

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

MAY 3, 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.

**Thank you!**

## **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.

**“IN MY FATHER HOUSE THERE ARE MANY DWELLING PLACES”****Jn. 14:2**

My dear brothers and sisters, Jesus delivered this teaching as he was getting ready to return to the Father, which meant going back to his divine glory with the Father. But he opens a new and vital perspective: the disciples and all who believe in him will be able to join him, someday, in that divine glory. “In my father’s house there are many dwelling places”. The Human destiny consists in this vocation that we are created by a loving God who calls us to share his life here on earth and eternally in heaven. Jesus came to make that plan possible; he came to teach how we can get there: “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me”.

Yes, this is so true. Last Sunday, Jesus was teaching us that he is the gate for the sheep. He is the gate to that relationship with the Father. He is the ‘Cornerstone’ rejected by the builders (the chief priests and the establishment) but that has become the cornerstone. So, it is necessary that we be built on that cornerstone, that all human kind may find its way to Jesus, the gate of the sheep.

“I am the way, the truth and the life”. The true happiness for the human being consists in being with God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit eternally. But some people are searching for happiness in wrong directions. We have commented on this before: some are looking for wealth, others for fame, others for power or pleasures. Many people, for instance, are practicing yoga in order to find happiness on a spiritual level; while it may be possible to achieve physical wellness through yoga exercises, the final word on happiness belongs to God, not to physical gymnastics. In recent times, Santeria practices are on the rise. For instance, some who are looking for some type of ‘purification’ by using herbal products such as ayahuasca, that is wrong. All Santería practices are wrong. They take the human being away from God. However, they are very resilient, elusive and secretive and grow in the shadows of Christianity; they seem to offer solutions to difficulties, but we know that there is no solution away from Jesus. All kinds of New Age theories and practices, and even Satanism, are obscuring minds in equally dangerous fashion.

But it seems that right now one of the gravest dangers lies in not knowing Jesus who is our Saviour. Our world is so submerged in gross ignorance of the true faith and dominated by materialism. My impression is that even Catholics do not know the basics anymore and struggle to justify their faith. Many among the youth are interested in their science and technology, and games, but not in God. It seems customary that after Confirmation, some of those Catholic youths do not return to church until marriage if they may still consider that Sacrament. How many Catholics read the Bible? What happened to the 60 %+ who do not believe in the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist? In this world of political lies and conspiracies, how many Catholics are concerned for the truth and the right understanding of the common good? The moral choices seem limited to personal interests only. Some have closed their minds to God’s commandments, and think they are right whatever choice they make and no longer fear the ‘just punishments’ that they may suffer by disobeying God. This is all about atheism, materialism, relativism and so forth. So where is concern that Jesus is the way, the truth and life? If we believe that there are many dwelling places in heaven, why then do some people get confused and choose to scatter their ashes over the ocean, rivers or woods? I see no sign of faith in the resurrection in that. By the way, even among those who choose to have a funeral service, their families might be just fulfilling the wish of the deceased but they do not understand what is the meaning of a Christian burial; they seldom come to Church and have no idea of what to do during the Mass. Now we have to remind them not to

**Mass Intentions**

**SATURDAY MAY 2 ST. ATHANASIUS**

5:00 pm † Joan Fuccillo, by Family

**SUNDAY MAY 3**

8:30 am † Linda Grable, by Richard and Gredys Grable  
Wellbeing of Charles Cowherd,  
by Richard and Gredys Grable  
Wellbeing of Peg Oberle, by a Friend

11:00 am † Living & Deceased Members of our Parish  
6:00 pm Wellbeing of Jill Drohan, by Kaye Drohan

**MONDAY MAY 4**

8:30 am † Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba

**TUESDAY MAY 5**

8:30 am † Fredy Castro, by Bill and Rosina Fredericks

**WEDNESDAY MAY 6**

8:30 am † Hector Aranibar Diaz, by daughter Rossanna  
† Esperanza Vega Larianco,  
by daughter Rossanna

**THURSDAY MAY 7**

8:30 am † Grace and Murray Toomey,  
by Helen and Mary Toomey

**FRIDAY MAY 8**

8:30 am † Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba  
† Charlotte Newbury, by Anthony L.  
† Charles Senior Newbury, by Anthony L.  
† Charles Junior Newbury, by Anthony L.  
Birthday Blessing of Nicky Kidd,  
by Anna Marie Pierotti

**REMEMBER THE SICK**

Fr. Liam Quinn, Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, 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, Jean Gorman, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Vogler, Joel Rivera, 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, Rich Stockinger, Patrick Hayes, Lilia Garcia.

**SAVE the DATE**

- **RRESPECT LIFE MINISTRY** invites everyone to a **Rosary Rally on Saturday, May 16, from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm at the mosaic on the northwest side of the church. They are also hosting A BABY SHOWER, May 16-17. Gifts may be placed in the basinet at the back of the church.**
- **Saint Sebastian Men's Club** is hosting an informative evening featuring **Victor DeBianchi, a trusted attorney who will help us with Estate Planning, Elder Law and Guardianship, on Friday, May 15 at 6:00 pm in the Parish Hall.**

**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, Amen.

**RCIA and FAITH FORMATION**



The last concluding sessions for this Class 2025-2026 are scheduled for **Wednesdays, May 6th and 13th at 6:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Please make plans to attend.

Fr. Ernest

**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 March, 2026:** served 915 clients, representing 2907 individuals. The Expenses were **\$7874.31** This figure includes partial rent and utility requested, gift cards, and other operational costs.

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.



FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

*Mother's Day Novena*

This month, we invite everyone to participate in our **Mother's Day Novena-May 10-18**. For those who are interested, special envelopes are available at the church exits and on the pews for your offering.

Please take one and write the name of your mother or a loved one you wish to honor. The names will be placed on the Altar for this month as we offer prayers in their honor.



**ABCD 2026**

Jesus reminds us that He is the way that leads us to the Father, inviting us into a life rooted in trust and generosity. Through the ABCD, we put that faith into action, supporting ministries that serve the poor, educate future leaders, and care for those most in need across our archdiocese. Please prayerfully consider making your ABCD pledge today. Make a difference by donating at [www.isupportABCD.com](http://www.isupportABCD.com).

**PLANNED GIVING:**

Planned Giving allows us to take a longer view of discipleship, creating a legacy of faith that continues to support the Church's mission well into the future. In following Christ, we choose to give as He gave faithfully and generously. To learn more about leaving a legacy gift, visit [www.adomgift.org](http://www.adomgift.org), speak with your financial advisor, or contact Katie Blanco Bourdeau at [kblanco@theadom.org](mailto:kblanco@theadom.org) or 305-762-1053.

**STEWARDSHIP**

Stewardship is how we walk that path each day, recognizing that all we have is a gift from God and responding with gratitude by sharing our time, talent, and treasure.

"... the one who believes in me will do the works that I do, and in fact will do greater ones than these..."  
John 14:12

Stewardship is a faith response. The good works we perform are the result of our faith, not the cause of our faith. Stewardship flows from a genuine faith conversion.



**PREGNANCY HELP CENTER WISHLISTS**

Please have items sent to your nearest Pregnancy Help Center.

 SOUTH BROWARD 4747 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. SUITE #101 HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021	DIAPERS/WIPES/LOTIONS  WALMART WISHLIST
 CENTRAL BROWARD 2151 E COMMERCIAL BLVD. SUITE #301 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33308	 WALMART WISHLIST
 SOUTH DADE 7385 SW 87TH AVE. SUITE SUITE #300 MIAMI, FL 33173	 WALMART WISHLIST



**Sunshine Strings Community Concert: Movies and More!**

The Sunshine Strings will delight you with its talented young musicians, ages 9-18.

**Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall**

Come enjoy an exciting concert featuring music by Andrew Lloyd Webber, Sting, and John Williams! Music includes Phantom of the Opera, Fields of Gold, Star Wars, Jurassic Park, Jaws and six other John Williams movie themes that you will know and love!

**Free entry - All are Welcome**

**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,**

**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**



**MAY IS THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY**

We are all invited to make an effort to pray the Rosary daily during this month.

At our church, we pray it daily, Monday to Friday at 7:50 am.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Peace. Pray for us!

**SUNDAY DONUTS & COFFEE RETURN**



**Coffee and Donuts are back after the 8:30 AM Sunday Mass.**

**Come and meet fellow parishioners.**

**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).