

First Sunday of Advent

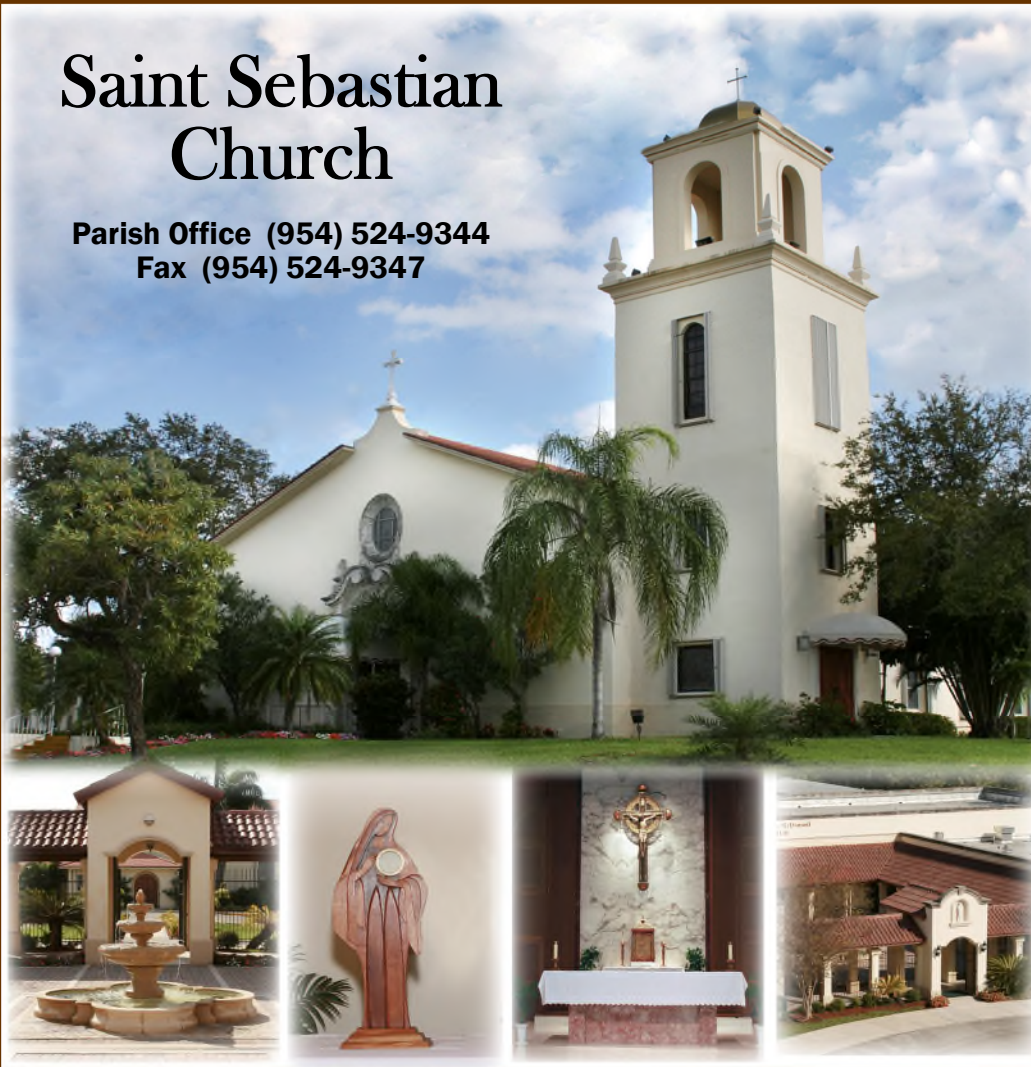
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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

ADVENT SEASON

My dear brothers and sisters, we are starting another Liturgical Year on this first Sunday of Advent. I feel so excited about it. We're going to pray and sing calling upon the Lord that he may come to us again.

In fact, during the first two weeks of Advent, the accent will be on his coming again in glory as we profess in the Creed, 'He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end'. This aspect makes us remember and consider our final destination when Jesus will manifest his heavenly glory to us in the new world to come.

Closer to Christmas, the accent will be put on the birth of Jesus, how his coming is foretold by the Prophets, announced to Mary and Joseph, until when he is born in Betlehem. So, the reason why I feel excited is that now I know Advent does not start a 'cyclical' like event. It rather means moving forward toward the full revelation of our salvation.

The Messiah we wait for will bring us salvation, peace and joy; he will help us be reconciled. All nations will enjoy his peace, justice and light. Right now, in my mind I am thinking of peace in these countries with devastating wars: Israel and Gaza, Ukraine and Congo, Sudan and horrible sufferings in many other countries that are going through social turmoil such as Nicaragua, Venezuela, Haiti. May the Messiah help us to settle those conflicts and find peace. May his teachings inspire world leaders to seek reconciliation and unity rather than selfish interests.

But we need the Messiah also in the Church, so that we can open more our minds and hearts to his Word. May Jesus come and renew our lives and make us focus more on his ways. We all know this, that as human beings we tend to walk away from him; we tend to look for our joys in places and things that are contrary to his commands. Some time when we look around us, we realize that many go on with their lives as if God does not matter (according to the expression of our Archbishop Wenski). Technology and entertainment mobilize the attention and captivate our dreams of what we can discover, fabricate or as humans. We would like to invent new ways of life, new things; we are restless and only content with our achievements and fail to see the Creator of all things from whom all comes. We need to realize again that the world would be nothing without God and his Son, Jesus the Messiah. But let us be clear: for sure God also likes our scientific and technological achievements; he likes to see that are not apathetic but that we are rather active, using the gifts and talents he gave us in order to find out new possibilities, new horizons. We just have to realize that new possibilities or new horizons that turn us away from God and the happiness he has promised us are not healthy for us and for the world.

So, Advent is this wonderful Season which reminds us of what matters most: God and his 'Anointed One' whom he sends to save the world. With Jesus, the world finds the way to true happiness which is the way of Love; Love of God and of one another; the way of holiness whereby we are purified of our sinful ways and can live again free of our vices and addictions, of our hatreds and selfishness. Goodness, Justice and Peace can flourish again as Psalm 89 sings. May Jesus come to heal those wounds in our families, to give hope to the youth; may he teach our humanity to care for life, especially for the unborn, and also to preserve the life of our unique planet. May the gifts we give to each other in this season remind us that Jesus is alive and loves us, that he is 'the reason for the Season'.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 2 † Paul Garner, req. by Sandi & John Mann
Sunday 8:30 am	December 3 † Sister Mary Rowley, S.C. Wellbeing of Barry Hogan, req. by Sue & Scott Martinez
11:00 am	Living & Deceased of our Parish
Monday 8:30 am	December 4 Wellbeing of Barry Hogan, req. by Grace Middlemiss
Tuesday 8:30 am	December 5 Wellbeing of Frank Krauser
Wednesday 8:30 am	December 6 † Margaret Barrosse
Thursday 8:30 am	December 7 Wellbeing of Barry Hogan, req. by Mary Kennedy
Friday 8:30 am	December 8 - Immaculate Conception Priests of our Archdiocese
6:00 pm	Living & Deceased of our Parish
Saturday 5:00 pm	December 9 † Pasquale Polsell, req. by Sandra Polsell † Grace & Murray Toomey, req. by M.L. Toomey
Sunday 8:30 am	December 10 † Dolores Fink, req. by Sandra Polsell Wellbeing of Marcia Hogan, req. by Barry Hogan
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, Paul Ristow, Matt Keysers, 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, Lila Ferzacca, Cash Dugan, Harriette Sessa, Barry Hogan

IN MEMORIUM

**+ MARY ALICE ZITTLE +
November 27, 2023**

*May her soul, and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God,
rest in peace. Amen .*



JOY OF SOX

Our JOY OF SOX drive continues. Thank you to those who have donated to help the homeless in Fort Lauderdale. Our healthcare system spends millions of dollars on podiatric care for the homeless who find it difficult to keep their feet healthy. A clean **NEW** pair of socks will help to keep their feet healthy and happy. Tube socks for men or women are preferred. 20% of the homeless are women. "Whoever brings blessings will be enriched and one who waters will himself be watered." Proverbs 11:25

SAVE THE DATE

Tuesday, December 5 - 7:30 pm Nova Singers
Wednesday, December 6 - 6:00 pm - R.C.I.A.
Saturday, December 9 - 8:30 am - Sandwich Ministry
Tuesday, December 12 - 6:00 pm - Advent Reconciliation Service
Weekend of December 16-17 - St. Vincent de Paul truck here.

"They need not go away hungry, give them something to eat." (Matthew 14:16) This phrase was spoken by Jesus over 2,000 years ago, but it is still relevant today. We as followers of Jesus must provide for the less fortunate families in our city with non-perishable food and hygiene items. Please fill the church shopping carts with these items and we will not send them away hungry. 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!



NOVA SINGERS HOLIDAY CONCERT

The Nova Singers will perform at St. Sebastian Church on Tuesday, December 5th beginning at 7:30 pm. Advance tickets are available in the Parish Office for \$20. Children under 12, and any student with a school ID free. On Concert Day, tickets are \$25. Make checks payable to Nova Singers NSU.

R.C.I.A.

Classes for those wishing to become Catholic as well as those wishing to learn to more about our Faith meet on December 6th, and the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. For more information and to register, please call the Parish Office.

**SPECIAL COLLECTION
NEXT WEEKEND**



Please give generously to the upcoming collection.
**Retirement Fund
for Religious**

You can help. "Religious are blessed to serve," says Dominican Father Bertrand Ebben, age 90. Please donate to the Retirement Fund for Religious next week. Your gift will provide essential care for nearly 25,000 senior sisters, brothers and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to serving others. Let us show our gratitude to these selfless individuals by giving generously

ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Please mark your calendars for our Advent Reconciliation Service to take place on Tuesday, December 12th beginning at 6:00 pm in the church. There will be the opportunity for individual confessions to help spiritually prepare for Christmas.



PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE

Disabled parking spaces are reserved only for those who have a handicapped license plate or visible permit displayed on their vehicle. Please be considerate of those who need this accommodation.

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, call Mary Kennedy at 954-290-1194. We will be sharing from Romans with Arthur Cholakis facilitating.

Have a reflective week!



**THE MOST
WONDERFUL
TIME OF THE YEAR!**

**Nova Singers
Holiday Concert**

**Tuesday, December 5
7:30 p.m.**

St. Sebastian Catholic Church

2000 Marietta Avenue
Fort Lauderdale 33316

Advance Tickets:

tinyurl.com/Fall2023Concerts

Tickets: \$20 in
advance, \$25 at the
door. Children 12 and
younger and students
with ID FREE



**NOVA
SINGERS**