

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 23, 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 Biriruka

Office Staff

Fabiola Osorno
Kathryn Cabrisas
Judy Fisher

Director of Music

Peter J. Manfredi, Jr.
(954) 868-6137

Vocalist

Maintenance

Patricio Diaz-Pizarro

Pastoral Council

Nancy Adams
Mauricio Bautista
Judy Fisher
John Mann, III
Johnny Mann, Jr.
Sandi Mann
Ed Rebholz

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK: TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 23, 2026

"You are the Christ, The Son of the Living God"

Mt.16:16

In our faith journey we should reach that point when we are convinced and profess that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. Yes, like his disciples, sometimes we get confused and expect an earthly Messiah who is going to resolve our earthly concerns. But Jesus will take us higher, to His Kingdom which we enter by taking up our cross and follow in His footsteps.

Jesus Son and Savior

A Catechesis on the Creed by John Paul Pages 128, 129

Among the inhabitants of Jerusalem, however, Jesus' words and miracles gave rise to questions about his messiahship. Some excluded the possibility that he could be the Messiah: "We know where this man comes from; but when the Christ appears, no one will know where he comes from" (Jn. 7:21). But others said, "when the Christ appears, will he perform more signs than this man has done?" (Jn 7:31). "Can this be the Son of David?" (Mt 12:23). The Sanhedrin also intervened, decreeing that "if any one should confess him to be the Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue" (Jn9:22).

We are thus in a position to understand the key significance of Jesus' conversation with the apostles near Caesarea Philippi. "Jesus....asked his disciples, "who do men say that I am?" And they told him, "John the Baptist, and others say Elijah; and others one of the prophets." And he asked them, "but who do you say I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Christ" (Mk 8:27-29), that is , the Messiah (cf. also Mt 16:13; Lk 9:18-21)

According to Matthew's Gospel this reply gave Jesus the occasion to announce Peter's primacy in the future Church (cf. Mt 16:18). According to Mark, after Peter's reply, Jesus charged the apostles "to tell no one about him" (Mk 8:30), hence we can deduce that Jesus not only did not proclaim that he was the Messiah , but he did not even wish the apostles to spread the truth about his identity at that time. In fact, he wished that his contemporaries should arrive at this conviction by observing his works and hearing his teaching. On the other hand, the fact that the apostles were convinced of what Peter had expressed in the name of all of them, saying "you are the Christ, " proves that Jesus' works and words were a sufficient basis on which faith in him as Messiah could be founded and developed.

However, the following part of the conversation which we read in the parallel texts of Mark and Matthew, is still more significant concerning Jesus' mind on his own messiahship (cf. Mk 8:31-33; Mt 15:21-23). As if in close connection with the apostles' profession of faith, Jesus "began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things, and the chief priest and the scribes and be killed, and after three day rise again" (Mk8:31). The evangelist Mark observed that "Jesus said this plainly" (Mk8:32. Mark said that "Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him" (Mk 8:32). Matthew tells us that the rebuke was as follows: "God forbid, Lord! This shall never happen to you" (Mt 16:22). And the Master's reaction: Jesus "rebuked Peter and Said, "Get behind me Satan! For you are not on the side of God, but of men" (Mk 8:33; cf. Mt 16:23)

Fr. Ernest,

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Sent by: Jim Valentine



"I am so old that when I was a boy the Dead Sea wasn't even sick."

Reminder: Send us your joke or a good story.

Mass Intentions

Saturday
5:00 pm.

August 22
† Joan Fuccillo, by family
† Lori Quaranta,
by Donna Iddice
† Vito Furio, by Elaine Furio

Sunday
8:30 am

August 23
† Marlene Maria Frnandez,
by Sajdera Family
† Maria Abigail Tovar, by Grable Family
Wellbeing of Angela Cowherd,
by Gredys and Richard Grable

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

6:00 pm † Msgr. James Fetscher

Monday
8:30 am

August 24
† Brad Leal, by Jennifer and Joseph
Borba
Wellbeing of Taylor Ellis, by Grace
Middlemiss

Tuesday
8:30 am

August 25
† Jose Luis Boveda, by Sadjera Family
Blessings for Tayler & Allison Ellis by
Grace Middlemiss

Wednesday
8:30 am

August 26
† Joseph Polizzi, by Lois Pittler
† David Wroblewski, by Diane Jarchow
Family

Thursday
8:30 am

August 27
† Victor Ponce, by Fabiola Osorno

Friday
8:30 am

August 28
† Brad Leal, by Jennifer and Joseph Borba

Saints' Corner

08/24. St. Bartholomew, Apostle, known also as Nathanael. He was from Galilee. Philip brought him to Jesus (Jn 1: 45-51). According to the tradition he preached the Good News as far as in India. A statue in the Basilica of Milan shows that his martyrdom was by peeling off his skin.

08/25. St. Louis, king of France (+1270). One of eleven siblings and devoted to Christ and the Church since his youth. Known for his life of prayer and penance, and for his works of charity toward the poor. Participated in the second crusader for the liberation of the Holy Land and died near Tunis.

St. Joseph Calasanz, a priest (+1648) born in Basque kingdom of Aragon. As priest, he became passionate about the education of poor children and founded the Order of the Piarists Fathers for that purpose. But he was disgraced out of jealousy by some of priests of his own Order; but later was rehabilitated even canonized saint.

08/27: St. Monica (+387), born in Tagaste, North Africa, mother of St. Agustin. Very well known for her perseverance in prayer for the conversion not only of her son but also of her husband Patricius. She witnessed the baptism of her son in Milan died the following day, on her way back home.

08/28: St. Augustine (+430), Bishop and Doctor of the Church. Born in Tagaste (Algeria), raised up as Christian but was not baptized, and in his youth, he lived a dissolute life. He studied rhetoric to become a lawyer but gave up that discipline in order to teach and study philosophy (Plato and Manichaeism). For fifteen years he lived with a mistress and had a son, Adeodatus, with her. He depreciated Christianity, the Bible and the preaching of priests, until when he moved to Milan and was touched by the homilies of St. Ambrose. After his baptism (in 386), he returned to Hippo where he lived a quasi-monastic life with some companions. He taught and wrote voluminously. Among his works are the *Confessions*, the *De Trinitate* (on the Holy Trinity) and the *Civitate Dei* (The City of God) about society.

REMEMBER THE SICK

Fr. Liam Quinn, Suzanne Plum, Jr., John Harris, Stephen Black, Alvaro Arevalo, Paul Ristow, 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, Johanna Donson and Linda Schaan.

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.

August was a very challenging month for our food distribution program due to extreme heat and heavy summer storms. We were closed for the July 4th holiday (no truck deliveries), but were open 4 Fridays when we served 884 clients representing 2847 individuals. Our expenses for the month were \$15,382.64. This figure is significantly higher than usual because we gave Publix gift cards to all of our registered clients during the last week of June. This was in addition to rents, utilities, etc. for several people with serious



emergency needs as well as our usual operational expenses. The incredible generosity (both financial and food) from so many individuals, parishes, and businesses as well as a dedicated team of volunteers allow us to continue to provide this ministry. We are very grateful for the spiritual and material support.

Each month we have a Mass said for past and present members and benefactors. The next one will be on Wednesday, August 19 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.

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI NEWS. ABCD TWENTY-FIRST Sunday in Ordinary Time

Christ entrusted His Church to Peter, and today we continue that mission together. Through the ABCD, your generosity supports seminarians, strengthens families, educates young people, and extends Christ's compassion to those in need. Every contribution helps build a stronger Church for future generations. Learn more at www.isupportABCD.com.

Planned Giving :Including the Church in your estate plans is a powerful expression of gratitude and faith. A charitable bequest allows your commitment to the Gospel to continue long after your lifetime while supporting the ministries that matter most to you. Learn more at www.adomgift.org.

Stewardship: Good stewards understand that God's mercy is a gift that must be shared, and that doing the right thing, acting as Jesus would act toward others, is the only course of action for one who lives according to the demands of the Gospel. *"For behold, some are last who will be first and some are first who will be last."* LUKE 13:30

Faithful stewards recognize Christ as Lord and willingly place their gifts at His service.

"A Thank You Note, Dear St. Sebastian Family"

I wanted to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your thoughtfulness and generosity in wishing me farewell as I pursue my doctoral degree. Your sweet cards, prayers, and well wishes filled me with so much love and gratitude for the beautiful and supportive parish community we have. I loved serving as your cantor and will truly miss seeing all your smiles every week. Please know that you are all in my daily prayers, and I look forward to seeing everyone at Christmastime. God bless you all!

Gratefully yours,
Cathy Spitzer

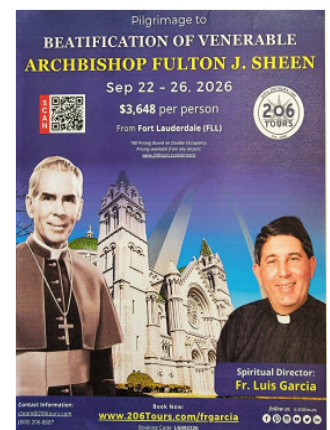
Parish News & Ministries

SANDWICH MINISTRY: *Hello Everyone, **OUR NEXT MINISTRY GATHERING WILL BE ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 29TH, 2026**. 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: **September 12, and October 10.**



THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONTION

QR code to donate



**WEEKDAY MASS
8:30 AM**

**IN THE CHAPEL OF
THE
DIVINE HEALER**

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).

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.**