

Third Sunday of Advent

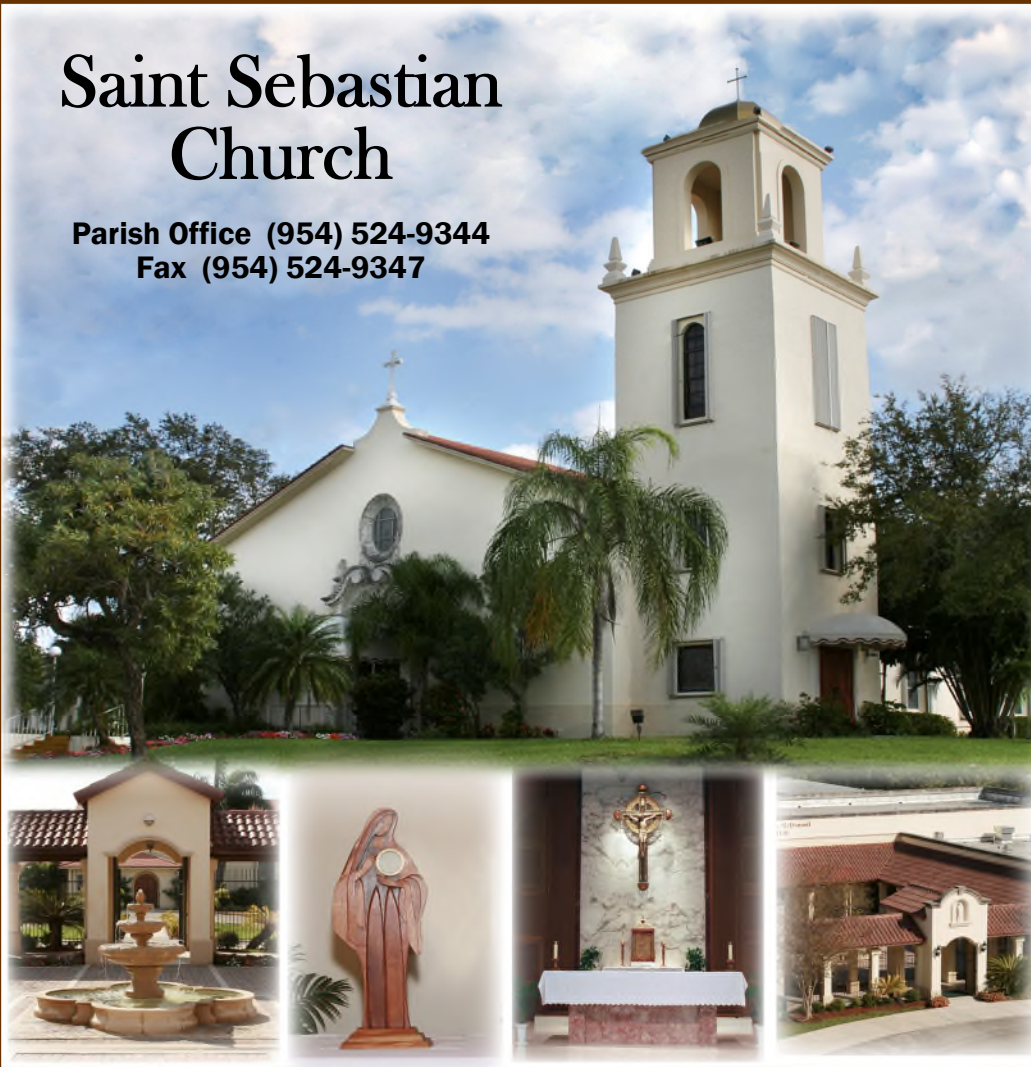
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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

"Jesus was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary."

Here is what the Church teaches us about this belief.

I . CONCEIVED BY THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT •••

484 The Annunciation to Mary inaugurates "the fullness of time," the time of the fulfillment of God's promises and preparations. Mary was invited to conceive him in whom the "whole fullness of deity" would dwell "bodily." The divine response to her question, "How can this be, since I know not man?" was given by the power of the Spirit: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you."

485 The mission of the Holy Spirit is always conjoined and ordered to that of the Son. The Holy Spirit, "the Lord, the giver of Life," is sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary and divinely fecundate it, causing her to conceive the eternal Son of the Father in a humanity drawn from her own.

486 The Father's only Son, conceived as man in the womb of the Virgin Mary, is "Christ," that is to say, anointed by the Holy Spirit, from the beginning of his human existence, though the manifestation of this fact takes place only progressively: to the shepherds, to the magi, to John the Baptist, to the disciples. Thus the whole life of Jesus Christ will make manifest "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. "

II . . . BORN OF THE VIRGIN MARY

487 What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ, and what it teaches about Christ illumines in turn its faith in Mary.

Mary's predestination

488 "God sent forth his Son," but to prepare a body for him, he wanted the free cooperation of a creature. For this, from all eternity God chose for the mother of his Son a daughter of Israel, a young Jewish woman of Nazareth in Galilee, "a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary" :

The Father of mercies willed that the Incarnation should be preceded by assent on the part of the predestined mother, so that just as a woman had a share in the coming of death, so also should a woman contribute to the coming of life.

489 Throughout the Old Covenant the mission of many holy women *prepared* for that of Mary. At the very beginning there was Eve; despite her disobedience, she receives the promise of a posterity that will be victorious over the evil one, as well as the promise that she will be the mother of all the living. By virtue of this promise, Sarah conceives a son in spite of her old age. Against all human expectation God chooses those who were considered powerless and weak to show forth his faithfulness to his promises: Hannah, the mother of Samuel; Deborah; Ruth; Judith and Esther; and many other women. Mary "stands out among the poor and humble of the Lord, who confidently hope for and receive salvation from him. After a long period of waiting the times are fulfilled in her, the exalted Daughter of Sion, and the new plan of salvation is established."

The Immaculate Conception

490 To become the mother of the Savior, Mary "was enriched by God with gifts appropriate to such a role." The angel Gabriel at the moment of the annunciation salutes her as "full of grace." In fact, in order for Mary to be able to give the free assent of her faith to the announcement of her vocation, it was necessary that she be wholly borne by God's grace.

491 Through the centuries the Church has become ever more aware that Mary, "full of grace" through God, was redeemed from the moment of her conception. That is what the dogma of the Immaculate Conception confesses, as Pope Pius IX proclaimed in 1854:

The most Blessed Virgin Mary was, from the first moment of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege of almighty God and by virtue of the merits of Jesus Christ, Savior of the human race, preserved immune from all stain of original sin.

—from *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, paragraphs 484-491

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 16 Priests & Religious of our Archdiocese
Sunday 8:30 am	December 17 † Marilyn White, req. by son, Gil
11:00 am	Living & Deceased of our Parish
Monday 8:30 am	December 18 † Hugo & Albertina Biondi, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti † Bridget Gilligan
Tuesday 8:30 am	December 19 † Roy, Bea, Larry Biondi, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti
Wednesday 8:30 am	December 20 † Margaret Barrosse Wellbeing of Maria Pierotti, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti
Thursday 8:30 am	December 21 † Silvio, Rosa Pierotti, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti
Friday 8:30 am	December 22 † George Castillo, req. by Grace Middlemiss
Saturday 5:00 pm	December 23 Living & Deceased of our Parish
Sunday 8:30 am	December 24 † Dolores Hesse Fink, req. by husband, Jack In Thanksgiving, req. by Maher Family
11:00 am	Priests & Religious of our Archdiocese

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

JOY OF SOX

Thank you so much to those who donated socks for our homeless brothers and sisters. The socks will be distributed by Hope South Florida at its trailers on Andrews Avenue which provide showers and social services to the homeless. To over 1,000 people a month! Ah, the JOY of a new pair of clean, new socks! Please take a moment to imagine a homeless person's delight with his or her new socks. Again, thank you. *"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered."* (Proverbs 11:25)

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Weekend of December 16-17 - St. Vincent de Paul truck here.

Sunday, December 17 - Men's meeting after 8:30 Mass.
Sunday, December 17 - 10am-1pm – Bloodmobile here

Even though the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at Blessed Sacrament Church was only open on three Fridays during the month of November (they were closed the day after Thanksgiving), they served 672 clients representing 2,111 individuals. Their weekly numbers were up significantly. Because of the generous donations of food and monetary donations from surrounding parishes and many individuals, they had sufficient food to meet the demand, and are grateful to all of you for your continued support of this ministry. **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 33rd Street and closes at 3:15). First timers must provide proof of residency in Broward County.



CAN YOU HELP?

As we get near Christmas, please consider making a Christmas gift to our Parish. My dear Parishioners, our facilities need repairs urgently:

- The A/C for the Chapel needs to be replaced.
- Leaks in the walkway by the Chapel and the entrance to the office;
- Multiple leaks in the roof of the rectory; there are so many that they advise replacing the whole roof;
- The hand rails at the Parish Center, etc.

Your help is greatly appreciated.

MEN'S CLUB

St Sebastian's Men's Club will be meeting to continue the Italian Dinner planning, this Sunday 12/17 right after the 8:30 mass in the Parish Hall.

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.

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.



Rejoice!

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



A Child is Born

Masses for *Christmas*:

Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 5:00 pm

Christmas Day, Dec. 25 at 8:30 & 11:00 am

A Blessed Christmas to All!