

The Transfiguration of the Lord

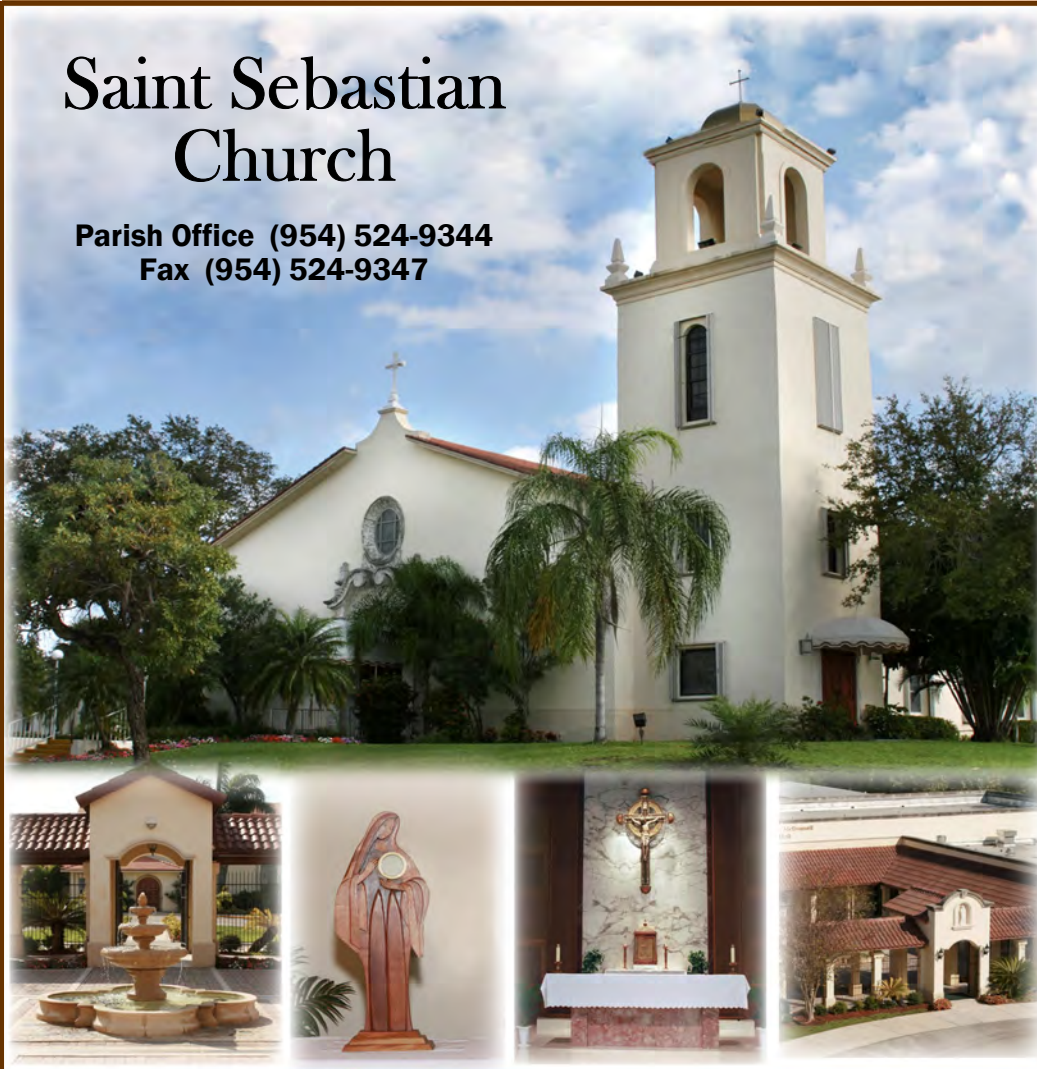
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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 8:30 am
(Mon. through Fri.)

Holy Days
(Schedule varies)

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Ernest Biriruka
Pastor

Miss Anne M. Gardner
Pastoral Assistant

Ms. Judy Fisher
Office Assistant

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

Mr. Patricio Diaz-Pizarro
Maintenance

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Nancy Adams
Elizabeth Calhoun
Judy Fisher
Rosemary Guerin
Frank Krauser
Richard Page
Connie Reed
Chuck Wobby

PARISH WEBSITE:

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



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.

From the desk of our Pastor, Father Ernest

THE EUCHARIST, THE MASS AND THE SACRIFICE OF THE CROSS.

In our continued meditation on the Eucharist, I would like to suggest that we deepen the connection between the Mass and the Sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. Pope Saint John Paul II wrote the following passage in his Encyclical Letter 'Ecclesia de Eucharistia':

When the Church celebrates the Eucharist, the memorial of her Lord's death and resurrection, this central event of salvation becomes really present and "the work of our redemption is carried out." This sacrifice is so decisive for the salvation of the human race that Jesus Christ offered it and returned to the Father only *after he had left us a means of sharing in it* as if we had been present there. Each member of the faithful can thus take part in it and inexhaustibly gain its fruits. This is the faith from which generations of Christians down the ages have lived. The Church's Magisterium has constantly reaffirmed this faith with joyful gratitude for its inestimable gift. I wish once more to recall this truth and to join you, my dear brothers and sisters, in adoration before this mystery: a real mystery, a mystery of mercy. What more could Jesus have done for us? Truly, in the Eucharist, he shows us a love which goes "to the end" (cf. Jn 13:1), a love which knows no measure.

12. This aspect of universal charity of the Eucharistic Sacrifice is based on the words of the Savior himself. In instituting it, he did not merely say: "This is my body," "This is my blood," but went on to add: "which is given for you," "which is poured out for you (Lk. 22:19-20). Jesus did not simply state that what he was giving them to eat and drink was his body and his blood; he also expressed *its sacrificial meaning* and made sacramentally present his sacrifice which would soon be offered on the Cross for the salvation of all. "The Mass is at the same time, and inseparably, the sacrificial memorial in which the sacrifice of the Cross is perpetuated, and the sacred banquet of communion with the Lord's body and blood."

The Church constantly draws her life from the redeeming sacrifice; she approaches it not only through faith-filled remembrance, but also through a real contact, since *this sacrifice is made present ever anew*, sacramentally perpetuated, in every community which offers it at the hands of the consecrated minister. The Eucharist thus applies to men and women today the reconciliation won once for all by Christ for mankind in every age. "The sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Eucharist are *one single sacrifice*." Saint John Chrysostom put it well: "We always offer the same Lamb, not one today and another tomorrow, but always the same one. For this reason the sacrifice is always only one... Even now we offer that victim who was once offered and who will never be consumed."

The Mass makes present the sacrifice of the Cross; it does not add to that sacrifice nor does it multiply it. What is repeated is its *memorial* celebration, its "commemorative representation" *memoralis demonstratio*), which makes Christ's one, definitive redemptive sacrifice always present in time. The sacrificial nature of the Eucharistic mystery cannot therefore be understood as something separate, independent of the Cross or only indirectly referring to the sacrifice of Calvary.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm	August 5 † Pasquale Polselli, req. by Sandra Polselli † Gene Nelson, req. by Michael Young Wellbeing of Liz Galvin, req. by Grace Middlemiss
Sunday 8:30 am 11:00 am	August 6 Living & Deceased of St. Sebastian † Margaret Farkas, req. by Carmeline & Paul Campbell
Monday 8:30 am	August 7 † Larry & Patricia Pietrzak, req. by family
Tuesday 8:30 am	August 8 † Jane Walsh
Wednesday 8:30 a.m.	August 9 Intention of Msgr. Jim
Thursday 8:30 am	August 10 Wellbeing of Marcia Hogan, req. by Barry Hogan † Margaret Reitz, req. by son Frederick
Friday	August 11 Wellbeing of Margaret Barrosse
Saturday 5:00 pm	August 12 † Gene Nelson, req. by Michael Young Wellbeing of Arthur Cholakis, req. by Bible Group † Delfina Horta, req. by Gisella Reyes
Sunday 8:30 am 11:00 am	August 13 † Dolores Fink, req. by Sandra Polselli Living and Deceased of Our Parish

REMEMBER THE SICK

Mary Lou Mann, Suzanne Plum, Don Loughran, Jr., Sandy Rodrigues, John Harris, Stephen Black, Mary Alice Zittle, Alvaro Arevalo, Paul Ristow, Ed Fetscher, Matt Keyzers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Tom Casey, Charles Benoit, Rob Messerschmidt, Mary Pat Connolly, Anne McCormick, Patricia Moss, Patty Marma, Diane Johnson, Jim Guerin, Susan Lochrie, Agnes McCauley

IN MEMORIUM

+ JANE WALSH +
July 22, 2023

May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

BIBLE SHARING

Come for coffee and Scripture Sharing each Thursday in the Parish Hall at 9:15 am. Everyone is invited. You may also join us online by dialing 848-777-1212. When prompted put in 1431434#. For more info, call Mary Kennedy at 954-290-1194. We will be sharing from Galatians with Arthur Cholakis facilitating.

Have a magnificent week!

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StsebastianFL

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, August 13 - Bloodmobile in our parking lot.

Saturday, August 19 at 8:30 am - Sandwich Ministry in the Parish Hall.

Weekend of August 26-27 - St. Vincent de Paul truck scheduled to be here.

Saturday, October 7 - 5:30 pm - 65th Anniversary of the Archdiocese of Miami Mass, Cathedral of St. Mary, Miami

Saturday, November 11 - 6:30 pm - Archdiocese of Miami 65th Anniversary Gala & Concert, Miami Beach Convention Center

Please place your donations of non-perishable food and hygiene items in the grocery carts at the church doors, and brighten someone's day. To care is to share! **ALSO:** The Pantry needs **plastic grocery bags** for food distribution and empty, clean **egg cartons**. You can place these items in the shopping carts. Thank you! ***If you know of anyone in need, please let them know that The St. Vincent DePaul Society conducts a drive thru grocery distribution every Friday from 1:30-4 PM at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1701 E Oakland Park Blvd (entrance to the parking lot is located on NE 33rd Street and will be closed at 3:45). First timers must provide proof of Broward County residency***



RELIGIOUS PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY

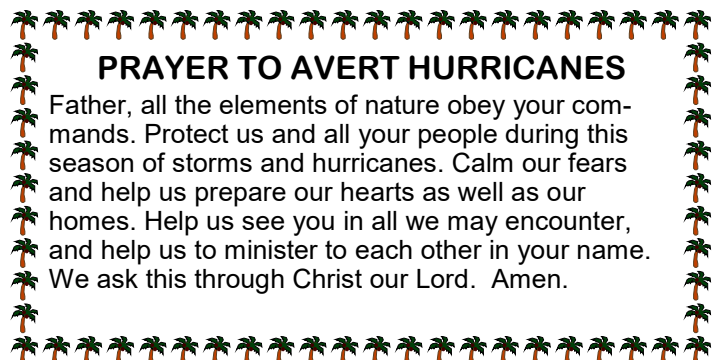
Father Ernest is leading a pilgrimage to Italy from September 24th to October 5th, and you are invited to join him. The pilgrimage will include Milan, Torino, Assisi, Loreto, Lanciano, San Giovanni Rotondo, Monte Sant' Angelo, Monte Cassino and Rome. Price per person: \$4,285.00, includes economy round trip airfare (from Miami); all taxes & airport fees; Round trip airport transfers; 4 star hotel accommodations; professional Tour manager; admissions for all sanctuaries & places to visit, Daily Mass & more. For more info, contact Antonio or Lilliam Morales at QVI Travel Group: 305-274-0453 or email:

MAGNIFICAT OF BROWARD

Women are invited to attend the next all county meal Saturday, Aug. 26th, from 10 am to 1:30 pm at Nativity Catholic Church 5220 Johnson St., Hollywood. Special guest speaker Monique Moussot will witness to the transforming love of Christ in her life. Cost: \$25 Call Sharon Pfeifer 407-756-7999.

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.



Dear Family,

Midnight Musings, Twilight Twitches, and finally Noontime Afterthoughts. The days got shorter but the desire to stay connected never changed in 43 years of pastoring. Gratitude doesn't begin to express how I feel.

The reception last Saturday was a wonderful present. I cannot thank Marie Barbagallo enough for being the Chef-ess with the best-est. Judy Fisher and her helpers made spectacular decorations.

I have received so many notes and cards as well. I look forward to going through them after I have moved into my apartment in the sky. Actually, it's on the ground floor but big enough to accommodate the 30+ boxes of stuff, most of which Annie packed and Patricio carried. When my grandma died, she had divested herself of nearly all her stuff, and it took us 15 minutes to wind it up for her after she went to heaven. I know she is in heaven because anyone who clears out all their stuff before they go *has* to be in heaven, *immediately!*

I just found a little plaque that says, When God answers my prayers, sometimes He says "Yes," sometimes He says "No," and sometimes He says, "You've got to be kidding." I think maybe the latter will be His response if I ask to skip clearing out the stuff and letting someone else do it.

As for my gratitude, one problem is always when you start trying to thank people you inevitably leave someone out. When I think back over the 13 years here at St. Sebastian, it's been one person after another, doing kind things and usually saying, "It's nothing."

Pastoral Council, Finance Committee, all the ministries with their faithful leaders... if I have had any "Success" at all it has been because of the multitude of people who always said, 'Yes' (and sometimes 'No' when that was the better response.)

I am praying that my successor, Father Ernest Biri-ruka, will come to know you as I have. I know that it has been difficult for him to leave St. John XXIII parish which he built with his family there. Welcome him with open arms, and bless him with an aviary of snowbirds, sunbirds, peacocks and cuckoo clock anis.

I'll miss writing these letters, be they musings, twitches or the like. They were always intended to try and give you some idea of where my head was, and hopefully let me find a way of entering your heads and hearts as well.

Being Church is not easy. Trying to be Church without growth is deadly. Yet change is something I think most of us are reluctant to face because we're not sure where new roads will lead or how bumpy they will be.

When I received the news of this change, I went through that experience of wondering what's to come. But in reality, I really think I was afraid of having to deal with something entirely new. And then, Annie and Patricio came to the rescue as they have so faithfully done over the years. Their attitudes have blessed me, even though I know they are a little sad, too. I suspect the Lord has surprising blessings for us in the years to come and my little team will enjoy the new explorations.

My entire priesthood was framed by the Second Vatican Council which taught us that without openness to new inspirations, the Church would lose its capacity to speak to the world. That's doubly hard if the world doesn't want to listen. Thanks to Peter Manfredi for giving me, and us, the gift of packaging our liturgies with such beauty. What a blessing our musicians have been.

I have One Singular Regret. The entrance into Harbour Inlet never got repaved. My 2012 Prius has served me well, and I know it has wondered what I was trying to do to the suspension system as we thumped and bumped through the potholes. I have no doubt it will *finally* get repaired as soon as I move west. With much prayer and love,

In Jesus,

