

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 22, 2026

St. Sebastian Catholic Parish in Fort Lauderdale, Inc. (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 9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Lunch: 1:00 pm—1:30 pm

Pastor

Rev. Ernest Biriruka

Office Staff

Francy Gonzalez-Rojas

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

John Mann, III

Johnny Mann, Jr.

Sandi Mann

Ed Rebholz

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

PARISH REGISTRATION

If you haven't registered yet as a parishioner of St. Sebastian, we invite you to do so in order to be recognized as a member of our parish.

You can find the registration form in the church, at the office, or online.

EUCCHARISTIC 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.

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.

I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

"I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live..."

"My dear brothers and sisters, just two weeks before Easter, Jesus assures us that he is the Resurrection and the Life. In a way, the whole mission of Jesus aims at leading us to that faith and goal: the resurrection to eternal life. While this is surely a familiar theme for us, we realize that the world is not necessarily focused on this. When we look around, people are pursuing all kinds of interests. God forbid that we be like at that time of the Roman Empire when the poet Juvenalis said '*Panem et circenses et Roma cecidit*' (Bread and games, and Rome fell), which meant that for many in the Roman Empire of that time, life consisted of eating and entertainment. There are three main axes of earthly interests: Money, Power and Pleasures.

Money represents all that we enjoy materially; riches, luxuries and possessions of every kind. We all love to have money and we need it. Nevertheless, happiness does not always depend on how much we have. Some people like to accumulate a lot of wealth, but there are two important aspects they should consider: one is if their possessions are acquired lawfully in terms of morally acceptable means; the other is if the usage of their wealth concerns only their personal interests or if they do good to other people in society. Jesus said 'what profit would there be for one to gain the whole world while one loses one's life? (Mk 8:36, Lk 9:25). "(...) use money, tainted as it is, to win you friends, and thus make sure that when it fails you, they will welcome you into eternal dwellings". (Lk 16:9)

As about Power, some people like to be in command, whether their authority is legitimate or fake, they like to see others bow to them, obey and serve them. Not so long ago, we were meditating of how Satan enticed Jesus to adore him in exchange for all the kingdoms of the earth. Jesus came to serve and not to be served (Mk 10:45). The temptation to use others for one's glory is real for those who pursue earthly honors instead of doing good to others,

Pleasures can be found in the world of entertainment, whether sports, movies, music, and so forth. Many people would sacrifice Sunday Mass but not their movie, game, concert or show. So, where is the focus? Where is the interest? Not only that, some spend a fortune to be at that game; they travel distances to be at that show. For others, that player or singer has become an idol; they may sacrifice the Mass but go to see a human being.

Very often in funeral and memorial Masses, especially if the family have selected today's Gospel, I like to remind the congregation about the importance of our final goal which is the resurrection. The real happiness of the human being is not in money, power or pleasures or in any other earthly gain, but in God. Jesus came to show us the way that leads to the Father. He is the Way, the Truth and Life. So, "If today you hear his voice, harden not your heart". We need to hear the Lord's voice that calls us to conversion, the voice that invites us to look for true life in Jesus. Once in a while in the Scriptures, the people of Israel are treated as deaf and 'stiff-necked' (Ex 32:9; Acts 7:51) because they did not want to hear the voice of the Lord and obey him. "*I am the resurrection and life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me, will never die*" (Jn 11: 25-26).

Today, Jesus comes to strengthen us in our hope for the future life to come; the life after our earthly journey, the life of glory in heaven. Only Jesus could make such a promise to humanity because he is the Son of God, and he has the power to make this happen. Bringing back Lazarus to life was a tangible sign that he will do it for us in the life to come. All this unfolds in the Pascal Mystery that we are about to celebrate in his death and resurrection. This is the Good News we share with those who have no hope: God our Creator wants us to share his eternal glory and life, for ever and ever.

Father Ernest

Happy Lenten Season!

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY **MARCH 21**

5:00 pm † Joan Fuccillo, by Family
 † Gerald Gladstone, by Carlos Salmon Gladstone
 Birthday blessing and wellbeing of
 Bill Loughran, by Anna Marie Pierotti

SUNDAY **MARCH 22**

8:30 am † Louise M. Coyle, by Nancy Sica
 † Donna Bogdan, by Ana Maria Botero-Bogdan

11:00 am † Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

6:00 pm † Thanksgiving to St. Joseph,
 by The Creus-Reyes Family

MONDAY **MARCH 23** **ST. TURIBIUS OF MORGROVEJO**

8:30 am † Brad Leal, by Joseph & Jennifer Borba

TUESDAY **MARCH 24** **ST. OSCAR ROMERO**

8:30 am † Living & Deceased Members of our Parish
 6:00 pm **CONFESSIONS**

WEDNESDAY **MARCH 25** **THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

8:30 am † Ossi Pierotti, by Anna Marie Pierotti
 † Morris Gentry Ryan, by Rossanna Ryan
 Birthday Blessing and Wellbeing of
 Bill Loughran, by Marcia and Barry Hogan

THURSDAY **MARCH 26**

8:30 am † Living & Deceased Members of our Parish

FRIDAY **MARCH 27**

8:30 am † Patty Rebolz, by The Rebolz Family
 † Brad Leal, by Joseph & Jennifer Borba

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 pray for 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,

RCIA and FAITH FORMATION



Next class will be on **Wednesday, March 25, at 6:00 pm. in the Parish Hall.**

Classes are held on the **first and third Wednesday of each month** for adults who wish to become Catholic, and for adults who are baptized Catholic but have not received Communion and/or Confirmation.

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.

We should also make an effort to have the right attire and be punctual for Mass.



"PLEASE REMEMBER— in addition to food and hygiene items, the Pantry needs plastic grocery bags for food distribution, and empty **clean egg cartons for 12 eggs.** You can also place these items in the shopping carts. If you know of anyone in need, please tell them that a drive thru grocery distribution takes place every Friday from 1:30-4:00 PM at Blessed Sacrament

Church, and closes at 3:15 PM. The Food Bank is currently in special need of canned meat, fish or similar protein items. Please continue your support of our neighbors in need through the SVDP poor boxes in the church.

First time must provide proof of residency in Broward County.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS!

St. Vincent de Paul report for January, 2026: served **917** clients, representing **2786** individuals. The Expenses were **\$6,824.62.** This figure includes partial rent and utility requested, gift cards, and other operational costs

Each month, Mass is celebrated for the past and present benefactors. **The next Mass** will be on Wednesday, **March 25, at 8:00 AM** at Blessed Sacrament Church.

God Bless you all

REMEMBER THE SICK

Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, 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, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney, Linda Spitzer, Blake-Leigh Riley, Melissa Mirabile, Marge Mitchell, Rasoul Karimi, Jean Gorman, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Vogler, Joel Rivera, Fred Zagone S.J., Anthony Cotilus, Mark Bromage, Jonathan Hughes, Donato Montanaro, William Hirsch, Gary Demberg, Lawrence Biondi S.J., Angela Cowherd, Sean Ennis, Danielle Barisch, Deborah Castillo, Georgianna Eschen, Ruth McKelvie, Cathy Day, Mona Terry, Douglas Ham, Taylor Ellis. Monica Albelo, Jul Lenihan, Marian Lenihan, Isabel Cruz, Bill Loughran.

SAVE the DATE

- **A Weekend Retreat for the Women of St. Sebastian at Our lady of Florida Spiritual Center April 10-12, 2026**

BRIDGE TO RECOVERY



Are you concerned about someone else's drinking or using drugs or your own? We can Help!
Meetings are held every Monday, at 7:30 pm. at St. Sebastian Parish Hall.



St. Sebastian Catholic Church
SCHEDULE FOR LENT



PARISH CONFESSIONS

Tuesday, March 24th, at 6:00 pm.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

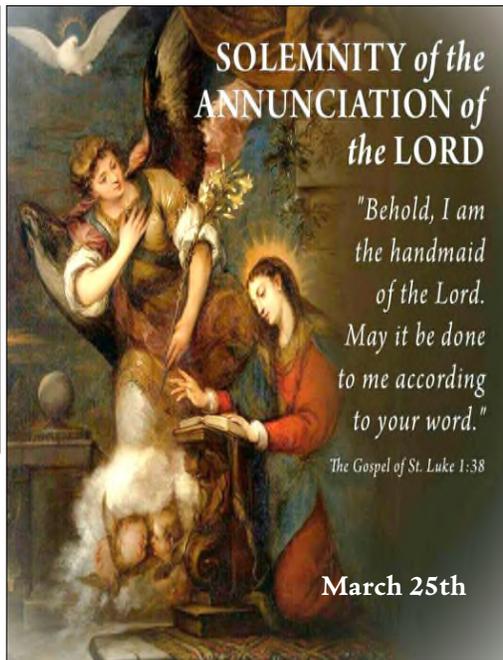
Every Friday in the church during Lent, after Mass.

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 main Church.

A Rosary a day keeps the devil away.

Fr. Ernest



SOLEMNITY of the ANNUNCIATION of the LORD

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."

The Gospel of St. Luke 1:38

March 25th

BIBLE SHARING

Join us every Thursday in the Parish Hall from 9:15 to 10:30 am.

Now sharing about:

The Gospel According to Saint John.

The facilitators are: Madlean Boutram and Lourdes Fenandez,

You may also join us online by dialing 848-777-1212; when prompted, put in 1431434#.

For more information, please contact **Miriam Rivas**



St. Sebastian Catholic Church
HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



•PALM SUNDAY - March 28th & 29th

The Passion of the Lord

Mass: 5 pm, 8:30 & 11 am and 6 pm

•Monday- Wednesday, Mass at 8:30 am

•HOLY THURSDAY - April 2nd

Mass of the Lord's Last Supper -7:00 pm

•GOOD FRIDAY, April 3rd

-Confessions - 10:00 am

-Stations of the Cross - 12:00 pm

-Passion of the Lord - 3:00 pm

•EASTER VIGIL - April 4th

Saturday, at 8:00 pm

(Please note there is no 5:00 pm Mass)

•EASTER SUNDAY - April 5th

Mass: 8:30, 11:00 am. & 6:00 pm

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

ABCD 2026

Through ABCD, we participate in that life-giving mission, supporting ministries that restore dignity and renew faith. Our generosity helps bring new life to individuals and families facing hardship. As we approach Easter, may we share the hope of Christ through our giving. Make a difference by donating to www.isupportABCD.com.

PLANNED GIVING:

A planned gift is a powerful testament of faith, allowing your values to live on. Your legacy can help proclaim the Gospel and serve those in need long into the future. Contact us today via email at kblanco@theadom.org or call us at 305-762-1053.

STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship allows us to participate in that life-giving mission. Each act of generosity becomes a sign of resurrection and renewal within our community.

"If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit dwelling in you." Romans 8:11

The Spirit of God gives us life to prepare us for a life of service and generosity to others. We are raised from the dead when we are converted from a life of selfishness and indifference.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

You may use this QR code to donate to our Parish.



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 or WWW.USCCB.ORG For Prayers, go to Mass Prayer or Order of Mass. (USCCB, stands for US Conference of Catholic Bishops).