

# First Sunday of Lent

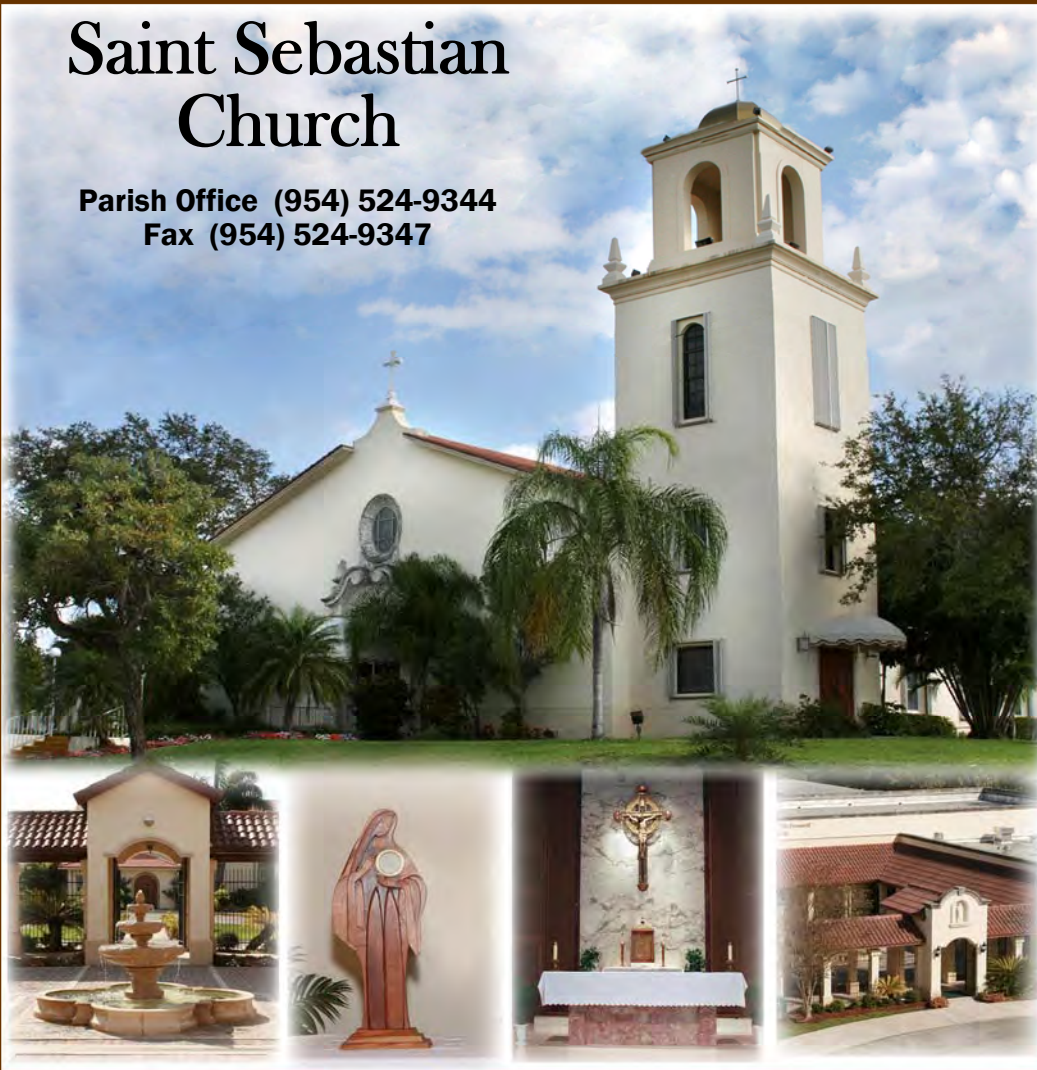
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

[info@stsebastianfl.org](mailto:info@stsebastianfl.org)

## Saint Sebastian Church

Parish Office (954) 524-9344  
Fax (954) 524-9347



### MASSES

Saturday 5 pm  
(Sunday Vigil)

Sunday 8:30 & 11 am

Weekdays 8:30 am  
(Mon. through Fri.)

Holy Days  
(Schedule varies)

### PARISH STAFF

Rev. Msgr. James F. Fetscher  
*Pastor*

Miss Anne M. Gardner  
*Pastoral Assistant*

Mrs. Carole Casey  
*Office Assistant*

Ms. Judy Fisher  
*Office Assistant*

Mr. Peter J. Manfredi, Jr.  
*Director of Music*  
(954) 868-6137

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Nancy Adams  
Elizabeth Calhoun  
Judy Fisher  
Rosemary Guerin  
Frank Krauser  
Ann Murry  
Connie Reed  
Chuck Wobby

**PARISH WEBSITE:**  
[stsebastianfl.org](http://stsebastianfl.org)

### 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 call the office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

**PARISH REGISTRATION** We invite anyone wishing to register in our Parish to visit or call the Parish Office, or stop by the Welcome table when you come for Sunday Mass to complete a census card and learn more about our Parish Family.



## 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.

Dear Family,

Lent 2021. The banners hang over the north door of the Main Sanctuary and over the entrance to McDonnell Hall. Do you remember what the challenge is?

Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving: the three biblical challenges for Christian living.

We refresh our **Prayer** life.

We **Fast**.

We give **Alms** to the poor.

What better time than Lent to look at how we are doing, how we can focus on getting back to basics?

When I look at my own prayer life, I have a sense of rust. I have a wind chime outside my porch that I bought many years ago and it has rusted very well. There is a nice rust patina on the three tone panels. The only problem is that the chain with the disc that catches the wind to make the chime "Bong" also rusted. God knows where it went, so Patricio is fabricating a new one. Unfortunately, Patricio doesn't do rusting knees.

We all know some bad four-letter words we should never use. 'Fast' could qualify for me. Whether you're talking about moving or eating, either way, 'fast' scares me. The knees say, "Don't." The tummy says, "Don't." Looks like I've got some work to do. Maybe if I got the tummy in line, the knees would have an easier time. Don't you just hate it went something makes sense, and you don't want to be sensible?

"Alms" has its roots in a Greek word meaning mercy or pity. The poor were given alms. That could be money or anything that would help the poor people.

So here we are at St. Seb looking at the banners catching the little puffs of wind. They flap a little, trying to catch our attention.

As I think about my prayer, my first reaction is that sometimes it seems very one-sided. But in my heart of hearts, I know that's because I'm really NOT listening for His voice. That voice comes in such unexpected ways at times. Remember Elijah hearing the Lord's voice in a whisper at the door of a cave? That was after earthquakes and tornadoes didn't reveal God to him.

Because I'm thinking about it right now, writing this *Twitch*, I feel a sense of gratitude to the Lord for putting up with my thoughtlessness and foolishness. On the next page we included a nice short reflection on "Giving Up." Thanks to Patrick O'Dea. Talk about profitable fasting. There is also the fasting that we celebrate with our Rice Bowls. We fast from food and we take the proceeds of what a meal would have cost and put that money in the Rice Bowls. There you are! A little fasting has made us ALMSGIVERS!

So *The PFA Challenge* isn't a big mystery after all. It's the way I come to personal renewal of my heart. As the Lord said, "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me." I don't want to fall in that category. I don't want to get into checkbook Christianity (i.e. write a check and you solve everything.) I want to come to Easter, even after all these years, with a sense of newness that always tells you eternal life is real and possible.

In Jesus,

**P.S. ABCD report. We are 88.8% there!  
Keep it up!**

**Mass Intentions**

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>February 20</b> † Jeannette Conte, req. by Connie Reed
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 21</b> Intention of Richard Marotta, req. by Charlotte Newbury † Benny Zolliccio, req. by Leo & Marion Carey
11:00 am	Living & Deceased of our Parish
<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 22</b> † Grace & Murray Toomey, req. by M.L. & Helen Toomey † Jim Hmielewski, req. by Joan & Bill Fuccillo
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 23</b> † Cecilia Michalak, req. by Grace Middlemiss
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 24</b> † Earl Johnston, req. by children of Marcia & Barry Hogan
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 25</b> † Bob Romano, req. by Men's Club
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 26</b> † Ron Cameron, req. by Helen & M.L. Toomey
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>February 27</b> Living & Deceased of our Parish
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am	<b>February 28</b> † Rene Morales, req. by Wolfe Family
11:00 am	† Jeffrey Rodgers, req. by Brian McMahon & Elli Hurst † Jim Hmielewski, req. by Flo Fagan & Family

**REMEMBER THE SICK**

Nanchine McManus,  
Mary Lou Mann, Peg-  
gy Lynch, Denise

Bergeron, Suzanne Plum, Don Loughran, Jr., Hayden O'Connor, Jim Cowgill, Jr., John Graff, Elizabeth Shotmeyer, Peter Hanna, Sandy Rodriguez, Lee Rodriguez, Noah Austin, Tommy Greene, Agatha Taglienti, John Masna, Margaret Reitz, Donna Wasowicz, John Harris, Charlotte Newbury, Stephen Black, Jo Neumann, John E. Hurley, Joan Memolo, Sophia Schwab, Jonathan Hughes, Kathleen Gerium

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL TRUCK**

The St. Vincent de Paul truck is scheduled to be in our parking lot next weekend, February 27-28, for your donations of gently used clothing and household items. The truck is open before and after each Mass.

**POPE FRANCIS' WORDS** 

**Do you want to fast this Lent?**

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.



*"If you give some of your own food to those who are hungry then your light shall shine in the dark." (Isaiah 58:10).* Let's fill our church shopping carts with non-perishable food and hygiene items to light up all of Fort Lauderdale. To care is to share.

**DIAL-IN FOR BIBLE SHARING**

Participate in our teleconferencing Scripture sharing: Call in starts at 9:05 and sharing begins at 9:15 each Thursday morning. Dial 848-777-1212. When prompted put in 1431434 #. We are in I & II Corinthians. Call Mary Kennedy 954.290.1194 or Carole Duksta 954.529.6547 for information. Please join us!

We are inching slowly toward our 2021 A.B.C.D. goal. 94 participants have taken us to over 88% of it. Thank you to those 94 faithful stewards! If you haven't yet made your 2021 commitment to A.B.C.D, please do so this week, so we can get that last 11+% and achieve our goal... Thank you!



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### WHY IS IT

A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas and bathes in an ADVERTISED shower shaves with an ADVERTISED razor brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste washes with ADVERTISED soap puts on ADVERTISED clothes drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then . . . . refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale.

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