

# SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## JULY 26, 2026

**St. Sebastian Catholic Parish** in Fort Lauderdale, Inc. (954)524-9344



### THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Just stop by the office or call for arrangements.

**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 last minute may be too late.**

### 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.

Registration form is available 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!**

### MASS SCHEDULE

**Saturday 4 pm—Confessions**  
**Saturday 5 pm (Sunday Vigil)**  
**Sunday 8:30 am, 11:00 am & 6:00pm**

#### Weekdays

**8:30 am (Monday through Friday)**

#### OFFICE : SUMMER HOURS

**Monday , Tuesday 9:00 am—1:00 pm**

**Wednesday Closed**

**Thursday, Friday 9:00 am—1:00 pm**

**Weekends Closed**

#### Pastor

**Rev. Ernest Biruka**

#### Office Staff

*Fabiola Osorno*

*Kathryn Cabrisas*

*Judy Fisher*

#### Director of Music

**Peter J. Manfredi, Jr.**

**(954) 868-6137**

#### Vocalist

**Cathy Spitzer**

#### Maintenance

**Patricio Diaz-Pizarro**

#### Pastoral Council

**Nancy Adams**

**Mauricio Bautista**

**Judy Fisher**

**Rosemary Guerin**

**John Mann, III**

**Johnny Mann, Jr.**

**Sandi Mann**

**Ed Rebholz**

**The KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A TREASURE HIDDEN IN A FIELD...**  
**THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS LIKE A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE.**

On this 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Jesus teaches about the Kingdom of heaven by comparing it to a hidden treasure and a pearl of great price. When one comes across this treasure or pearl, one makes arrangements immediately to possess it. Obviously, this underlines the incomparable value of the kingdom of heaven which is the ultimate goal of our life.

This makes us appreciate that on one hand, the lack of understanding of our faith leads us to neglect and indifference. But on the other hand, if we value our faith, we do more for it, we get involved and committed. According to statistics from 'Our Sunday Visitor', only 24.4 % of Catholics attend Mass on Sunday; EWTN evaluates the participation at 31%. This leads us to question if Catholics understand the kingdom of God as a treasure or a pearl of great value. We know also that among those who come to Church on Sunday, there is a good percentage of those who understand the faith but who cannot explain the basics of what they believe. Some practice out a religious tradition they inherited from the family, or just because of social routine. Can we claim as Catholics that we act like that diligent merchant who does all he can to obtain the treasure of the pearl? Well, let us admit that not all Catholics are going to practice the strict observance of the Gospel Counsels like Saint Francis of Assisi for instance, or Saint Anthony of Egypt, or Saint Claire of Assisi. Many saints, once they met Jesus, they found their treasure and they left everything to follow him. So, it was with the first disciples, Peter and Andrew, John and James the sons of Zebedee who left their fishing boats and crews to follow Jesus. Each has to follow Jesus according to the vocation he has given us. But we all have to value our faith as we would of a treasure or a pearl of the highest value.

According to the Statistics we just mentioned, we wonder what is going on for the other 75 % or 60 % of the Catholic population who do not participate on Sundays. This is why I question if we value our faith like a treasure, not that I judge anybody or pretend to be better than anybody, but because I feel concerned. As about our knowledge of the faith, I trust that the majority of those who participate regularly on Sunday know their faith and have good reasons for their perseverance. But we keep in mind that Saint Jerome said that 'ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ'. There is also that popular saying that 'ignorant Catholic, future protestant'. Once I was travelling to Texas. Besides me on the plane was a young woman from Sunrise and who was also going to Texas. At one time, we began to talk to each other and I identified myself as a Catholic Priest, even though she possibly knew already because of my Roman collar. So, she told me that she changed religion and joined the Evangelicals because 'you do not teach the Word of God in the Catholic Church'. I was so shocked; I never forget this story.

In face of these sociological facts of atheism, of ignorance of faith, of darkness of materialism, do we value our faith like a treasure or a precious pearl? Are we proud Catholics who are ready to show the right way to God to those who do not believe or those who are confused about Jesus and religious values? Yes, the first priority is to see that we, ourselves, try to secure that treasure or that pearl by our conversion and making a priority in life the kingdom of God. All things considered, we come to the basic question: "Where is my priority in life? Have I set the right priority?"

**Fr. Ernest**

**RCIA and FAITH FORMATION**

**Registrations will open in August**, and Classes are scheduled to begin on **August 19** with and introductory meeting at 6pm in the Parish Hall.

### Mass Intentions

**SATURDAY**

5:00 pm.

**JULY 25 Saint James, Apostle**

† Joan Fuccillo, by Family  
Wellbeing of Layos Family,  
by Joseph and Jennifer Borba

**Sunday**

8:30 am

**JULY 26**

† Juana Esperanza Madera Posada,  
by Sajdera Family  
† Mitchel Stanley Sajdera, by Sajdera Family  
Wellbeing of The Saint Surin Family,  
by Maite Saint Surin

11:00 am

† Living &amp; Deceased Members of our Parish

6:00 pm

† Keith Edwards by Matthew Beirne  
Wellbeing of Doleen Borba,  
by Joseph and Jennifer Borba

**Monday**

8:30 am

**JULY 27**

† Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba  
Wellbeing of Paul Rizzo,  
by Grace Middlemiss  
Wellbeing of Maureen Beck, by Beck Family

**TUESDAY**

8:30 am

**JULY 28**

Wellbeing of Joan Borba,  
by Joseph and Jennifer Borba

**Wednesday**

8:30 am

**JULY 29 Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus**

Well-being of Jennifer Borba,  
by Family

**Thursday**

8:30 am

**JULY 30 Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop**

† Rosalie Kerba and † Fouad Kerba,  
by Mona Hamawy  
For Religious Vocations, by Francy

**Friday**

8:30 am

**JULY 31 Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**

† Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba  
Wellbeing of Lawrence Biondi  
by Anna Marie Pierotti

**SAINTS' CORNER:**

**07/29-Saints Martha, Mary and Lazarus:** Martha was the busy one preparing meal, but she also confessed that Jesus, 'is the Son of God, the one who is to come in this world'. I can imagine the wonders Lazarus felt in coming back to life and Mary who fondly listened to the Master and anointed his feet before his passion!!

**07/30-Saint Peter Chrysologus,** Bishop and Doctor of the Church. + c. 450. He was called 'Chrysologus' or the golden speech because of his amazing homilies. He was bishop of Ravenna.

**07/31-Saint Ignatius of Loyola,** born in Spain in 1491, died in Rome July 31, 1556. Founder of the Jesuits, He wanted to pursue a military career but was injured in the battle. During his long recovery, he read lives of saints, which lead to his conversion. He started Company of Jesus, while on studies in Paris. They were six young men, among them Saint Francis Xavier who became a great missionary in the far east. He wrote 'Spiritual Exercises' for retreats and emphasized that all should be for the greatest glory of God (ad maiorem Dei gloria).

**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.**

### REMEMBER THE SICK

Fr. Liam Quinn, Suzanne Plum, 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, Sean Ennis, William Hirsch, Gary Demberg, Lawrence Biondi S.J., Angela Cowherd, Danielle Barisch, Deborah Castillo, Georgianna Eschen, Ruth McKelvie, Cathy Day, Mona Terry, Douglas Ham, Taylor Ellis, Monica Albelo, Jul Lenihan, Marian Lenihan, Patrick Hayes, Lilia Garcia, Maria Badilla, Maryellen Maher, Rick Morris, Richard Stockinger, Edward Heyden, Loretta Polizano.

**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).

**ST VINCENT de PAUL**

During the month of June (4 Fridays), we served 830 clients representing 2684 individuals. Our expenses for the month were \$4386.63. This figure includes partial rent and utility requests, gift cards to Publix, and other operational costs. The incredible generosity (both financial and food) from so many individuals, parishes, and businesses as well as a dedicated team of volunteers allow our program to serve such a large number of needy people in our local community. The summer months can be challenging with the intense heat and a reduced volunteer team due to several being "snow birds" and others taking vacation time. Each month we have a Mass said for past and present members and benefactors. The next one will be on Wednesday, July 22 at 8:00 AM at Blessed Sacrament Church. Please join us if you are able. Pat Burke

**"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.

**A NOTE OF GRATITUDE AND BEST WISHES TO MRS. CATHY SPITZER**

With sincere gratitude, we extend our heartfelt appreciation to Cathy Spitzer, our beloved church vocalist, for the beautiful gift of music she has shared with St. Sebastian Parish. Through her voice, dedication, and spirit of worship, she has lifted our hearts, strengthened our faith, and made our liturgies even more meaningful.

Her ministry in song has been a true blessing to all, and her presence will be deeply missed. We are profoundly grateful for the time, talent, and love she has poured into the life of our parish family.

As she leaves to pursue her PhD in music, we joyfully celebrate this exciting new chapter and pray that God will continue to guide her steps, open doors of opportunity, and use her gifts in powerful ways. May her studies be filled with growth, inspiration, and joy.

Thank you, Cathy, for blessing us with your voice, your service, and your faithful heart. You will always remain a cherished part of our church family, and we send you forward with our love, prayers, and best wishes.

**Fr. Ernest and the Parishioners of St. Sebastian**

**Parish News & Ministries**

**SANDWICH MINISTRY:** Hello Everyone, **WE WILL NOT BE MAKING SANDWICHES DURING JULY.** Lois Pittler: 561-307-2128 Thank you all and have a blessed summer!

**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** 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 Chapel of the Divine Healer. A Rosary a day keeps the devil away. Fr. Ernest

**RESPECT LIFE MINISTRY** invites everyone to pray the Rosary from 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm at the Mosaic on the northwest side of the church on the following Saturdays: July 11, August 15, September 12, and October 10.

Pilgrimage to  
**BEATIFICATION OF VENERABLE  
ARCHBISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN**

Sep 22 - 26, 2026

\$3,648 per person  
From Fort Lauderdale (FLL)

206 YEARS

NO PRIOR TRIP OR TRAVEL EXPERIENCE  
Necessary! We'll provide everything you need!

Spiritual Director:  
**Fr. Luis Garcia**

Contact Information: [LUIS@206TOURS.COM](mailto:LUIS@206TOURS.COM)  
888.335.8817

Book Here:  
[www.206Tours.com/frgarcia](http://www.206Tours.com/frgarcia)  
Residing from 10/03/26

**WEEKDAY MASS 8:30 AM  
IN THE CHAPEL OF THE  
DIVINE HEALER**

**Welcome, Summer Visitors!**

Wishing all our Parishioners a  
blessed and safe travel season.



**THANK YOU  
FOR YOUR DONATION**

**You may use this  
QR code to donate**

**PRAYER TO AVERT HURRICANES**

Father, all the elements of nature obey your commands. Protect us and all your people during this season of storms and hurricanes. Calm our fears and help us prepare our hearts as well as our homes. Help us see you in all we may encounter, and help us to minister to each other in your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



Are you concerned about someone else's drinking?  
**We can Help!**

Closed meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous for those who have a desire to stop drinking.  
Meetings are held every Monday, at 7:30 pm., at St. Sebastian Church Parish Hall.