

# Second Sunday of Advent

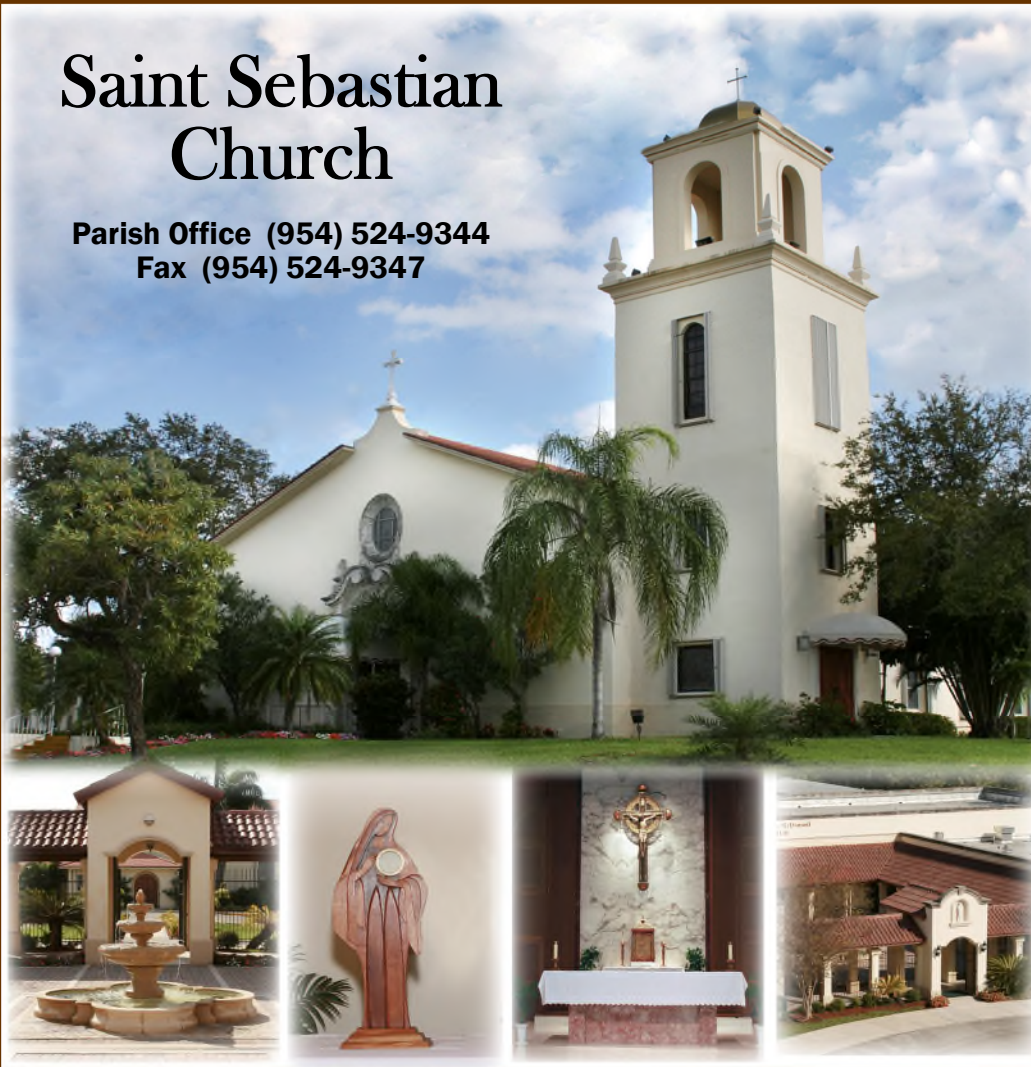
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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. 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***

### **Extracts from the Address of His Holiness Pope Francis to the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP28)**

I am with you because now more than ever, the future of us all depends on the present that we now choose. I am with you because the destruction of the environment is an offence against God, a sin that is not only personal but also structural, one that greatly endangers all human beings, especially the most vulnerable in our midst and threatens to unleash a conflict between generations. I am with you because climate change is “a global social issue and one intimately related to the dignity of human life” (Apostolic Exhortation *Laudate Deum*, 3). I am with you to raise the question which we must answer now: Are we working for a culture of life or a culture of death? To all of you I make this heartfelt appeal: Let us choose life! Let us choose the future! May we be attentive to the cry of the earth, may we hear the plea of the poor, may we be sensitive to the hopes of the young and the dreams of children! We have a grave responsibility: to ensure that they not be denied their future.

It has now become clear that the climate change presently taking place stems from the overheating of the planet, caused chiefly by the increase of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere due to human activity, which in recent decades has proved unsustainable for the ecosystem. The drive to produce and possess has become an obsession, resulting in an inordinate greed that has made the environment the object of unbridled exploitation. The climate, run amok, is crying out to us to halt this illusion of omnipotence. Let us once more recognize our limits, with humility and courage, as the sole path to a life of authentic fulfilment.

What stands in the way of this? The divisions that presently exist among us. Yet a world completely connected, like ours today, should not be un-connected by those who govern it, with international negotiations that “cannot make significant progress due to positions taken by countries which place their national interests above the global common good” (Encyclical Letter *Laudato Si'*, 169). We find ourselves facing firm and even inflexible positions calculated to protect income and business interests, at times justifying this on the basis of what was done in the past, and periodically shifting the responsibility to others. Yet the task to which we are called today is not about yesterday, but about tomorrow: a tomorrow that, whether we like it or not, will belong to everyone or else to no one.

Particularly striking in this regard are the attempts made to shift the blame onto the poor and high-birth rates. These are falsities that must be firmly dispelled. It is not the fault of the poor, since the almost half of our world that is more needy is responsible for scarcely 10% of toxic emissions, while the gap between the opulent few and the masses of the poor has never been so abysmal. The poor are the real victims of what is happening: we need think only of the plight of indigenous peoples, deforestation, the tragedies of hunger, water and food insecurity, and forced migration. Births are not a problem, but a resource: they are not opposed to life, but for life, whereas certain ideological and utilitarian models now being imposed with a velvet glove on families and peoples constitute real forms of colonization. The development of many countries, already burdened by grave economic debt, should not be penalized; instead, we should consider the footprint of a few nations responsible for a deeply troubling “ecological debt” towards many others (cf. *ibid.*, 51-52). It would only be fair to find suitable means of remitting the financial debts that burden different peoples, not least in light of the ecological debt that they are owed.

Once more I present this proposal: “With the money spent on weapons and other military expenditures, let us establish a global fund that can finally put an end to hunger” (Encyclical Letter *Fratelli Tutti*, 262; cf. SAINT PAUL VI, Encyclical Letter *Populorum Progressio*, 51) and carry out works for the sustainable development of the poorer countries and for combating climate change.



**Mass Intentions**

**SAVE THE DATE**

<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 9</b> † Pasquale Polsell, req. by Sandra Polsell † Grace & Murray Toomey, req. by M.L. Toomey
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 10</b> † Dolores Fink, req. by Sandra Polsell Wellbeing of Marcia Hogan, req. by Barry Hogan
11:00 am	Living & Deceased of our Parish
<b>Monday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 11</b> † Antonia Garcia-Reyes, req. by Sean Middlemiss
<b>Tuesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 12</b> Wellbeing of Kitty McGinity, req. by Grace Middlemiss
<b>Wednesday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 13</b> † Mary Elizabeth Floeck, req. by Kathleen Hulsy
<b>Thursday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 14</b> † Ossi Pierotti, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti
<b>Friday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 15</b> Wellbeing of Barry Hogan, req. by Marcia Hogan Wellbeing of Father Lawrence Biondi, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti
<b>Saturday</b> 5:00 pm	<b>December 16</b> Priests & Religious of our Archdiocese
<b>Sunday</b> 8:30 am	<b>December 17</b> † Marilyn White, req. by son, Gil
11:00 am	Living & Deceased of our Parish

**Tuesday, December 12 - 6:00 pm** - Reconciliation Service for Advent  
**Friday, December 15** - Council of Catholic Women meeting with Christmas program by St. Anthony Middle School Choir  
**Weekend of December 16-17** - St. Vincent de Paul truck here.

*"Bear one another's burdens, and so you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2).* By your weekly donations of non-perishable food and hygiene items to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Bank, we are helping to lift some of the burdens of the needy in Fort Lauderdale. How fortunate we are to be in a position to share our gifts with them. Let's fill the church shopping carts to the brim! 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 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 3:15). First timers must provide proof of residency in Broward County.



**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICE**

Our Advent Reconciliation Service will take place **this 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. Copies of an Examination of Conscience are available at the church doors.

**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 the first and third Wednesday of the month at 6:00 pm. For more information and to register, please call the Parish Office.

**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.

**CHRISTMAS WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

Masses for the **Fourth Sunday of Advent** :  
 Saturday, December 23 at 5:00 pm  
 Sunday, December 24 at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Masses for **Christmas**:  
 Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 5:00 pm  
 Christmas Day, Dec. 25 at 8:30 & 11:00 am

**REMEMBER THE SICK**

Mary Lou Mann, Suzanne Plum, Don Loughran, Jr., Sandy Rodrigues, John

Harris, Stephen Black, 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, Lila Ferzacca, Cash Dugan, Harriette Sessa, Barry Hogan, Bridget Gilligan

**JOY OF SOX**



Our JOY OF SOX drive continues through next weekend. 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.

**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.



*For unto us a Child is born.*

*Unto us a Son is given.*

*And there was a multitude of Angels  
singing Glory to God in the highest.*

**St. Sebastian Council of Catholic Women**

**Invites Parishioners and Guests**

**Friday, December 15, 2023**

**8:30 am Mass**

**9:15 am Continental Breakfast**

**9:30 am Concert**



**St. Anthony Middle School Choir  
Presents their Christmas Program in Msgr. McDonnell Hall**