

# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SEPTEMBER 20, 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:

**SEEK THE LORD WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND, CALL HIM WHILE HE IS NEAR**

This statement from the Prophet Isaiah constitutes a beautiful invitation to turn to the Lord while it is still time to do so. It is a call to conversion; and once converted, we are invited to get involved and work in the vineyard of the Lord.

Seek the Lord while he may be found... As long as we have a breath of life here on earth, we can still call upon the Lord. There will be a time when the Lord may not be found. We cannot delay our conversion thinking that 'we have time.' Time is a gift of the Lord to us; God is the master of time; he is the one in control. So, it is wise for us to seek him while he may be found, to call upon him while he is still nearby.

We are given the grace of conversion any time in our lives. In so many ways, we are like those workers who are hired at different hours of the day even at the last hour, God is merciful to let himself be found by those who seek him. In this weekend's Gospel, Jesus indicates that his kingdom can be compared to a land-owner who hires laborers at any hour of the day, and at the end of the day, he rewards each as he wants. Obviously, those who were hired early represent the People of Israel who were chosen first. Those hired last represent the gentiles, or other people who come to believe in him. They will all inherit the kingdom and the people of Israel will have no advantage over other nations.

But also, we understand that each individual is invited to work in the vineyard of the Lord: once we turn around and give up our sinful ways, we are qualified to work in the vineyard of the Lord. The final reward will consist in being with God himself in his glory. And those who started working early should not be jealous of the late comers but rejoice that even those are saved: God is merciful. We can appreciate this in the light of the story of the prodigal son, who when he came back was welcomed and treated not as a slave but as a son.

On the other hand, we can ask ourselves the question of how we work in the vineyard of the Lord. We know for sure that each has to work according to one's capacities, abilities and specific vocation we have received from the Lord. But we all have to check and see if we are involved in the Church, the Vineyard of the Lord, as we should. The Lord does not like to see anybody 'standing idle.' We have to be busy. If physically you cannot do anything directly, then get busy with prayer in support to those who are directly involved, and your prayer will produce good fruits in the Vineyard of the Lord. In the Church, we commit ourselves to use our talents, treasure and time to spread the kingdom of Jesus. But the kingdom of God is not limited to the Church Parish community but there is a lot more. We can think of work places as well as our social circles and clubs. It has to be our concern that we try to spread the Good News everywhere as far as we can, profiting of all opportunities and possibilities. *"And how can they believe in him [God] if they have never heard of him? And how will they hear of him unless there is a preacher for them?" (Rm 10:14).* It is remarkable to see the wonderful initiatives of those who are involved directly in the Parish life as lectors, extraordinary ministers of the Holy Communion, ushers and in groups of the Parish. That offers them an occasion to grow spiritually on personal and parochial levels.

In the same manner we need to do all we can to improve our society and make it better. Many people think that earning billions of dollars constitutes the only goal in life; and if they are concerned only with money, they may not look for humanity and decency, they may not care about the environment, they may not care if the rest of the world is living in misery and dying in poverty. Would that be right to have a society where only 'money talks' and there is no voice of God, no voice of humanity? What is our role as disciples of Jesus in this society? As much as we feel concerned by the evils of abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment, we should be equally concerned by racism and exclusions, the destruction of the environment, the dangers of AI, the corruption of morals because of money and greed. Working in the Vineyard of the Lord involves our share in making a better world around us, in promoting common good for all and genuine goodness among the people. If one is involved in industries, one should look into the ethics of those and not just production. If one has any say in schools, there are a lot of things that need to be improved with the help of Christian morality and reasonable considerations: education is not just knowledge of science and technology. Our youth need to be formed in human and civic values. They will not be able to understand other people if they do not learn about history and geography. It is a shame that they can be indoctrinated about sexual ideologies and fed drugs, with no spiritual values or religion. So, the field of the Lord is very wide and each one of us can find a fair share of work with the hope for a just reward from the Lord.

**Fr. Ernest**

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 20, 2026

### Mass Intentions

|                  |                                                                                                                              |
|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday</b>  | <b>September 19 St. Januarius</b>                                                                                            |
| 5:00 pm.         | † Joan Fuccillo, by Family<br>† Haiden Lee Nicholes, by Amy Carroll and Frank<br>† David Wroblewski, by Diane Jarchow Family |
| <b>Sunday</b>    | <b>September 20</b>                                                                                                          |
| 8:30 am          | † Ramon Posada, by Sajdera Family<br>† Dolores Hesse Fink, by husband Jack<br>† Eugene Lynch, by Brogan Family               |
| 11:00 am         | Living & † Deceased Members of our Parish                                                                                    |
| 6:00 pm          | † Msgr. James F. Fetscher                                                                                                    |
| <b>Monday</b>    | <b>September 21 Saint Matthew</b>                                                                                            |
| 8:30 am          | † Brad Leal, by Jennifer and Joseph Borba<br>† Jaime Rodrigo, by Elizabeth Rodrigo                                           |
| <b>Tuesday</b>   | <b>September 22</b>                                                                                                          |
| 8:30 am          | Wellbeing for Georgianna Eschen,<br>by Donald Bourke                                                                         |
| <b>Wednesday</b> | <b>September 23 Saint Pius of Pietrelcina</b>                                                                                |
| 8:30 am          | † Stephen Sjoblom, by Jarchow Family<br>† Marie and Albert Bourke, by Donald Bourke                                          |
| <b>Thursday</b>  | <b>September 24</b>                                                                                                          |
| 8:30 am          | † David Horney, by Donald Bourke                                                                                             |
| <b>Friday</b>    | <b>September 25</b>                                                                                                          |
| 8:30 am          | † Brad Leal, by Jennifer and Joseph Borba<br>† Grace and Murray Toomey,<br>by Helen and Mary L. Toomey                       |



### 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, Lawrence Biondi S.J., Angela Cowherd, Danielle Barisch, Deborah Castillo, Georgianna Eschen, Cathy Day, Mona Terry, Douglas Ham, Taylor Ellis, Monica Albello, Jul Lenihan, Marian Lenihan, Patrick Hayes, Lilia Garcia, Rick Morris, Richard Stockinger, Edward Heyden, Loretta Polizano, Johanna Donson and Linda Schaan.

### Saints' Corner

**09/19 Saint Januarius**, Bishop, Martyr +c.305; according to his legend, thrown to bears in Pozzuolo under Diocletian; bishop of Benevento. His blood would liquefy (become alive) periodically. The first recorded liquefaction was in 1389; in 1978, the phenomenon was witnessed by Cardinal Cooke who was visiting the place.

**09/21 Saint Matthew**, Apostle, and Evangelist. He is known also as Levi, son of Alphaeus, in Mark and Luke. He was a tax collector for the Romans before Jesus called him (Mat 9:9). Evangelist because he wrote one of the Gospels, the longest of the four with an emphasis of on Jesus as the Son of God (the Lord). He evangelized in several places including Ethiopia and Persia .

**09/23 Saint Pius of Pietrelcina** + 1968, known as “Padre Pio”. He was born Francesco Forgione in 1887 near Naples and became a capuchin friar in 1903 with the name of Pio. He spent fifty years in the monastery of San Giovanni Rotondo ministering to the people as spiritual advisor, confessor, and intercessor. He received the gift of stigmata that became visible in 1918, which means that Jesus’ wounds became visible in his hands , feet and side. Thus, he shared directly in the sufferings of Jesus until two days before his death. A big hospital was built with the generosity of his benefactors in order to bring relief to the sick. Despite such notoriety, he would often say, “I only want to be a poor friar who prays.” He was very devoted to the Eucharist and prayer. He died on 23 September 1968 and canonized in 2002 by Pope John Paul II.



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.



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### **ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI NEWS. Twenty-Fifth SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**ABCD:** Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord reminds us that His ways are greater than our own. We are invited to trust Him completely and to use the gifts He has entrusted to us for His glory. ABCD allows us to participate in God's work by supporting ministries that proclaim the Gospel, educate future generations, and care for our brothers and sisters in need. Together, we build God's Kingdom through generosity. Please visit [www.isupportABCD.com](http://www.isupportABCD.com).

**Planned Giving:** Today's readings invite us to place our trust in God's plan. Planned Giving is a beautiful expression of that trust, allowing the blessings God has entrusted to us to continue supporting the Church's mission for generations. By remembering your parish, school, or the Archdiocese of Miami in your estate plans, you create a lasting legacy of faith that will continue to bear fruit for years to come. To learn more, contact Katie Blanco Bourdeau at 305-762-1053, email [kblancobourdeau@theadom.org](mailto:kblancobourdeau@theadom.org), or visit [www.adomgift.org](http://www.adomgift.org).

**Stewardship:** Faithful stewards trust in God's wisdom, even when His plans differ from our own. When we surrender our plans to God and respond with generous hearts, we discover that His blessings are far greater than anything we could accomplish on our own. "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord." ISAIAH 55:8

Stewardship requires trust. God's plan is always greater than our own. When we surrender our resources to Him with generous hearts, He multiplies our gifts to accomplish far more than we could ever imagine.

### **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.

**MEN'S CLUB:** St. Sebastian Men's Club will hold its first meeting of the Church year on Sunday, September 27, in the Parish Hall beginning at 9:45 AM. All current members and men who are interested in joining are encouraged to attend, as we will be setting the activities calendar for the year. The meeting will conclude by 10:45 AM for those who plan to attend the 11:00 AM Mass .Coffee and donuts will be served.

**RCIA SESSION:** Our next RCIA session will be help 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.

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.