

Fourth Sunday of Easter

2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

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 8:00 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

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.

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.



Dear Family,

Nearly 40 years ago, Rabbi Harold S. Kushner wrote what turned out to be a best seller: "*When Bad Things Happen to Good People*." Rabbi Kushner's book was inspired by the life and death of his son, Aaron, who was born with progeria ("rapid aging,"). The disease finally claimed Aaron just after his 14th birthday

For probably most of those years I remembered the name of the work as, "Why do bad things Happen to Good People." What a surprise to find out that I had a correction to make.

For Rabbi Kushner the issue was not 'Why' but 'When.' Now 85, Rabbi Kushner was also a wise man at 45. The Rabbi wrote from experience.

My intent with this *Twitch* as we move through our COVID-19 shutdowns and distancing and face masks, was to say something about good and evil, why things happen and don't happen, etc.

When I went back to find Rabbi Kushner, as I said, I got surprised. I didn't have to go beyond the very title to have the Rabbi remind me that anyone who tries to answer the question "*WHY* do bad things happen to good people?" simply is missing the point. Stuff happens. The Rabbi challenges us to look at how we respond *WHEN* 'stuff' does happen.

Of course, the Rabbi's wise caution doesn't prevent me from taking a shot at evil, as I have in the past.

My starting point is what we know from Sacred Scripture. That presumes we believe it is the word of God. Once said, then we go to the very beginning of Genesis and hear that all that exists, God made. ...AND He made it GOOD! The pinnacle of His creative act is humankind.

Above all, humanity is gifted with free will. The symbol of the Garden of Eden is a place of perfection where God and man relate. Then came the

snake and the symbol of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Mankind eats the fruit. That disobedience shattered the special friendship with God (e.g. strolling in the garden). That disobedience ended the special place of meeting, and Eden was tossed away. Imagine knowing God here on earth as we hope we will in heaven. And then to LOSE that...

I think the loss was so violent a tearing apart that it forever affected the world we live in, to its core... nature itself is put on its ear. That's my theory and I'm sticking to it. So now what?

God doesn't will evil for men. But evil men and disrupted nature take their toll. While we try to recover the relationship that Jesus bought with His life, and brought with His Father's love, we still wrestle with the dictators of the world and pandemics like COVID-19.

As usual, I am writing this *Twitch* for a deadline that comes nearly a week before you read it. When I think back over the last few weeks, who would have ever imagined in his wildest nightmares what we have seen and heard? As it turns out there were some who did. I think of Bill Gates for one.

I hope that one thing we can learn from all this is how important wisdom teachers are. I hope we can learn what qualifies as inspired leadership and be able to encourage it. I hope that as believers, we will draw on the resources the Lord gives us in faith. I hope we can deal with our challenges hearing the background music of a St. Augustine: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee."

And... I hope we can encourage each other with a loving awareness that transcends the evils of our time, natural as well as manmade.

Here's to gathering at the altar soon...

In Jesus,



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Mass Intentions

- Saturday May 2**
Living & Deceased of our Parish
- Sunday May 3**
† Charles & Marie Maher, req. by Family
Intentions of Health care workers
- Monday May 4**
Special Intention,
req. by Joe & Patti Garrihy
- Tuesday May 5**
† Sean Mulderry
- Wednesday May 6**
† Mario Calderon, req. by Gisella
- Thursday May 7**
In Thanksgiving,
req. by Joe & Patti Garrihy
In Thanksgiving, req. by Gisella Reyes
- Friday May 8**
Intention of Marcia Hogan,
req. by Barry
- Saturday May 9**
† Grace & Murray Toomey,
req. by M.L. Toomey
† Dominick Romano,
req. by Bill & Ellie Loughran
† William Mulooly, req. by M.L. Toomey
- Sunday May 10**
Mother's Day Novena
Living and Deceased of our Parish

REMEMBER THE SICK

Donn Taylor, Colt
Becker, Nanchine
McManus, Robert Real,

Mary Lou Mann, Peggy Lynch, Denise Bergeron, John Orozco, Suzanne Plum, Don Loughran, Jr., Joel Rivera, Hayden O'Connor, Jim Cowgill, Jr., Tiffany Malin, John Graff, Elizabeth Shotmeyer, Peter Hanna, Sandy Rodriguez, Nilsa Pagan, Grayson Jack, Lee Rodriguez, Noah Austin, Tommy Greene, Agatha Taglienti, Regan Gallo, John Masna, Bharti Patel, Beverly Bang, Margaret Reitz, Helena Hughes, Donna Wasowicz, David Hmielewski, Sister Marguerite McGilly, Frances Rohleder, John Harris, Charlotte Newbury, Steve Black

ONLINE GIVING...ESPECIALLY NOW

Did you know that St. Sebastian Parish offers online giving? It's easy & secure! Please visit our website, <www.stsebastianfl.org>, look for the "My Online Donation" box, click on the "Go" button. You can set up a recurring or a one-time gift to St. Sebastian and easily support our parish regularly! We appreciate your continued support.

SAINT TERESA'S PRAYER

*Let nothing disturb you,
Let nothing frighten you,
All things are passing:
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.*

As we face the challenges associated with Covid-19, we remember that we are all one in the Body of Christ. Even if we are unable to come together as a Parish community to celebrate Eucharist, let's hold each other close in prayer and be patient and considerate toward all. We will do our best to keep you updated with changes in schedules, and offer any assistance we can. Feel free to call the office with any questions or concerns.

MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA

A Novena of Masses for our mothers, living and deceased, will be celebrated beginning on Mother's Day, May 10th for nine days. If you wish to include your mother in the novena, please send her name to us - either via email to info@stsebastianfl.org, or the postal service. ***In your email, be sure to type: "MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA" in the subject line.*** Names will be placed on the altar (in the church if we are able to celebrate Mass together, or otherwise in Monsignor's house chapel).

MASSES ON COMPUTER

The Archdiocese of Miami is keeping a list on their website, <miamiarch.org> of websites where Masses can be viewed. EWTN also broadcasts the Mass at 8:00 am daily. You may also wish to go to <USCCB.org>, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops site and find the daily Scripture Readings for Mass, along with a host of other information.

THE FLORIDA CATHOLIC - WE'RE FEATURED!

The April edition of *The Florida Catholic* is now available online. Go to <miami.thefloridacatholic.org>. Along with many other articles of interest, you will find on page 4 an article about St. Sebastian at 60. Check it out and read all about us! While you are at the site, you can read about the good work being done by the Archdiocese to help those suffering as a result of the pandemic, as well as a list of Masses being livestreamed for our viewing.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU...

A sincere thank you to each of you who are mailing your Offertory contributions, or giving online. You are keeping us going, and it is truly appreciated!



*Have a good week...
Stay safe...
Know that you are loved !*

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