

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph

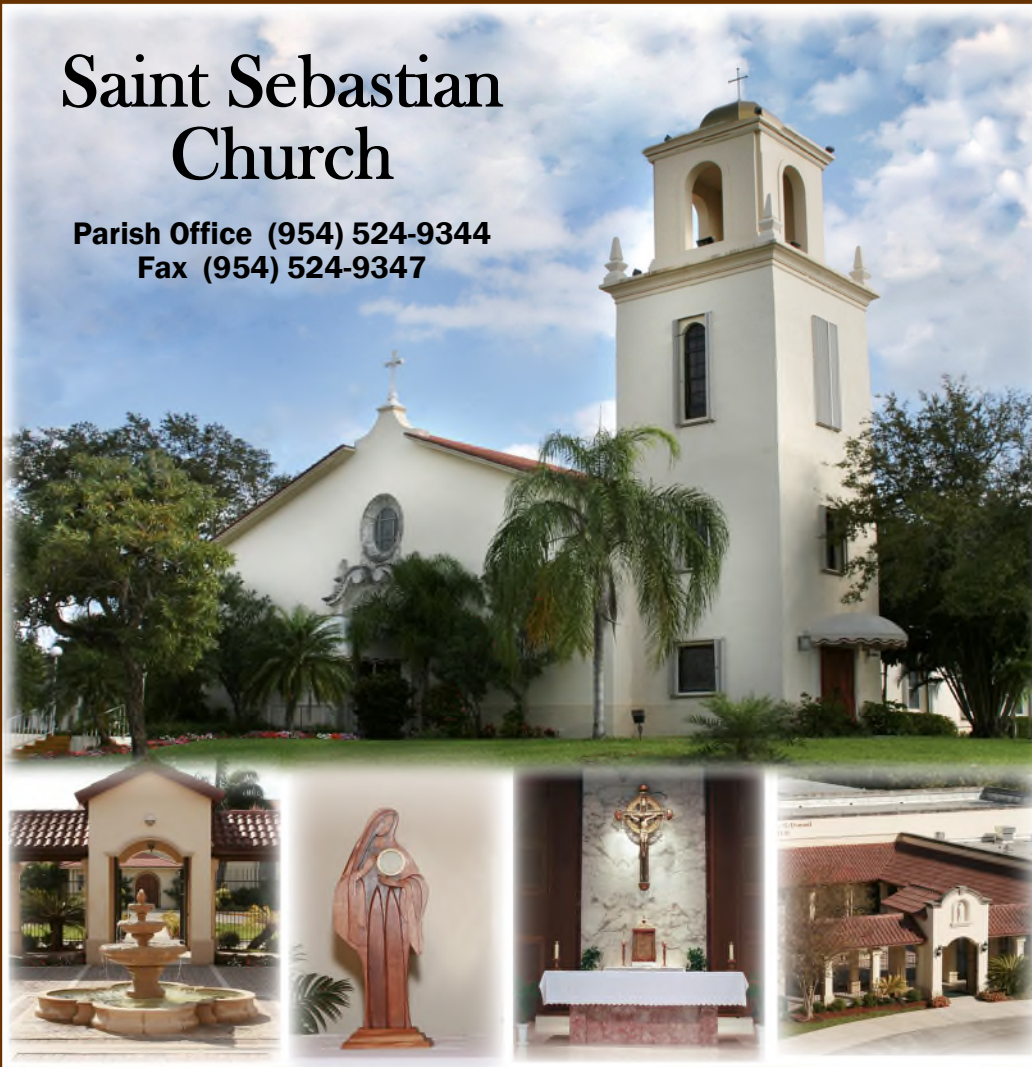
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2024 !!!!

My dear parishioners, I trust that we had a very Blessed Christmas and that we are enjoying the presence of God Emmanuel in our lives, in our families and communities. So, as we welcome a New Year, we praise God, our Loving Father who grants us another year, we pray that this Year be a Good Year for each one of us, with good health both in mind and body, with peace and joy in the Lord.

This weekend we are also excited to celebrate the feasts of the Holy Family and Mary Mother of God. When we contemplate the Mystery of the Incarnation of Jesus, we rejoice that Jesus chose to be born in the human family of Nazareth. The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph makes us naturally appreciate our own families that should take as a model the Holy Family. Mary and Joseph were in constant contemplation of their son, Jesus. It is an invitation for us to cherish and respect children and to nurture prayer in our homes where we should contemplate the presence of God and his love, homes which are called to be 'domestic church' as our Mother Church teaches.

We cannot emphasize enough the importance of prayer at home, in our family. For families with children, prayer in the family is the first tool to teach children about God's presence and love. Prayer strengthens the family. Many spiritual leaders say it very frequently that 'the family that prays together, stays together'. Prayer at home makes us live that relationship with God, praising him and interceding for ourselves and for others. There are so many urgent needs that invite us to pray: for the Church with all the difficulties of our times, for our nation in this election year, for peace in the world especially in Ukraine, Israel and the Palestinian Territories, and in many other nations who need better conditions of life for their citizens. It is good that those shows on TV or internet, those games and other types of entertainment should not rob us of our time with God, in other words, if we have time for so many other things in our lives, why would we have time for God in prayer?

And we celebrate Mary as Mother of God: This is because God himself chose her to be the mother of his Son, Jesus. Mary became the mother of the only begotten Son of the Father through the power of the Holy Spirit as we read in the Gospel of Luke. Under the power of the same Spirit, Elizabeth was able to recognize those wonders and call Mary the 'mother of her Lord' - the mother of her Lord God. This is what we contemplate in these feasts of Christmas, that 'the virgin is with child and bear a son whom will be called Emmanuel'. (Is.7,14). Mary is a human being and remains a human being. But she is the Mother of God because God united his divinity to humanity in her womb, and that is the mystery of the Incarnation. And all this took place for our salvation.

My dear brothers and sisters, that is why we praise God and celebrate. Our world should rejoice. Even when we see winds that seem to blow in the wrong direction, we keep hope in God the Creator and master of history; we trust in the Holy Spirit the Sanctifier, the one who spoke to the prophets to indicate to them what was good and right in the eyes of God. He will do the same in our times. May God bless us with a year with less violence and drugs, a year of less abortions and hatred, a year of more tolerance and peace, a year of more honesty and integrity, a year of better protection of our planet. Happy New Year 2024.

Fr. Ernest

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm	December 30 † Gregory Schreiber, req. by Abernethy Family
Sunday 8:30 am 11:00 am	December 31 Living & Deceased of our Parish Priests & Religious of our Archdiocese
Monday 10:00 am	January 1 Living & Deceased of our Parish
Tuesday 8:30 am	January 2 † William "Bill" Roger, req. by Eugene & friends
Wednesday 8:30 am	January 3 † Larry Morrissey, req. by Karen Morrissey
Thursday 8:30 am	January 4 Living & Deceased Sisters of Charity
Friday 8:30 am	January 5 Priests & Religious of our Archdiocese
Saturday 5:00 pm	January 6 The People of Ukraine & the Middle East
Sunday 8:30 am 11:00 am	January 7 † Charles & Marie Maher, req. by Maher Family Living & Deceased of our Parish

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, Ann Maher

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 the Book of Daniel with Miriam Rivas facilitating.

MASS ON JANUARY 1

Mass on January 1, 2024 - the Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God - will be celebrated at **10:00 am**. Please note that this will be the only Mass celebrated at St. Sebastian on January first.

R.C.I.A.

Classes for those wishing to become Catholic as well as those wishing to learn 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.

MASS STIPENDS

As of January 1, 2024, we ask that a donation of \$10. be given when a Mass is requested at St. Sebastian. This should be done at the time the Mass is requested through the Parish Office.

SAVE THE DATE

Monday, January 1 - 10:00 am - Mass of the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

Friday, January 19 - Men's Club Spaghetti Dinner

Saturday, January 20 - Father Ernest's 70th Birthday Celebration

Friday, February 9 - Men's Club Dance Class

Thank you to all the parishioners who have contributed weekly food and hygiene items to the needy in our city. Your donations to this ongoing appeal make a huge difference to those who lack the basic essentials. May we continue our generous contributions through the coming year. 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 33rd Street and closes at 3:15). First timers must provide proof of residency in Broward County.



CAN YOU HELP?

Please consider making an end-of-year 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.

Father Ernest

BEWARE OF SCAMMERS!

Several of our parishioners have received emails - supposedly from Father Ernest - asking for gift cards. **THIS IS A SCAM!** No one associated with St. Sebastian will make this kind of request, so please do not be fooled. If you have doubt as to whether or not an email or text message, etc., has legitimately been sent through the Parish Office you should phone the office and speak with a "real live person" to check it out.

A BLESSING FOR THE NEW YEAR

*The Lord bless you and keep you!
The Lord let his face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you!
The Lord look upon you kindly
and give you peace!*

-Numbers 24-26

*We wish you all a very happy
and healthy New Year!*



Please join for
dinner & dancing to
help celebrate Fr. Ernest's
70th Birthday

When: Saturday, January 20, 2024

Where: St Sebastian Parish Hall

2000 Marietta Dr

Ft Lauderdale, FL 33316

Time: 6:00PM

Please RSVP via email: conchi0318@gmail.com by January 8, 2024