MARCH 8
 8:30 am † Hugo Biondi, by Anna Marie Pierotti
 † Guillermo Ambat, by The Ambat Family
 Wellbeing Anna McCormick, by a friend

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

6:00 pm † Msgr. James Fetscher

MONDAY MARCH 9 ST. FRANCIS OF ROME
 8:30 am † Sister Patricia Switzer, by Nancy Adams
 † Brad Leal, by Joseph & Jennifer Borba
 Wellbeing of The Rojas-Gonzalez Family

TUESDAY MARCH 10
 8:30 am † Sister Mary Marvin, by Nancy Adams
 Birthday Blessing of Gladys Mancini,
 by Aldo Mancini

WEDNESDAY MARCH 11
 8:30 am † Sister Margaret Demsey,
 by Rosina Fredericks

THURSDAY MARCH 12
 8:30 am † John Comiskey, by Bill Johnston Family
 † Thomas Bernard by The McGee Family

FRIDAY MARCH 13
 8:30 am † Brad Leal, by Joseph & Jennifer Borba

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, Lawrence Biondi S.J., Angela Cowherd, Michael Fisher, Sean Ennis, Danielle Barisch, Deborah Castillo, Georgianna Eschen, Ruth McKelvie, Cathy Day, Mona Terry, 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



Next class will be on Wednesday, March 18, 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. We should also make an effort to have the right attire and be punctual for Mass.

SAINT SEBASTIAN CHURCH DRIVE-OUT HUNGER!

"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 served 917 clients representing 2786 individuals. The Expenses were \$6,824.62. This figure include partial rent and utility requested. Gift cards, and other operational cost.

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

God Bless you all

BRIDGE TO RECOVERY



Are you concerned about someone else's drinking or using drugs or you own? We can Help! Meetings are held every Monday, at 7:30 pm. at St. Sebastian Parish Hall,



St. Sebastian Catholic Church
 SCHEDULE FOR LENT



PARISH MISSION
 "JESUS THE LIGHT AND LIFE OF THE WORLD"
 with Fr. Michael Hoyer
 Thursday, March 19th, at 6:00 pm.

PARISH CONFESSIONS
 Tuesday, March 24th, at 6:00 pm.

HOLY WEEK - March 29th - April 5th

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

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.

SUNDAY DONUTS & COFFEE

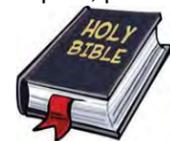
RETURN
 Coffee and Donuts are back after the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass. Come and meet fellow parishioners.



BIBLE SHARING

Join us every Thursday in the Parish Hall from 9:15 to 10:30 am. Now sharing about: **The Gospel According to Saint John.** The facilitators are: **Madlean Boutram and Lourdes Fenandez.**

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



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

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

ABCD 2026

Today, many thirst for hope, faith, and basic necessities. Through ABCD, we extend Christ's compassion to those who are spiritually and materially in need. Our support helps provide pastoral care, outreach, and assistance throughout our archdiocese. May our generosity become a wellspring of hope for others. Make your donation today! www.isupportABCD.com.

PLANNED GIVING:

Through planned giving, such as bequests, trusts, or beneficiary designations, you help ensure that the well of ministry continues to flow for years to come. These gifts can also provide financial and tax benefits while supporting the Church's mission. Visit www.adomgift.org for more information today.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship flows from gratitude for what we have received. When we recognize God as the source of all blessings, we joyfully share them with others.

"The Lord answered Moses....'I will be standing there in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it, for the people to drink.'" Exodus 17:5-6

God's gifts to us are often disguised. The rock appears to be an obstacle, but God turns the rock into life-giving water for the people of Israel. Do we trust that God will turn the obstacles in our lives into life-giving opportunities?

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).