

# Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

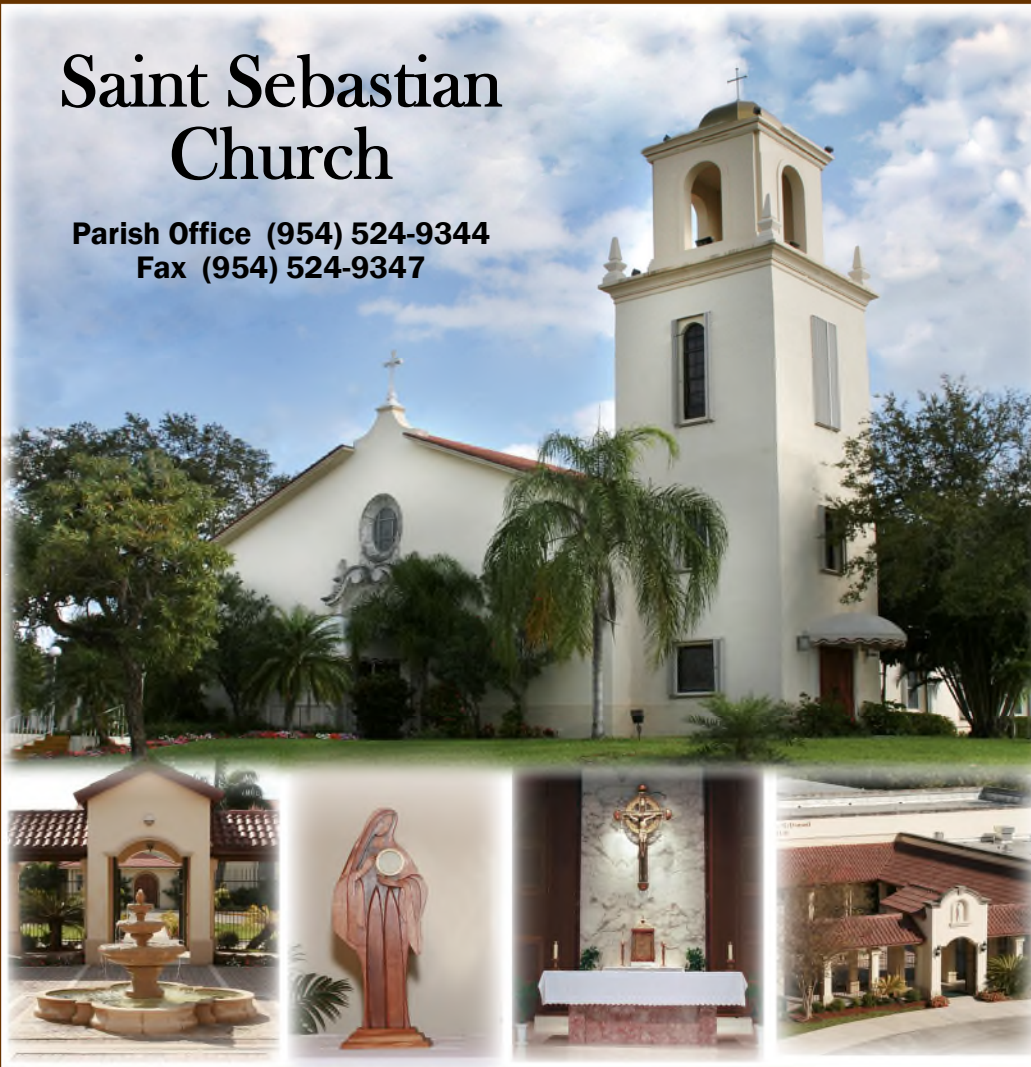
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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. Ernest Biriruka  
*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  
Richard Page  
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



## 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.

## ***From the desk of our Pastor, Father Ernest***

### **POPE FRANCIS TALKS OF THE SYNOD**

Dear brother Cardinals, brother Bishops, sisters and brothers, we are at the opening of the General Assembly of the Synod. Here we do not need a purely natural vision, made up of human strategies, political calculations or ideological battles. We are not here to carry out a parliamentary meeting or a plan of reformation. No. We are here to walk together with the gaze of Jesus, who blesses the Father and welcomes those who are weary and oppressed. So let us start from the gaze of Jesus, which is a blessing and welcoming gaze.

It is, first of all, a gaze that blesses. Though having experienced rejection and having seen around him so much hardness of heart, Christ does not let himself be imprisoned by disappointment, he does not become bitter, he does not cease to praise; his heart, founded on the primacy of the Father, remains serene even in the storm.

This gaze of the Lord that blesses also invites us to be a church that, with a glad heart, contemplates God's action and discerns the present. And which, amid the sometimes agitated waves of our time, does not lose heart, does not seek ideological loopholes, does not barricade itself behind preconceived notions, does not give in to convenient solutions, does not let the world dictate its agenda. This is the spiritual wisdom of the church, summarized with serenity by Saint John XXIII: "It is necessary first of all that the church should never depart from the sacred patrimony of truth received from the Fathers. But at the same time she must ever look to the present, to the new conditions and new forms of life introduced into the modern world which have opened new avenues to the Catholic apostolate" (Address for the Solemn Opening of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, 11 October 1962).

Jesus' gaze that blesses invites us to be a church that does not face today's challenges and problems with a divisive and contentious spirit but, on the contrary, turns its eyes to God who is communion and, with awe and humility, blesses and adores him, recognizing him as its only Lord. We belong to him and – let us remember – we exist only to bring him to the world. As the Apostle Paul told us, we have no other "glory except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Gal 6:14). This is enough for us; he is enough for us. We do not want earthly glory; we do not want to make ourselves attractive in the eyes of the world, but to reach out to it with the consolation of the Gospel, to bear witness to God's infinite love, in a better way and to everyone. Indeed, as Benedict XVI said, precisely when speaking to a synod assembly, "the question for us is this: God has spoken, he has truly broken the great silence, he has shown himself, but how can we communicate this reality to the people of today, so that it becomes salvation?" (Meditation, First General Congregation of the XIII Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops, 8 October 2012). This is the fundamental question. And this is the primary task of the Synod: to refocus our gaze on God, to be a church that looks mercifully at humanity. A Church that is united and fraternal, that listens and dialogues; a church that blesses and encourages, that helps those who seek the Lord, that lovingly stirs up the indifferent, that opens paths in order to draw people into the beauty of faith. A Church that has God at its center and, therefore, is not divided internally and is never harsh externally. This is how Jesus wants the church, his Bride, to be.

***HOMILY OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS***

***OPENING OF THE ORDINARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE SYNOD OF BISHOPS***

**Mass Intentions**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

- Saturday**  
5:00 pm      **October 14**  
† Ellie Loughran, req. by husband, Bill  
† William Thau, req. by Rosemary & Jim  
† Sue Adams, req. by Rosemary & Jim
- Sunday**  
8:30 am      **October 15**  
† Dolores Fink, req. by Sandra Polselli  
† Steve Sjoblom, req. by Susie O'Leary  
† Terence Clark, req. by Mitra Ziainia
- 11:00      Living and Deceased of our Parish
- Monday**  
8:30 am      **October 16**  
† Steve Sjoblom,  
req. by Mona Hamawy
- Tuesday**  
8:30 am      **October 17**  
Wellbeing of Barry Hogan,  
req. by Marcia Hogan
- Wednesday**  
8:30 a.m.      **October 18**  
Peace in the Middle East
- Thursday**  
8:30 am      **October 19**  
Priests of the Archdiocese
- Friday**  
8:30 am      **October 20**  
Souls in Purgatory
- Saturday**  
5:00 pm      **October 21**  
Living and Deceased of our Parish
- Sunday**  
8:30 am      **October 22**  
† Charles & Marie Maher, req. by Family  
† Dr. Richard Black,  
req. by Stephen & Sandy Black  
Wellbeing of Edward Bestoso,  
req. by Al & Lila Ferzacca
- 11:00 am      Success of the Synod on Synodality

- Sunday, October 22 – 5:00 pm** - Solemn Vespers & presentation of Jubilee Crosses Cathedral of St. Mary
- Sunday, October 22** - Bloodmobile here 10-1]]
- Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Oct. 20, 21, 22** Shalom Retreat at St. Sebastian
- Saturday, Oct. 28 - 8:30** Sandwich Ministry
- Thursday, November 2- 9:00 a.m.** Men's Club Meeting
- Friday, November 3 - 12:00** - SSCCW Luncheon
- Saturday, November 11 - 6:30 pm** - Archdiocese of Miami 65th Anniversary Gala & Concert, Miami Beach Convention Center
- Friday, November 17 - 7:00 pm** Social Dancing, Instruction and practice.

How fortunate we are to be blessed with the many necessities of life. This is not so for many in our city. We must share with the blessings God has given us with those in need. Remember to add weekly non-perishable food and hygiene items to our church shopping carts. To care is to share.



**PLEASE REMEMBER:** The Pantry needs **plastic grocery bags** for food distribution and empty, clean (6 or 12) **egg cartons**. You can place these 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 1:30-3:45 PM at Blessed Sacrament Church, 1701 E Oakland Park Blvd** (entrance to the parking lot is located on NE 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and will be **closed at 3:15**). First timers must provide proof of Broward County residency.

**REGISTRATION**

If you attend Mass at St. Sebastian regularly, please become a registered member of our parish. Complete a registration form (found at the Welcome Table at the main entrance of the church) or by calling the office. Thank you.

**SOCIAL DANCING**

Social Dancing Instruction and Practice is a continuation of last November's group instruction for those without two left feet In the Parish Hall. This activity is being sponsored by the Men's Club.

**REMEMBER THE SICK**

Mary Lou Mann, Suzanne Plum, Don Loughran, Jr., Sandy Rodrigues, John Harris, Stephen Black, Mary Alice Zittle, Alvaro Arevalo, Paul Ristow, Matt Keyzers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Tom Casey, Charles Benoit, Rob Messerschmidt, Mary Pat Connolly, Anne McCormick, Patricia Moss, Patty Marma, Diane Johnson, Jim Guerin, Susan Lochrie, Agnes McCauley, Teri Beth Gooch, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney

**WORLD MISSION SUNDAY**



Next week, we join the global Church in celebrating World Mission Sunday. This year, Pope Francis provides the theme: "Hearts on fire, feet on the move." Let's ignite our hearts with Christ's love and extend that warmth to the most vulnerable corners of our world. Our fervent prayers and generosity in the collection for the Propagation of the Faith helps the missionaries working in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and regions of Latin America and Europe.

**SHALOM RETREAT**

This is an inner healing retreat to encourage introspection and to open hearts to experience the love of God through a healing, cleansing, and sanctifying experience. The retreat will nourish you to look up to Him with renewed faith and a refreshed spirit. Oct. 20-22, 2023 at St. Sebastian. Call 954.494.4978 for information & registration.

**SANDWICH MINISTRY**

The Sandwich Ministry will meet on Saturday, October 28 at 8:30 am in the Parish Hall to make bagged lunches for some of our homeless brothers and sisters.

  
**PRAYER TO AVERT HURRICANES**  
 Father, all the elements of nature obey your commands. Protect us and all your people during this season of storms and hurricanes. Calm our fears and help us prepare our hearts as well as our homes. Help us see you in all we may encounter, and help us to minister to each other in your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.  




## ***The Story of our Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary***

Approximately one year ago, Msgr. Fetscher called the Pickel Studio to discuss adding the Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary to the St. Sebastian sanctuary. The Pickel Studio had previously designed and created the “Mary, Star of the Sea” mosaic on the north side of the church. The other three sets of the Mysteries of the Rosary in the sanctuary are depicted in glass, but no glass locations remained. After looking at various possible solutions, Monsignor decided that the balcony railing offered an ideal and prominent location. It was agreed that the new stations needed to be fairly large and must have color.

The Pickel Studio has worked with wood carvers in Germany and Northern Italy for over 75 years. The Demetz Studio of Ortisei, Italy, is world renowned for their artists and carvers and Pickel closely worked with this outstanding studio to create these new hand carved Luminous Mysteries. Each station is approximately 29” x 40”.

Driving South from Innsbruck, Austria, passing through the Brenner Pass and then heading South toward Verona, Italy, one passes spectacular mountain vistas. Near Bolzano, Italy, a narrow mountain road with twisting turns and tunnels leads East up a tight valley. As one continues higher and higher, the road suddenly opens into the spectacular Groeden Valley. The valley is famous for skiing and mountain climbing, and over hundreds of years, developed its reputation for outstanding wood carvers. Over the centuries, the valley was virtually isolated because of the difficulty reaching the area. It was so isolated that the area developed its own language, which is still spoken in the villages today. Farmers, who tended their crops and livestock in the summers, developed their skill and love of wood carving during the long winters. The art grew and has been passed down from generation to generation.

Today, in the city of St. Ulrich (German) Ortisei (Italian) and Urtijei (local language) the carvers turn blocks of laminated butcherblock Lindenwood into amazing works of art. Lindenwood is grown in central Europe and is prized for the quality of the wood. It is virtually knot free and has a beautiful soft grain. Like stone carvers, the blocks of laminated wood are rough cut with special tools, then more and more details are achieved with more and more precise cutting tools. Once completed in Italy, and once a final coat of wax was applied, the carvings were sent to the Pickel Studio in Vero Beach. Pickel craftsmen then delivered and installed each carving.

Msgr. Fetscher’s dream is fulfilled. The new Luminous Mysteries now complete the Mysteries of the Rosary in St. Sebastian Catholic Church.

Paul Pickel, President  
Conrad Pickel Studio, Inc.

### **The Luminous Mysteries of the Rosary**

(from Left to Right:)

The Baptism of Jesus

The Wedding Feast at Cana

Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

The Transfiguration

Institution of the Holy Eucharist