

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 15, 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.

**LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU - (John 13:34)****A FEW THOUGHTS ON WAR AND PEACE**

Our Lord Jesus Christ gave us his peace. After his resurrection, he wished peace to his apostles several times. Peace is an aspiration for the whole humanity at all times. Every human being aspires to live in peace and harmony so that one can enjoy God's gift of life. Parents like to see their children grow and thrive and they also enjoy the gift of grandchildren and great grandchildren. This is one of the most important ways that peace is perceived and lived in the world: to live in harmony with one another. In many cultures greetings involve best wishes of peace.

Sickness disturbs peace; calamities and accidents endanger peace, and the worse disaster is death. This why God's commandment prohibits killing another human being, and this may be extended to other beings that also need respect and protection. Not only 'you shall not kill', but, more positively, 'you shall love one another as I have loved you' (Jn 13:34). This is why war must be avoided absolutely. War is not a game. War kills people and destroys their livelihood; war must be avoided.

Yet we see wars and genocides happen even more frequently than we would have anticipated. Fundamentally, wars happen because of injustices, greed, hatred and other occult motivations such as religious fanaticism and racism. That is why when a war breaks out, many people want to know why; what went wrong and so forth. Why did Russia invade Ukraine? Why did Hamas kill innocent people enjoying a concert? Anyway, is there any reason why people should go to war? Is there any reasonable reason why a nation should attack another? Sometimes there is none because pacific means should be exhausted first. But when attacked, self defense seems a reasonable argument. My mentor and famous Professor, Reverend Enda McDonagh, in Maynooth College (Ireland) indicated a few conditions that may make the war 'just', but always in very limited circumstances:

1-There must be a just cause. Not invented or fabricated cause such as we saw about "Weapons of Mass Destruction" in the Iraq war because such weapons were not there.

History will tell if the war on Iran is truly justified or not.

2-The Last resort: when all peaceful and diplomatic means have been exhausted. Because of the gravity and dangers of the war, the authority has the moral obligation to try all means possible to resolve the conflict without starting a war.

3-The war is only declared by the competent authority which means the moral authority authorized to declare war. We need to keep in mind that war means people will die and it cannot be declared just by a politician or politicians motivated only by their ambitions or their interests.

4-There should be reasonable hope of victory. If there is no hope of victory, going to war means senseless sacrifice of lives. And that sacrifice is unacceptable. If the end result may be worse than the situation before, the war may not be declared.

5-Proportionality of means and protections of non-combatants populations. Even at war, innocent lives need protection. In recent times we see that the powerful unleash overwhelming power and aims not at just stopping the war, but at sheer destruction all together. It is already criminal and immoral to go to war without the right cause, and it is even worse when one seems not to care about human life on either side.

Recently, in his message for the 49<sup>th</sup> Day of Peace, Pope Leo XIV reminded us that we should strive to have 'an armed peace and a disarming peace'. *"The peace of the risen Jesus is unarmed, because he was an unarmed struggle in the midst of concrete historical, political and social circumstances. (...) Goodness is disarming. (...)"* John XXIII was the first pope to advocate "integral disarmament", which can only be achieved through renewal of the heart and mind". In Gaudium et Spes, Vatican II declares the following about peace:

*"Peace is more than the absence of war: it cannot be reduced to the maintenance of a balance of power between opposing nor does it arise out of despotic dominion, but it is appropriately called "the effect of righteousness" (Is. 32:17". (GS, 78).*

Peace, Shalom, Salama, Amani, La Paix, la Paz, La Pace

**Father Ernest**

**Happy Lenten Season!**

**Mass Intentions**

<b><u>SATURDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 14</u></b>
5:00 pm	† Joan Fuccillo, by Family † Charles F. Kenney, by Patricia Collins Birthday blessing of Bill Loughran
<b><u>SUNDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 15</u></b>
8:30 am	† Grace and Murray Toomey, by Helen and Mary Toomey † Grace Harris, by Leo and Marion Carey † Ruth Ellison, by The Bliss Family
11:00 am	† Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
6:00 pm	† Valentino A. Della Pello, by Bruce and Karen Stanski † Charles Stanski, by Bruce and Karen Stanski
<b><u>MONDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 16</u></b>
8:30 am	† Brad Leal, by Joseph & Jennifer Borba † Willard Jarchow, by Jarchow Family
<b><u>TUESDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 17 ST. PATRICK</u></b>
8:30 am	† Pam Jennings, by Dian Grandefeld † Mary-Lou Mann, by Toby and Mary Geyer † Mary Jane O’Hara Dipesa, by McGee Family Wellbeing of Marie Ginette Jasmin , by Family
<b><u>WEDNESDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 18 ST. CIRYL OF JERUSALEM</u></b>
8:30 am	Birthday blessing of Jimmy Loughran by Bill Loughran Birthday Blessing of Bill Loughran, by Bill Fuccillo
<b><u>THURSDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 19 ST. JOSEPH</u></b>
8:30 am	Special intention to St. Joseph, from Anna Marie Pierotti
<b><u>FRIDAY</u></b>	<b><u>MARCH 20</u></b>
8:30 am	† Brad Leal, by Joseph & Jennifer Borba

† Donato Montanaro Jr. (03-06-2026)  
Our deepest condolences go out to the Montanaro family.  
May his soul rest in God’s peace.

**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, Sean Ennis, Danielle Barisch, Deborah Castillo, Georgianna Eschen, Ruth McKelvie, Cathy Day, Mona Terry, Douglas Ham, Taylor Ellis. Monica Albelo, Jul Lenihan, Marian Lenihan, Isabel Cruz.

**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.*



“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 includes partial rent and utility requested, gift cards, and other operational costs

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 your 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.

**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.**

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 Keffner*  
**716-491-5504**  
*or stop by the Church office*

## St. Sebastian Catholic Church HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



- PALM SUNDAY - March 28th & 29th  
The Passion of the Lord  
Mass: 5 pm, 8:30 & 11 am and 6 pm
- Monday- Wednesday, Mass at 8:30 am
- HOLY THURSDAY - April 2nd  
Mass of the Lord's Last Supper -7:00 pm
- GOOD FRIDAY, April 3rd
- Confessions - 10:00 am
- Stations of the Cross - 12:00 pm
- Passion of the Lord - 3:00 pm
- EASTER VIGIL - April 4th  
Saturday, at 8:00 pm  
(Please note there is no 5:00 pm Mass)
- EASTER SUNDAY - April 5th  
Mass: 8:30, 11 :00 am. & 6:00 pm

## 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**



## SANDWICH MINISTRY



*Hello Everyone,*  
*Just a little reminder that we will be meeting*  
*on Saturday, MARCH 21st in the Parish*  
*Hall at 8:30 AM to make sandwiches.*  
*Thank you for keeping our Ministry*  
*going.*

*Lois Pittler: 561-307-2128*  
*Thank you all and BLESS YOU!!*

## 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](http://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](http://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).