

# Fourth Sunday of Advent

2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

[info@stsebastianfl.org](mailto: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. Msgr. James F. Fetscher  
*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  
Ann Murry  
Connie Reed  
Chuck Wobby

**PARISH WEBSITE:**  
[stsebastianfl.org](http://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 Family.



## 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.

Dear Family,

Six days before Christmas! All the merchants are telling us we still have time to get in the extra shopping to take care of the stuff and/or people we forgot. Years ago, my brothers and sisters decided that we would not do Christmas presents. Since there are seven of us, before you even got to anyone else, you'd have a pile of gifts to take care of. (Birthdays, however, are okay!)

Although I confess to working at finding easy ways of shopping online, I get a kick out of *giving* the gift. We would ask Mom what she would like for Christmas, and her constant and inevitable answer was always, "Good Children." We kept looking anyway, because sometimes it was easier to buy a present, rather than be good. In truth, however, my brothers and sisters *are* good people, and good people to know. It breaks my heart to hear of problems that families have at times.

Gift-giving is a two-way street. There needs to be someone at the receiving end, or a gift makes no sense. When we were kids, we loved getting presents. Our parents were amazing about how well they did for all of us. Money was usually (always) tight, but we felt very rich.

Growing up shifted our attitudes and giving became more important than getting.

Now I find it more difficult to *receive*. One time someone told me if you want to check out how healthy your self-image is, look at the way to accept compliments. The ideal is to be able to say "Thank you" when someone offers a compliment. My thought, after receiving a compliment, is often, "Boy, if you only knew..."

I can go on and on about gifts, etc., but instead of doing deep dives into the psychology and sociology of gift getting/giving, my question is simply this: why are we doing it in the first place?

**It's all about the *GIFT*.**

The mystery of the most profound gift of all brings us to this moment. Our imagination strain beyond the breaking point as we try to grasp a God who would go to the lengths He has, to *gift* us with the eternal life that comes through Jesus.

I titled this *Twitch* *Giftng* because we haven't just received a gift in the past. The giving keeps going on. We *constantly* receive the gift of God through Jesus. We know Jesus from the baby to the crucified and Risen Lord. As St. John tells us, God is love.

I sit on the porch at night, saying my rosary. (Many times, I'm offering it for you.) On a clear night the best part is looking up and seeing the three stars in the belt of Orion, pointing at Sirius, the brightest star in the night sky. Looking beyond into the blackness of space, you remember you've heard that the universe has countless stars, some say trillions.

And here we are on a smallest of specks in that universe, trying to image what Gift from God means. Jesus made – and makes – it real for us, and that is our true Gift that goes on forever. As our parish Christmas card said, all our staff wish you a blessed holy day and a 2022 that heals us and renews hope.

In our Savior,

*Fr. Jim*



**Mass Intentions**

- Saturday**      **December 18**  
 5:00 pm      † Patrick & Nelly O'Connor,  
                      req. by son, Christopher  
                      † James Bollman,  
                      req. by Joan & Bill Fuccillo  
                      † Peter Gorman,  
                      req. by Rosemary & Jim Guerin
- Sunday**  
 8:30 am      **December 19**  
                      Living & Deceased of our Parish  
 11:00 am      † Edward Van Gool,  
                      req. by Elaine & Alexia
- Monday**      **December 20**  
 8:30 am      † Murray Fried,  
                      req. by Rosemary & Jim Guerin
- Tuesday**      **December 21**  
 8:30 am      † Larry Johnson
- Wednesday**      **December 22**  
 8:30 am      † Doug Ausbon,  
                      req. by Mary Kennedy
- Thursday**      **December 23**  
 8:30 am      † Carlos Jimenez-Paramo,  
                      req. by Jim & Marlene Cowgill
- Friday**  
 8:30 am      **December 24**  
                      † Souls in Purgatory,  
                      req. by Richard Schmelz Family  
                      **December 24 - Christmas Eve**  
 5:00 pm      † Sam Cianciola,  
                      req. by Lisa Cianciola  
                      † Billy Fuccillo,  
                      req. by Cynthia & Carlita Cull
- MIDNIGHT:      For our Parishioners & Benefactors
- Saturday**      **December 25 - Christmas Day**  
 8:30 am      † Charles & Marie Maher,  
                      req. by Family  
                      † Alfonso Castaneda, req. by Family  
                      Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 11:00 am      Living & Deceased of our Parish
- Sunday**      **December 26**  
 8:30 am      † Intentions of the Cowgill Family  
 11:00 am      Living & Deceased of our Parish

**REMEMBER THE SICK**

Nanchine McManus, Mary Lou Mann, Suzanne Plum, Don Loughran, Jr., Jim Cowgill, Jr., Peter Hanna, Sandy Rodriguez, Lee Rodriguez, John Masna, Margaret Reitz, John Harris, Charlotte Newbury, Stephen Black, Jo Neumann, John E. Hurley, Sophia Schwab, Jonathan Hughes, Kathleen Gerium, Mary Alice Zittle, Michael Cavallaro, David Calhoun, Alvaro Arevalo, Trebor Wright, Michelline Toulouse, Kevin Rebholz, Margaret Farragher

**DIAL-IN FOR BIBLE SHARING**

Participate in our teleconferencing Scripture sharing: Call in starts at 9:05 and sharing begins at 9:15 each Thursday morning. Dial 848-777-1212. When prompted, put in 1431434 #. We will be sharing from the Book of Jeremiah. Call Mary at 954.290.1194 or Carole at 954.529.6547 for info. Please join us!

**Christmas Schedule**

**Confessions:**

Following the 8:30 am Mass on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday December 20,21,22.

OR, by calling the office and making an appointment with Monsignor.

**Christmas Masses:**

December 24 - Christmas Eve 5:00 pm & Midnight

December 25 - Christmas Day 8:30 am & 11:00 am

**PLEASE NOTE There will be no 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday, December 25th.**

**Sunday, December 26:**

**Masses at 8:30 & 11:00 am**

*O Come  
 Let us Adore Him  
 Christ the Lord!*



This Christmas, let us once again give our gifts to the Baby Jesus in the form of non-perishable food (no glass containers, please) and hygiene items for the needy families in Fort Lauderdale. Please be generous so that many will

have food on their tables on Christmas Day and beyond. Fill our church shopping items with needed items to help our less fortunate neighbors. To care is to share. If you know of any one in need, please tell them that a drive thru grocery distribution takes place every Friday from 1:30-4 PM at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1701 E. Oakland Park Blvd (entrance to parking lot on NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and closes at 3:45). First timers must provide proof of residency in Broward County.

**PROJECT RACHEL MINISTRY**

Are you suffering from the pain of abortion? God's greatest gift is to forgive you and show you his mercy. Confidential help is available. Contact Project Rachel Ministries at 1-888-456- HOPE. Don't wait. Our God is a loving and merciful God.

*Christmas Blessings to all!*

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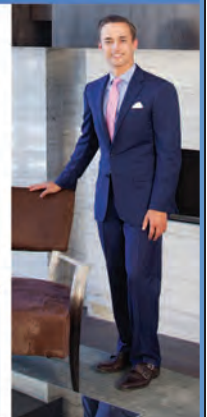
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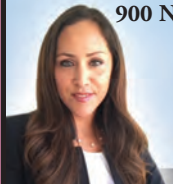
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