

May 18, 2025

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

## St. Sebastian Catholic Parish in Fort Lauderdale, Inc.

Parish Office (954) 524-9344



### **The following is the full text of the “urbi et orbi” blessing given by Pope Leo XIV after his election May 8, 2025:**

“Peace be with you all!”

Beloved brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who has given his life for the flock of God. I, too, would like this greeting of peace to enter your hearts, reach your families, to all people, wherever they may be, to all peoples, to all the earth.

“Peace be with you!”

This is the peace of the Risen Christ, a disarmed peace and a disarming peace, humble and persevering. It comes from God, God who loves us all unconditionally. We still retain in our ears that weak but always courageous voice of Pope Francis blessing Rome!

The pope blessing Rome gave his blessing to the world, to the whole world, that morning of Easter Day. Let me follow up on that same blessing: God loves us, God loves you all, and evil will not prevail! We are all in God’s hands. Therefore, without fear, united hand in hand with God and each other -- let us go forward. We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us.

The world needs His light. Humanity needs Him as the bridge to be reached by God and his love. Help us also, and then help each other to build bridges, with dialogue, with encounter, uniting us all to be one people always at peace. Thank you Pope Francis!

I also want to thank all my brother cardinals who have chosen me to be Successor of Peter and walk together with you, as a united Church always seeking peace, justice, always seeking to work as men and women faithful to Jesus Christ, without fear, to proclaim the Gospel, to be missionaries.

I am a son of St. Augustine, an Augustinian, who said, “For you I am a bishop, with you, I am a Christian.” In this sense we can all walk together toward that homeland that God has prepared.

To the Church of Rome, a special greeting! We must seek together how to be a missionary Church, a Church that builds bridges, dialogue, always open to receive, like this square, with open arms. Everyone, everyone who needs our charity, our presence, dialogue and love.

[In Spanish] And if you allow me a word, a greeting to everyone and especially to my dear Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru, where a faithful people have accompanied their bishop, shared their faith and has given so much, so much to continue to be a faithful Church of Jesus Christ.

To all of you, brothers and sisters from Rome, from Italy, from all over the world, we want to be a synodal Church, a church that walks, a church that always seeks peace, that always seeks charity, that always seeks to be close especially to those who suffer.

Today is the day of Supplication to Our Lady of Pompeii. Our Mother Mary always wants to walk with us, be close, help us with her intercession and love.

So I would like to pray together with you. Let us pray together for this new mission, for the whole church, for peace in the world, and let us ask Mary, our Mother, for this special grace. Ave Maria...

### **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**

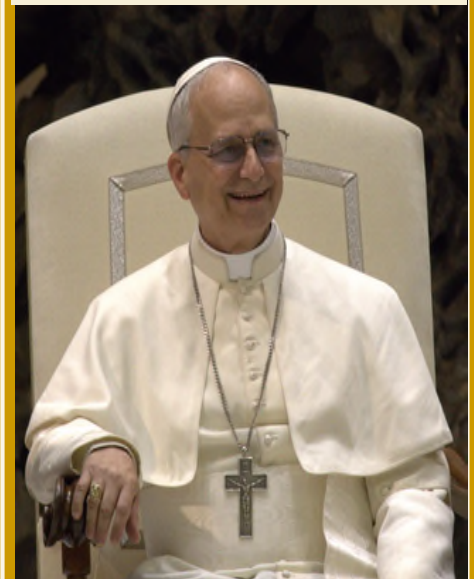
Patricio Diaz-Pizarro

### **Pastoral Council**

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

## An American Pope

## Pope Leo XIV



THE APOSTOLIC LETTER: ROSARIUM VIRGINIS MARIAE, by John Paul II, Extracts from: Ar. 37,38,39,40 and 41

"At present, in different parts of the Church, there are many ways to introduce the Rosary. In some places, it is customary to begin with the opening words of Psalm 70: "O God, come to my aid; O Lord, make haste to help me", as if to nourish in those who are praying a humble awareness of their own insufficiency. In other places, the Rosary begins with the recitation of the Creed, as if to make the profession of faith the basis of the contemplative journey about to be undertaken. These and similar customs, to the extent that they prepare the mind for contemplation, are all equally legitimate. The Rosary is then ended with a prayer for the intentions of the Pope, as if to expand the vision of the one praying to embrace all the needs of the Church. It is precisely in order to encourage this ecclesial dimension of the Rosary that the Church has seen fit to grant indulgences to those who recite it with the required dispositions. If prayed in this way, the Rosary truly becomes a spiritual itinerary in which Mary acts as Mother, Teacher and Guide, sustaining the faithful by her powerful intercession. Is it any wonder, then, that the soul feels the need, after saying this prayer and experiencing so profoundly the motherhood of Mary, to burst forth in praise of the Blessed Virgin, either in that splendid prayer the *Salve Regina* or in the *Litany of Loreto*? This is the crowning moment of an inner journey which has brought the faithful into living contact with the mystery of Christ and his Blessed Mother.

The Rosary can be recited in full every day, and there are those who most laudably do so. In this way it fills with prayer the days of many a contemplative, or keeps company with the sick and the elderly who have abundant time at their disposal. Yet it is clear – and this applies all the more if the new series of *mysteria lucis* is included – that many people will not be able to recite more than a part of the Rosary, according to a certain weekly pattern. This weekly distribution has the effect of giving the different days of the week a certain spiritual "colour", by analogy with the way in which the Liturgy colours the different seasons of the liturgical year. According to current practice, Monday and Thursday are dedicated to the "joyful mysteries", Tuesday and Friday to the "sorrowful mysteries", and Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday to the "glorious mysteries". Where might the "mysteries of light" be inserted? If we consider that the "glorious mysteries" are said on both Saturday and Sunday, and that Saturday has always had a special Marian flavour, the second weekly meditation on the "joyful mysteries", mysteries in which Mary's presence is especially pronounced, could be moved to Saturday. Thursday would then be free for meditating on the "mysteries of light". This indication is not intended to limit a rightful freedom in personal and community prayer, where account needs to be taken of spiritual and pastoral needs and of the occurrence of particular liturgical celebrations which might call for suitable adaptations. What is really important is that the Rosary should always be seen and experienced as a path of contemplation. In the Rosary, in a way similar to what takes place in the Liturgy, the Christian week, centred on Sunday, the day of Resurrection, becomes a journey through the mysteries of the life of Christ, and he is revealed in the lives of his disciples as the Lord of time and of history.

**"Blessed Rosary of Mary, sweet chain linking us to God"**

What has been said so far makes abundantly clear the richness of this traditional prayer, which has the simplicity of a popular devotion but also the theological depth of a prayer suited to those who feel the need for deeper contemplation. The Church has always attributed particular efficacy to this prayer, entrusting to the Rosary, to its choral recitation and to its constant practice, the most difficult problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation. Today I willingly entrust to the power of this prayer – as I mentioned at the beginning – the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family.

The grave challenges confronting the world at the start of this new Millennium lead us to think that only an intervention from on high, capable of guiding the hearts of those living in situations of conflict and those governing the destinies of nations, can give reason to hope for a brighter future. *The Rosary is by its nature a prayer for peace*, since it consists in the contemplation of Christ, the Prince of Peace, the one who is "our peace" (*Eph 2:14*). Anyone who assimilates the mystery of Christ – and this is clearly the goal of the Rosary – learns the secret of peace and makes it his life's project. Moreover, by virtue of its meditative character, with the tranquil succession of *Hail Marys*, the Rosary has a peaceful effect on those who pray it, disposing them to receive and experience in their innermost depths, and to spread around them, that true peace which is the special gift of the Risen Lord (cf. *Jn 14:27; 20:21*). The Rosary is also a prayer for peace because of the fruits of charity which it produces. When prayed well in a truly meditative way, the Rosary leads to an encounter with Christ in his mysteries and so cannot fail to draw attention to the face of Christ in others, especially in the most afflicted. How could one possibly contemplate the mystery of the Child of Bethlehem, in the joyful mysteries, without experiencing the desire to welcome, defend and promote life, and to shoulder the burdens of suffering children all over the world? How could one possibly follow in the footsteps of Christ the Revealer, in the mysteries of light, without resolving to bear witness to his "Beatitudes" in daily life? And how could one contemplate Christ carrying the Cross and Christ Crucified, without feeling the need to act as a "Simon of Cyrene" for our brothers and sisters weighed down by grief or crushed by despair? Finally, how could one possibly gaze upon the glory of the Risen Christ or of Mary Queen of Heaven, without yearning to make this world more beautiful, more just, more closely conformed to God's plan?

In a word, by focusing our eyes on Christ, the Rosary also makes us peacemakers in the world. By its nature as an insistent choral petition in harmony with Christ's invitation to "pray ceaselessly" (*Lk 18:1*), the Rosary allows us to hope that, even today, the difficult "battle" for peace can be won. Far from offering an escape from the problems of the world, the Rosary obliges us to see them with responsible and generous eyes, and obtains for us the strength to face them with the certainty of God's help and the firm intention of bearing witness in every situation to "love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony" (*Col 3:14*).

As a prayer for peace, the Rosary is also, and always has been, *a prayer of and for the family*. At one time this prayer was particularly dear to Christian families, and it certainly brought them closer together. It is important not to lose this precious inheritance. We need to return to the practice of family prayer and prayer for families, continuing to use the Rosary (...)

*The family that prays together stays together".*

*Let us make an effort to pray the Rosary.*

Mass Intentions

<u>Saturday</u> 5:00 pm	May 17 Mother's Day Novena
<u>Sunday</u> 8:30 am	May 18 Mother's Day Novena
11:00 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
6:00 pm	Mother's Day Novena
<u>Monday</u> 8:30 am	May 19 Mother's Day Novena
<u>Tuesday</u> 8:30 am	May 20 † Marie Dooley, by Drohan Family
<u>Wednesday</u> 8:30 am	May 21 † Jane Comerford, by Drohan Family Wellbeing of Bill Fuccillo, by Berry and Marcia Hogan Wellbeing of Bill Loughran, by Berry and Marcia Hogan
<u>Thursday</u> 8:30 am	May 22 † Mary Kennedy, by Berry and Marcia Hogan
<u>Friday</u> 8:30 am	May 23 † Kitty O'Leary, by Heather Kelleher
<u>Saturday</u> 5:00 pm	May 24 † Joan Fuccillo, by Family † Christine Kicinski, by Rene Mohnani † Mary Kennedy, by Carl and Isabel Jarman † Susan Mennella, by Anna Marie Pierotti
<u>Sunday</u> 8:30 am	May 25 † Dolores Hesse Fink , by husband Jack † Frank Gardner Wellbeing of Charles Cowherd & BJ Holly, by Family
11:00 am	Living and Deceased of St. Sebastian
6:00 pm	Wellbeing of Monsignor Fetscher

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, Jay Hoover, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Vogler, Joel Rivera, Fred Zagone S.J., Anthony Cotilus, Mark Bromage, Jonathan Hughes, Margaret & Donato Montanaro, William Hirsch, Msgr. James Fetscher, Pamela Jennings, Gary Demberg, Bill Fuccillo, Lawrence Biondi S.J.,

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 session will be held on:

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.

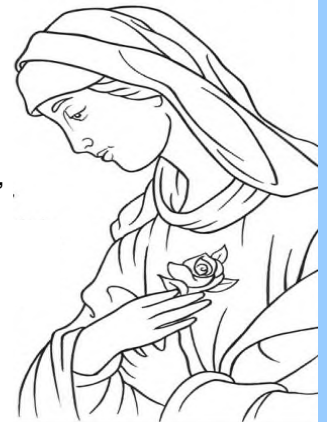
THE HOLY EUCHARIST

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.

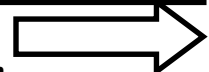
The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you. O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you I come; before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me.



AMEN.

PARISH EVENTS AND DATES



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

All are welcome!



FATIMA PRAYER

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those who have most

**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#.

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

For more information, please contact **Miriam Rivas** At **954-673-1522**



**WEEKDAY 8:30 AM MASS**

**IN THE CHAPEL OF THE DIVINE HEALER**

**WEEKDAY 8:30 AM MASS**

**IN THE CHAPEL OF THE DIVINE HEALER**

**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 pm & 3-4 pm

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

Thank you!

**WE NEED LECTORS**



Lector training will be held on **Saturday, June 14 at 9:30 am**. In the Church.

For more information,

Please call Rosemary, 954-816-4166

*Mother's Day Novena*

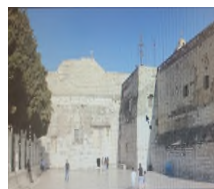
This month, we invite everyone to participate in our **Mother's Day Novena**. For those who are interested, special envelopes are available at the church exits and on the pews for your offering.

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.



**LAND OF PEACE and BCF MISSION**

***This weekend***  
**May 17-18, 2025**



This mission aims to bring hope and support to Christian families and churches in the Middle East, who are enduring continuous violence and a decline in tourism. Your participation can help make a profound difference. Available for purchase will be religious articles made from Olive Wood, a material native to the Holy Land and Bethlehem.

**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.