

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 13, 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:

HOW OFTEN MUST I FORGIVE?

My dear brothers and sisters, on this 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, the message is about forgiving those who offend us. How often? Jesus said not just seven times but seventy-seven times, which means always, as we know. It is not easy. But Jesus gives us also the most dramatic example of those servants; the one who was forgiven a huge debt but failed to forgive another fellow servant who owed him a much smaller amount.

"So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless you forgive your brother from your heart"

The Book of Sirach reminds us that 'wrath and anger are hateful things,' and encourages us to forgive our neighbor so that God may forgive us as well: "Forgive your neighbor's injustice then when you pray. Your own sins will be forgiven." (Sir 28:2).

Very often, there are situations where people have been hurt very deeply. We can all imagine a parent whose son or daughter was killed, how they feel about forgiving the murderer of their child. We have situations where somebody had been badly abused by a parent or relative or a more powerful person, how does that person pardon? In the countries where I come from of Burundi and Rwanda, many survivors of the genocides lost many family members and they know their killer; how do they forgive? It is not easy. But Jesus did not say that you forgive only these offenses and not the others. Jesus wants us to forgive all offenses. While we can struggle to know how... He himself gave us an example: when hanging on the cross, he forgave those who had tortured and crucified him. He said 'Father forgive them, they do not know what they are doing.' So, we know that we have to forgive, no matter how barbarous and repetitive the offense may be, or whether the offender repenting or not.

On a personal level, it is true that forgiveness brings liberation and wellness to the one who forgives while keeping a grudge or resentment brings harm to the one who keeps them. Grudge and resentment take away peace and joy in the heart; they hinder goodness because the person is always harboring negative thoughts, may be of revenge or doing wrong to other people as a way of getting even. Sometimes dwelling on the sufferings caused by the offense may lead to depression. Some may ask me, "Father, how do you know?" I am not a psychologist or psychiatrist; I know this through spiritual counselling: I know that what is negative leads to more negative feelings and what is positive leads to more positive attitudes. So, keeping a grudge and wrath becomes not only sinful by also harmful to the person. Of course the person who causes them has his or her own responsibility.

Now, we hear people say, 'forgive and forget.' Can one forgive and never remember again what had happened? One has to distinguish between to remember and to dwell on the offense. To remember is a healthy act of our memory because it helps learn from the past and avoid the same dangerous situations and protect the victims better. Negative situations should serve as learning experiences so as to do better and avoid the same mistakes. What is harmful is to dwell on negative situations given that we cannot turn the clock back and our negative feelings will not repair the damage done. 'We have to move on' as they say in a popular way. How about when we hear 'you have to forgive yourself?' That I am not sure how to understand it because if I need forgiveness, I seek it from God and from the one I have offended. But what does it mean to forgive oneself? Maybe it means encouraging oneself to be positive, move on and find positive ways of doing better in the future.

"Father, forgive them; they do not know what they are doing" Lk 23:34. Jesus gave us the supreme example, and this is what we need to practice in all circumstances: forgive and always forgive. Because it is not easy, we have to pray to be able to forgive others the same way Jesus forgives us everything. Here is how Saint Paul taught the Colossians to live as a community of faith:

"As the chosen of God, then, the holy people whom he loves, you are to be clothed in heartfelt compassion, in generosity and humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with one another; forgive each other if one of you has a complaint against another. The Lord has forgiven you; now you must do the same. Over all these clothes, put on love, the perfect bond." (Col 3: 12-14).

FR. ERNEST

JOKE OF THE WEEK:

MICKEY AND MARGE MCGUIRE WERE CELEBRATING THEIR 50 YEARS OF MARRIAGE WITH THEIR 12 CHILDREN AND FAMILY AND FRIENDS. THE QUESTION FROM THE PRIEST TO MICKEY WAS, "TO WHAT DO YOU ATTRIBUTE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR MARRIAGE?" MICKEY SAID, "I TOLD MARGE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MARRIAGE THAT I MAKE ALL THE IMPORTANT DECISIONS IN THIS FAMILY." THE PRIEST ACKNOWLEDGED THAT'S A VERY STRONG STATEMENT AND ASKED HOW HAS THAT WORKED OUT. MICKEY SAID, "SO FARTHERE HAVE NOT BEEN ANY IMPORTANT DECISIONS FOR ME TO MAKE." Send by Jim Valentine



Reminder: Send us your joke or a good story.

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

Mass Intentions

Saturday
5:00 pm.

September 12

† Joan Fuccillo, by Family
† Haiden Lee Nicholes, by Amy Carroll and Frank
† Luis Cresencio Boveda, by Sandy Sajdera

Sunday
8:30 am

September 13

† Ramon Posada, by Sajdera Family
† Luis Cresencio Boveda, by Sandy Sajdera
Wellbeing of Monica Albelo,
by Gredys and Richard Grable

11:00 am

Living & † Deceased Members of our Parish

6:00 pm

† Victor Ponce, by Fabiola Osorno

Monday
8:30 am

September 14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

† Brad Leal, by Jennifer and Joseph Borba
† Luis Cresencio Boveda, by Sandy Sajdera

Tuesday
8:30 am

September 15 Our Lady of Sorrows

† Ossi Pierotti, by Anna Marie Pierotti

Wednesday
8:30 am

September 16 St. Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian martyrs

† Frank Gardner

Thursday

September 17 St. Robert Bellarmine & Saint Hildegard of Bingen

8:30 am

† Maryellen Maher, by Parish Staff

Friday
8:30 am

September 18

† Brad Leal, by Jennifer and Joseph Borba

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.

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, Cathy Day, Mona Terry, Douglas Ham, Taylor Ellis, Monica Albelo, Jul Lenihan, Marian Lenihan, Patrick Hayes, Lilia Garcia, Maria Badilla, Rick Morris, Richard Stockinger, Edward Heyden, Loretta Polizano, Johanna Donson and Linda Schaan.

Saints' Corner

09/14 The Exaltation of the Holy Cross: The public veneration of the Holy Cross started in the fourth century when the Empress, Saint Helen discovered the remains of Jesus' cross in the Holy Land. Of course, is by the Cross that we have been saved.

09/15: Our Lady of Sorrows: After the celebration of the Holy Cross, the Church remembers Our Lady of Sorrows as we know that Mary was there by the cross, as her son endured the passion. By the 14th c., the Church would recognize seven major moments of sorrow (1)The prophecy of Simeon, (2) the flight into Egypt, (3) the loss of the child Jesus in Jerusalem, (4) the meeting of Mary and Jesus on the way to Calvary, (5) when Jesus dies on the cross, (6) When Mary receives the body of Jesus and (7) when Jesus' body is laid in the tomb.

09/16: St. Cornelius, Pope (+253) and Cyprian (258), martyrs.

St. Cornelius is known to work for the reconciliation of those who had lapsed (the lapsi) into grave sins through grave sins, but was opposed strongly by the Roman priest Novatian and other rigorists. He was exiled in Citta Vecchia and finally beheaded under Emperor Decius.

St. Cyprian was bishop of Carthage in North Africa; decapitated in 258 under Emperor Valerian; St Cyprian was a great orator and teacher of rhetoric, a great supporter of Pope Cornelius; wrote on the Unity of the Catholic Church; Cyprian disagreed with Pope Stephen I over rebaptism of heretics and schismatics.

09/17: St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

and Saint Hildegard of Bingen: St. Robert Bellarmine, +1621; Tuscan; brilliant Jesuit Scholar, archbishop of Capua and cardinal. He was a great preacher, writer, and systematic apologist of the Counter Reformation; most noted for his Catechism and *Disputations on the Controversies of the Christian Faith*. He was also a scholar of the Bible, and cared deeply for the poor and lived in strict austerity.

St. Hildegard of Bingen, +1179, also known as St. Hildegard, German Benedictine abbess, writer, composer, philosopher, poet, Christian mystic, visionary, and polymath of the High Middle Ages, including medical knowledge. She is especially known as a composer of sacred monophony and is considered a patron saint of musicians and writers. Her Memorial was added to the General Roman Calendar in 2021 by Pope Francis.



During the month of August, we served 855 clients, which represents 2864 individuals. The heat and rain of the summer months are still a challenge, but our dedicated volunteers continue to cheerfully serve those who come to us.

In addition to our operational costs we had an usually large number of requests for rents and utility bills (costs continue to rise in so many areas), so our expenses for the month were \$16,085.53. All of this is possible due to the tremendous generosity of many individuals and parishes who answer the call:

"whatsoever you do to the least of My brethren, that you do unto me."

On behalf of all who are served, we thank you and pray for you. Each month we have a Mass celebrated for past and present members and benefactors of our St. Vincent De Paul chapter. The next one will be on Wednesday, September 23 at 8:00 AM at Blessed Sacrament Church. Please join us in prayer or in spirit at that time.

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.



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 13, 2026

ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI NEWS. Twenty-Fourth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ABCD: Today's Gospel reminds us that God's mercy has no limits. Just as we have received His forgiveness, we are called to extend compassion and generosity to others. Through ABCD, your support makes Christ's mercy visible by providing education, counseling, healthcare, outreach to the poor, and countless ministries that strengthen our local Church. Your generosity becomes a living sign of God's love. To make your gift, visit www.isupportABCD.com.

Planned Giving: God's mercy is a gift that endures forever. Planned Giving allows your generosity to continue serving the Church long after your lifetime, ensuring that future generations experience the same hope, faith, and compassion we have received. A charitable bequest or beneficiary designation is a meaningful way to leave a legacy of faith while supporting the mission of the archdiocese for years to come. For more information, contact Katie Blanco Bourdeau at 305-762-1053, email kblancobourdeau@theadom.org, or visit www.adomgift.org.

Stewardship: Stewardship is not simply about giving—it is about allowing God's compassion to flow through us to those around us.

"I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?" MATTHEW 18:32-33

Everything we have is a gift from God. Stewardship calls us to imitate the mercy we have received by generously sharing our blessings with others and responding with grateful hearts.

Next RCIA Session: will be held on **Wednesday, October 7 at 6:00 PM** in the **Parish Hall**. Please remember to bring your **Bible** and your **Catechism of the Catholic Church**.

Job Opportunity: Part Time Parish Secretary, please contact Fr. Ernest

Parish News & Ministries

SANDWICH MINISTRY: Hello Everyone, **OUR NEXT MINISTRY GATHERING WILL BE ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26TH, 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.

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).

THANK YOU
FOR YOUR DONATION

QR code to



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.