

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

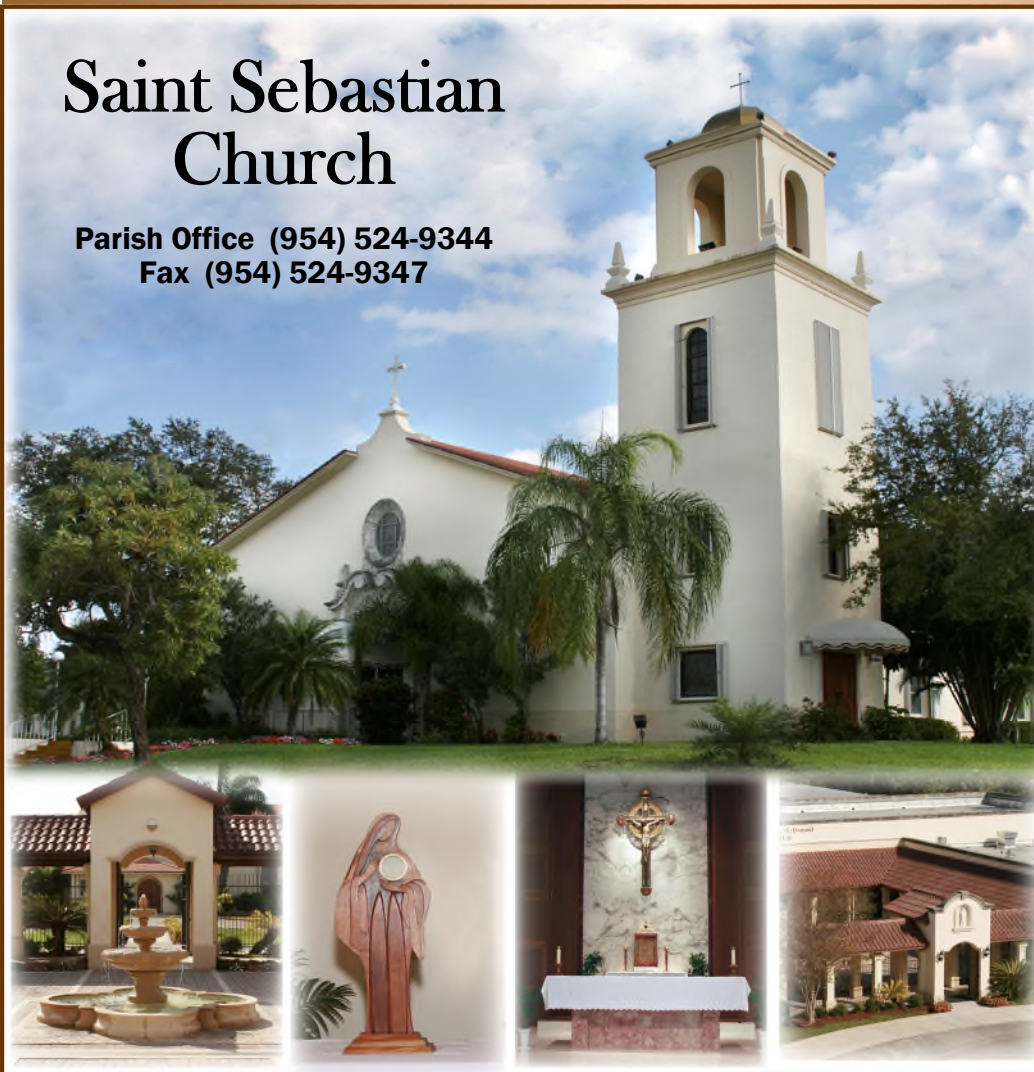
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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. 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

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

A SHORT REFLECTION ON OUR SOCIETIES

by Robert Cardinal Sarah

Do you think that the Western democracies have been taken hostage by a financial oligarchy?

It is commonly admitted that democracy is the ideal political system. We are familiar with the quip by Winston Churchill: "Democracy is the worst form of government, except for all others." This is one of the most durable aphorisms in the political debate.

Today, however, democracies are held hostage by powerful financial oligarchies. They have become the privileged system of powerful little groups that watch out primarily for their interests quoted on the stock market. Government of the people by the people has become the subjection of the people by high finance.

In Guinea, with Sekou Toure, I experienced Marxist democracy. The people were supposed to hold all the powers. In reality, they were oppressed, starving, and crushed.

In the West, after the disasters of Nazism and Communism, they tried to assure the success of the so-called liberal democracies. These regimes claim to be open, tolerant, and progressive. Nevertheless, the power of the people has become an illusion that the media try to substantiate daily.

How can anyone continue to pretend that the people are sovereign? Look at the shameless way in which the power of the people is ceaselessly thwarted in order to strengthen the power of a small group of privileged persons.

Democracy is sick. The corruption of the Western governments is in no way inferior to that of the poor countries of the Southern Hemisphere. I am revolted by the violence that is perpetrated against the French demonstrators who are called the "gilet jaunes" (yellow jackets). Repression is becoming a more and more common *modus operandi* in the Western democracies. Furthermore, I cannot believe that the bureaucratic institutions of the European Union really want to defend the interest of the peoples. Democracy has been deified. Now though, it is displaying totalitarian excesses. I am worried when I see the Western powers pretend to set up democracy in poor countries through armed intervention. Their populations know nothing about the characteristics of this form of government that others claim to establish by force.

How do you judge the truth of capitalism in practice?

A semantic shift has occurred. We no longer talk about capitalism but about economic liberalism or about a decentralized economy. The proponents of Capitalism think that free competition is the only possible way to make progress. The profit earned by businesses is supposed to help all to improve their standard of living and to obtain more opportunities for development, convenience, and well-being.

In reality, capitalism, is based on the idol of money. The lure of gain gradually destroys all social bonds. Capitalism devours itself. Little by little, the market destroys the value of work. Man becomes a piece of merchandise. He is no longer his own. The result is a new form of slavery, a system in which a large part of the population is dependent on a little caste.

In these conditions, do solidarity and development still have any meaning?

The truth of capitalism must be judged by the yardstick of the freedom that each person can keep and increase. It is clear that today the managers, like the hired workers, are caught in the gears of national and international decisions that limit their freedom. I often have the feeling that the material well-being of the West was acquired at the price of a sort of moral decline of the populations. Therefore, it is necessary to state clearly the distinction between an economy founded on freedom of enterprise and a capitalist system founded on the profit motive. Economic freedom implies our responsibility as men before God and our fellow citizens. It is not an absolute without rules or limits. It is at the service of everyone's good. Its objective is the friendship of all in the civilization. It must therefore be regulated by a certain sobriety and temperance, or else it becomes blind and violent. A freedom that aims only at profit ends up destroying itself.

Extract from **The Day Is Now Far Spent**

Chapter 14



ATTENTION

Women of St. Sebastian Parish

St. Sebastian Council of Catholic Women Invites you to a luncheon of our first meeting of the 2023-24 Season November 3rd Mass 11:00 (Chapel) 12 noon Luncheon

We would love it if you would [consider joining us as a member](#) of the St. Sebastian Council of Catholic Women. We meet from [November through April on the First Friday of every month at 9:00 am](#), following the 8:30 am daily Mass.

Our membership fee is [only \\$20.00 per year](#). The many benefits of becoming a member of SSCCW include spiritual enrichment, fellowship, social events, and empowerment. It is a great way to socialize with like-minded women and enjoy spectacular events throughout the year.

You will also benefit by putting your skills toward helping those in need.
SSCCW assists:

[Covenant House](#) – You will help bring smiles to the faces of children who are now off the streets because of this wonderful organization. SSCCW donates needed and desired items every Christmas.

[Respect Life](#) – You will help us collect clothing and other needed items for babies at our annual baby shower as this organization helps young mothers to raise their child through education and donations.

[Turning Point](#) – You will help this organization which assists children 18 years of age who are timed out of the foster care program and transition to independence. Some of them are still in high school when this happens.