

# THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

MAY 17, 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  
Fabiola Osorno  
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

## **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.

## **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.

**“HE ASCENDED INTO HEAVEN AND IS SEATED AT THE RIGHT HAND OF  
THE FATHER”**

**Extracts from the Catechism of The Catholic Church - Arts. 6: 659, 660, 661, 662, 663 and 664**

"So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God." Christ's body was glorified at the moment of his Resurrection, as proved by the new and supernatural properties it subsequently and permanently enjoys. But during the forty days when he eats and drinks familiarly with his disciples and teaches them about the kingdom, his glory remains veiled under the appearance of ordinary humanity. Jesus' final apparition ends with the irreversible entry of his humanity into divine glory, symbolized by the cloud and by heaven, where he is seated from that time forward at God's right hand. Only in a wholly exceptional and unique way would Jesus show himself to Paul "as to one untimely born", in a last apparition that established him as an apostle.

The veiled character of the glory of the Risen One during this time is intimated in his mysterious words to Mary Magdalene: "I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God." This indicates a difference in manifestation between the glory of the risen Christ and that of the Christ exalted to the Father's right hand, a transition marked by the historical and transcendent event of the Ascension.

This final stage stays closely linked to the first, that is, to his descent from heaven in the Incarnation. Only the one who "came from the Father" can return to the Father: Christ Jesus. "No one has ascended into heaven but he who descended from heaven, the Son of man." Left to its own natural powers humanity does not have access to the "Father's house", to God's life and happiness. Only Christ can open to man such access that we, his members, might have confidence that we too shall go where he, our Head and our Source, has preceded us.

"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself." The lifting up of Jesus on the cross signifies and announces his lifting up by his Ascension into heaven, and indeed begins it. Jesus Christ, the one priest of the new and eternal Covenant, "entered, not into a sanctuary made by human hands. . . but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf." There Christ permanently exercises his priesthood, for he "always lives to make intercession" for "those who draw near to God through him". As "high priest of the good things to come" He is the Centre and the principal actor of the liturgy that honours the Father in heaven.

Henceforth Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father: "By 'the Father's right hand' we understand the glory and honour of divinity, where he who exists as Son of God before all ages, indeed as God, of one being with the Father, is seated bodily after he became incarnate and his flesh was glorified."

Being seated at the Father's right hand signifies the inauguration of the Messiah's kingdom, the fulfilment of the prophet Daniel's vision concerning the Son of man: "To him was given dominion and glory and kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed." After this event the apostles became witnesses of the "kingdom [that] will have no end."

**Father Ernest**

Mass Intentions

<b>SATURDAY</b> 5:00 pm	<b>MAY 16</b> Mother's Day Novena
<b>SUNDAY</b> 8:30 am	<b>MAY 17</b> Mother's Day Novena
11:00 am	† Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
6:00 pm	Mother's Day Novena
<b>MONDAY</b> 8:30 am	<b>MAY 18</b> Mother's Day Novena
<b>TUESDAY</b> 8:30 am	<b>MAY 19</b> † Esther Wallace, by Lois and Arnie Pittler † Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba
<b>WEDNESDAY</b> 8:30 am	<b>MAY 20</b> Wellbeing of Justin Alimpos, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba
<b>THURSDAY</b> 8:30 am	<b>MAY 21</b> Wellbeing of Joseph and Jennifer Borba
<b>FRIDAY</b> 8:30 am	<b>MAY 22</b> † Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba
<b>SATURDAY</b> 8:30 am	<b>MAY 23</b> † Joan Fuccillo, by Family † Arthur Fuccillo, by Bill Fuccillo † Dolores Hesse Fink, by Husband, Jack † David Horney, by Donald Bourke

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, Maria Badilla.

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



Registrations will open in August, and Classes are scheduled to begin in September.

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.

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

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

**St. Vincent de Paul report for April, 2026:** served 941 clients, representing 2959 individuals. The Expenses were \$7628.67 This figure includes partial rent and utility requested, gift cards, and other operational costs.

The Mass for past and present members and benefactors will be on Wednesday, May 20 at 8:00 a.m. at Blessed Sacrament Church.

God Bless you all





## 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!

As we Celebrate the Ascension of the Lord, may we lift our hearts to heaven and live with hope, knowing that Jesus Christ is always with us. "I will not leave you as orphans; I will



## SANDWICH MINISTRY

Hello Everyone,  
Just a little reminder that we will not be meeting in June Lois Pittler: 561-307-2128  
Thank you all and BLESS YOU!!



## SUNDAY DONUTS & COFFEE

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

## FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

### ABCD 2026

As Jesus ascends to the Father, He entrusts His mission to His disciples and to us. We are called to be His witnesses in the world, not only through our words but through how we live and give. If you have not yet made your ABCD pledge, we invite you to do so. Make a difference by donating at [www.isupportABCD.com](http://www.isupportABCD.com).

### PLANNED GIVING:

Planned Giving ensures that this mission continues into the future, allowing us to leave a lasting impact that supports the Church's work for generations. Our witness becomes most powerful when it is rooted in generosity and faith. Leave a legacy of faith through Planned Giving. 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 our response to that mission, offering our gifts to build up the Church and serve others in His name.

"Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said. . . 'I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.'" John 17:4

Christ fulfilled his vocation by finishing the work God gave him. An important part of our stewardship is the discernment of our role in God's plan. Stewardship is about fulfilling the unique tasks that God has given to each of us.

## 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).

**Reminder - St Sebastian Men's Club- Year -End meeting** on this Sunday, May 17 in the Parish Hall following the 8:30am Mass. A continental breakfast will be served. Our guest speaker is Joe Farrell, founder of Resolve Marine.

PREGNANCY HELP CENTER WISHLISTS  
Please have items sent to your nearest Pregnancy Help Center.

<p>AMAZON</p> <p>SOUTH BEOWARD 4747 HOLLYWOOD BLVD. SUITE 8302 HOLLYWOOD, FL 33021</p>	<p>DIAPERS/WIPES/LOTIONS</p> <p>CENTRAL BEOWARD 2181 S COMMERCIAL BLVD. SUITE 8301 FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33308</p>
<p>WALMART WISHLIST</p> <p>SOUTH DADE 7382 SW 87TH AVE, SUITE SUITE 8300 MIAMI, FL 33173</p>	<p>WALMART WISH LIST</p>

## 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 calling 848-777-1212; when prompted, put in 1431434#.

For more information, please contact **Miriam Rivas** at 954-673-1522



## THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

You may use this QR code to donate to our Parish. →



## 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.