

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

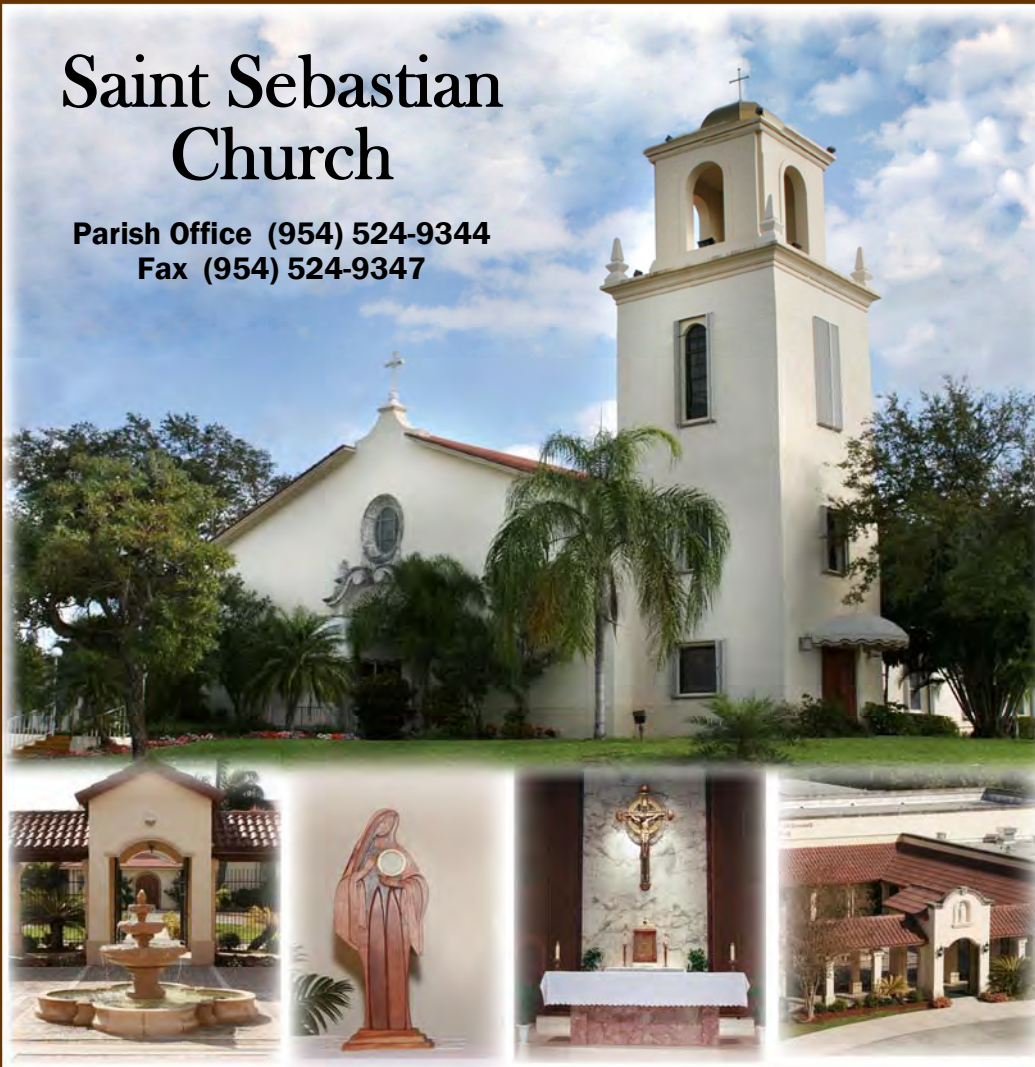
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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. 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
Patrick O'Dea
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.

Dear Family,

I put the question mark in the title because I was asking myself, am I really ready to say "Hosanna" with the crowds in Matthew's gospel? They turned out to be pretty fickle bunch after a few days. Is it conviction that motivates what I say and do, or is it convenience? I'm praying for conviction!

What motivates you? I don't mean *motivate*. I mean

MmmmOTIVATE!

I don't think Matthew's crowds were insincere. After all, their whole faith was rooted in expecting a Messiah, and Jesus was looking like he might be the One.

What got in their way? Was their faith just paper-thin? Maybe. It was certainly open to being manipulated by the religious leaders. For the leaders, Jesus is becoming an intolerable challenge to their authority. He heals the blind and the lame who weren't even supposed to enter the temple areas; he starts challenging the leaders with questions that show them for who they are, anything but religious in the best sense of the word.

'Re-ligare,' the basis of the word religion, literally means 'to re-tie.' It was the leaders who were supposed to be retying the relationships BETWEEN God and his people. All people wanted was someone who could speak clearly about God to them. Jesus was raising their hopes.

The religious leaders knew they had to blur who and what Jesus was or they would be out of their jobs. And so begins their intense work that changes the mood of the folk from the palm-waving enthusiasts to the saddened and disillusioned.

That's why it challenges me to speak the Hosanna of a triumphant Palm Sunday, because I know we will recall the betrayals and ultimate conquest of death itself before we get to Easter.

I need to immerse myself in what Jesus went through, precisely so won't dare take for granted the incredible outcome of his passion and death.

That's the journey we make together throughout these sacred days. Last Tuesday gathered us for a Service of Reconciliation. The Triduum, our three holiest days, calls us at 8:00 p.m. on Thursday and Saturday, and 3:00 p.m. on Friday.

Easter Sunday brings many visitors at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. **Be nice to them** and they will come back April 16th for Divine Mercy Sunday.

On another front, I have shared this little story with you in the past, but it is worth repeating.

You received the palm crosses as part of our celebration today. It might seem like we were too cheap to buy some larger fronds. BUT...

These crosses come from Masai, Tanzania where families weave the crosses (and more recently tote bags) throughout the year as a way of supporting their families.

Some years ago, 1965, an Episcopalian priest, Father Alan Talbot began his service for six years as a missionary in Tanzania. He looked for ways of relieving their poverty and came up with the idea of the crosses that could be sold for Palm Sunday. He returned to the States, and in 1976, the women of St. John's Episcopal Church on Olney, Maryland, undertook the huge work of distributing the palms to churches throughout the United States. AFRICAN PALMS USA continues to this day and we are happy to be a part of the project.

Our order brochure says, "Since its inception, African Palms USA has awarded nearly \$2 million to African communities to help meet basic human needs such as drinking water, HIV/AIDS education, fighting hunger and farming ventures."

Now *that* is a true **HOSANNA!**

In Jesus,



Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm	April 1 † Jose Saldivia, Jr., req. by Gabriel Saldivia Wellbeing of Jack Averell
Sunday 8:30 am	April 2 † Jim Cowgill, Jr., req. by McConvery Family
11:00 am	Living & Deceased of our Parish
Monday 8:30 am	April 3 † Dorothy Michele McMillan, req. by Frank Krauser
Tuesday 8:30 am	April 4 † Mike Stetson, req. by Mimi Bauer
Wednesday 8:30 am	April 5 † Mario Lopez-Calderon, req. by Gisella In Thanksgiving
Thursday 8:00 PM	April 6 - HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF OUR LORD'S SUPPER
Friday 3:00 PM	April 7 - GOOD FRIDAY CELEBRATION OF OUR LORD'S PASSION AND DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION
Saturday 8:00 PM	April 8 - EASTER VIGIL Living & Deceased of our Parish
Sunday 8:30 am	April 9 - EASTER † Charles & Marie Maher, req. by Family † Dolores Fink, req. by Sandra Polselli † James Curley, req. by wife
11:00 am	Living & 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, Michelline Toulouse, Paul Ristow, Ed Fetscher, Margaret Donato, Matt Keyzers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Rae Pietrzak, Tom Casey, Charles Benoit, Rob Messerschmidt, Mary Pat Connolly, Joan Cooney, Anne McCormick

IN MEMORIA

+ MARILENE AZER +
March 8, 2023

+ BARBARA BIHUS +
March 21, 2023

May their souls, 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, please call Mary Kennedy at 954-290-1194. We will be sharing from the Gospel of Matthew, with Arthur Cholakis facilitating.

SAVE THE DATE!

Sunday, April 16th at 11:00 Mass - Confirmation

Sunday, May 14th at 11:00 Mass - First Holy Communion

What a fitting way to begin Holy Week—by generously giving non-perishable food and hygiene items to the needy in our city. Let them know we care about their suffering and are willing to help them. To care is to share. **ALSO:** The St. Vincent de Paul Pantry is in need of **plastic grocery bags** for food distribution and empty, clean **egg cartons**. At times, the Pantry receives donations of eggs in bulk, so egg cartons are needed to facilitate passing them along. You can place these items - along with your donations of food and hygiene 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 residency in Broward County.**



GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION

Every year on Good Friday, a collection is taken up in Catholic Churches to support the work of the Franciscans working in the Holy Land. Christians there rely heavily on the help that comes to them from this worldwide collection. The Franciscans of the Custody of the Holy Land have the unique responsibility to care for the Holy Places as well for the “Living Stones,” the Christians living there. It is vital that we support Christians living in the Holy Land, in order to maintain a Christian presence in the very land made holy by the life, death and Resurrection of Jesus. Thank you for your generosity.

OPERATION RICE BOWL

Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and alms-giving. Through the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) Rice Bowls – which are at the church doors - families learn about how our sisters and brothers across the globe overcome hardships like hunger and malnutrition, and how through Lenten alms, we have the power to make the world a better place for all. Please consider donating the money you save by your Lenten fasting to the CRS Rice Bowl. Return the filled Rice Bowl at Mass by Sunday, April 16th. We'll combine all the donations and send a check to CRS.



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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 1-2
Mass at 5:00 pm Saturday
8:30 & 11:00 am Sunday

Monday-Wednesday, April 3-5
Mass at 8:30 am
(Confessions after Mass Monday & Tuesday).

Holy Thursday, April 6
Mass of the Lord's Supper
at 8:00 pm
(please note there is *no other Mass*
on Holy Thursday).

Good Friday, April 7
Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Distribution of Communion at 3:00 pm

Easter Vigil, April 8
Mass begins at 8:00 pm
(please note there are *no Confessions* on Holy Saturday).

Easter Sunday, April 9
Masses at 8:30 & 11:00 am