

May 4, 2025

# THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

St. Sebastian Catholic Parish in Fort Lauderdale, Inc.

Parish Office (954) 524-9344



## **MASSES**

Saturday 5 pm  
(Sunday Vigil)  
Sunday 8:30 am, 11 am & 6 pm

## **Weekdays**

8:30 am (Mon. through Fri. )

## **OFFICE HOURS**

Monday-Friday 8:30 am - 3 pm

## **Pastor**

**Rev. Ernest Biriruka**

## **Office Staff**

Francy Gonzalez  
Kathryn Cabrisas  
Judy Fisher

## **Director of Music**

Peter J. Manfredi, Jr.  
(954) 868-6137

## **Vocalist**

Cathy Spitzer

## **Facilities**

Patricio Diaz-Pizarro

## **Pastoral Council**

Nancy Adams  
Mauricio Bautista  
Judy Fisher  
Rosemary Guerin  
Johnny Mann  
Sandi Mann  
Ed Rebholz  
John Mann

## **Prayer for The Conclave and The Election of a New Pope**

**O God, Eternal Shepherd,  
who govern Your flock with  
unfailing care, Grant in Your boundless  
fatherly love a pastor for Your Church  
who will please You by His holiness  
and to us show watchful care.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
your Son, who lives and reigns  
with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**



Excerpt from the English translation of The Roman Missal  
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## **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.

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

## FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK:

### JESUS RESURRECTION

#### Catechism of the Catholic Church

#639 The mystery of Christ's resurrection is a real event, with manifestations that were historically verified, as the New Testament bears witness. In about A.D. 56 St. Paul could already write to the Corinthians: "I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the scriptures, and that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the Twelve..." The Apostle speaks here of the living tradition of the Resurrection which he had learned after his conversion at the gates of Damascus.

#640 "Why do you seek the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen."<sup>493</sup> The first element we encounter in the framework of the Easter events is the empty tomb. In itself it is not a direct proof of Resurrection; the absence of Christ's body from the tomb could be explained otherwise. Nonetheless the empty tomb was still an essential sign for all. Its discovery by the disciples was the first step toward recognizing the very fact of the Resurrection. This was the case, first with the holy women, and then with Peter. The disciple "whom Jesus loved" affirmed that when he entered the empty tomb and discovered "the linen cloths lying there", "he saw and believed".<sup>496</sup> This suggests that he realized from the empty tomb's condition that the absence of Jesus' body could not have been of human doing and that Jesus had not simply returned to earthly life as had been the case with Lazarus.

#641 Mary Magdalene and the holy women who came to finish anointing the body of Jesus, which had been buried in haste because the Sabbath began on the evening of Good Friday, were the first to encounter the Risen One. Thus the women were the first messengers of Christ's Resurrection for the apostles themselves. They were the next to whom Jesus appears: first Peter, then the Twelve. Peter had been called to strengthen the faith of his brothers, and so sees the Risen One before them; it is on the basis of his testimony that the community exclaims: "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"

#642 Everything that happened during those Paschal days involves each of the apostles — and Peter in particular — in the building of the new era begun on Easter morning. As witnesses of the Risen One, they remain the foundation stones of his Church. The faith of the first community of believers is based on the witness of concrete men known to the Christians and for the most part still living among them. Peter and the Twelve are the primary "witnesses to his Resurrection", but they are not the only ones — Paul speaks clearly of more than five hundred persons to whom Jesus appeared on a single occasion and also of James and of all the apostles.

#643 Given all these testimonies, Christ's Resurrection cannot be interpreted as something outside the physical order, and it is impossible not to acknowledge it as an historical fact. It is clear from the facts that the disciples' faith was drastically put to the test by their master's Passion and death on the cross, which he had foretold.<sup>503</sup> The shock provoked by the Passion was so great that at least some of the disciples did not at once believe in the news of the Resurrection. Far from showing us a community seized by a mystical exaltation, the Gospels present us with disciples demoralized ("looking sad"<sup>504</sup>) and frightened. For they had not believed the holy women returning from the tomb and had regarded their words as an "idle tale".<sup>505</sup> When Jesus reveals himself to the Eleven on Easter evening, "he upbraided them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen."

Fr. Ernest

*Please note that May is dedicated to The Blessed Virgin Mary. Let us make an effort to pray the Rosary.*

## Mass Intentions

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>May 3</b> † Joan Fuccillo, by Family
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am	<b>May 4</b> † Charles, Marie and Ann Maher, by Maher Family † Grace and Murray Toomey, by Helen and Mary Louise Toomey † Linda Grable, by Family † Nicholas Minutelli, by Jack Tavone
11:00 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
6:00 pm	† Rev. Jose Ramon Garcia
<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>May 5</b> † Sr. Marguerite McGilly, S.C. † Katalin Maar, by Family
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>May 6</b> † Sandra Rodrigues, by Judy Fisher † Carolina Malpica, by Rojas Family
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>May 7</b> † James Cowgill, by Judy Fisher
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>May 8</b> † Mary Kennedy, by SSCCW † Nicky Kidd, by Anne Marie Pierotti
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>May 9</b> † Albert J. Mainellie, by Jack Tavone
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>May 10</b> Wellbeing Annita Kidd, by Anne Marie Pierotti
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am	<b>May 11 HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY</b> Mother's Day Novena
11:00 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
6:00 pm	Mother's Day Novena

### REMEMBER THE SICK

Mary Lou Mann, Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, Imelda Anaya, Don Loughran, Jr., John Harris, Stephen Black, Alvaro Arevalo, Paul Ristow, Matt Keyzers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Rob Messerschmidt, Anne McCormick, Patty Marma, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney, Linda Spitzer, Blake-Leigh Riley, Melissa Mirabile, Marge Mitchell, Rasoul Karimi, Jean Gorman, Linda DeBold, Jay Hoover, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Vogler, Joel Rivera, Fred Zagone S.J., Anthony Cotilus, Mark Bromage, Jonathan Hughes, Mary Kennedy, Margaret & Donato Montanaro, William Hirsch, Msgr. James Fetscher, Pamela Jennings, Gary Demberg.

## A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS



Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for the men and women that you have called to discern the calling to priesthood and religious life. We beg your continued blessing on our Archdiocese of Miami and on all our families. Call forth more women and men of generous spirit and fervent love whom you desire for this holy work. We make this prayer in Jesus' name, Amen.

## RCIA and FAITH FORMATION



Please note that our **last two sessions** will be held on:

Wednesday, **May 7** and Tuesday, **May 20** at 6:00 pm.

We look forward to seeing you there!

### FIRST COMMUNION CLASS



Registrations will open in August, and Classes are scheduled to begin in September.

## THE HOLY EUCHARIST

### 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.



## Thank You



Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Easter Celebration so special.

We are especially grateful to those who helped decorate the church and donated beautiful flowers.

And to all who served and supported the liturgies:

EMHC, Our Lectors, Altar Servers, Ushers, and everyone who help organize and participate in our celebrations.

Thank you so much for your time, dedication, and generosity. Your service is deeply appreciated.

Fr. Ernest

## PARISH EVENTS AND DATES

**CELEBRATING**  
THE LIFE OF  
**JIM COWGILL**

1942 - 2025



CELEBRATION OF LIFE MASS  
FOR A LONG-TIME PARISHIONER  
AND USHER

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE  
ON WEDNESDAY MAY 7, 2025  
AT 10:30AM  
A RECEPCIÓN WILL FOLLOW AND  
ALL PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO  
ATTEND.



*Celebrating*  
THE LIFE OF  
**MARY ELLEN KENNEDY**

January 29, 1928 - April 10, 2025



THE FAMILY WILL HOST A VISITATION  
AND A REMEMBRANCE ON WEDNESDAY,  
MAY 7 AT THE ATLANTIC ROOM, AT THE  
ATLANTIC TOWERS FROM 6-9 pm, WITH  
A ROSARY AT 5:30 pm.  
THE FUNERAL MASS WILL BE ON  
THURSDAY, MAY 8 AT 11:00 AM  
A RECEPCIÓN WILL FOLLOW AND ALL  
PARISHIONERS ARE INVITED TO  
ATTEND.

**ADORATION OF THE HOLY**



Eucharist 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 p.m. & 3-4 p.m.

Please contact the office if you are  
able to come to any of those hours.

Thank you!

**BIBLE SHARING**



Come for coffee and Scripture sharing  
**each Thursday in the Parish Hall at  
9:15 a.m.** Everyone is invited. You may  
also join us online by dialing 848-777-1212;  
when prompted, put in 1431434#.

We are sharing from the Gospel of Luke with Arthur  
Cholakakis facilitating.

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 church. Let us come  
together in prayer and  
deepen our devotion to  
Our Blessed Mother.

*Mother's Day Novena*

This month, we invite everyone to  
participate in our **Mother's Day  
Novena**. For those who are  
interested, special envelopes are  
available at the church exits and  
on the pews for your offering.

Please take one and write the  
name of your mother or a loved  
one you wish to honor. The names  
will be placed on the Altar for this  
month as we offer prayers in their  
honor.



**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.  
For Prayers, go to Mass Prayer or Order of Mass.  
**USCCB**, stands for **US Conference of  
Catholic Bishops**.