

Fourth Sunday of Easter

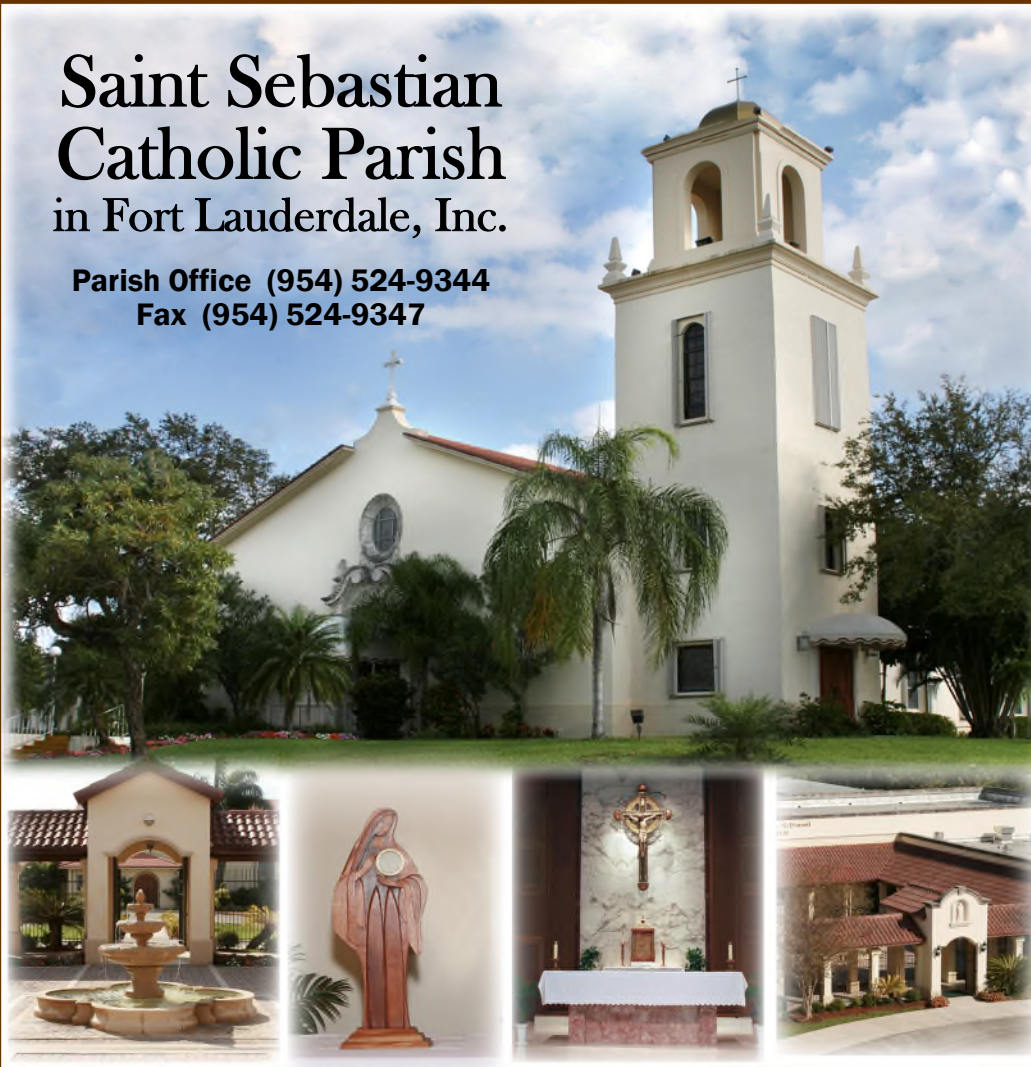
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

info@stsebastianfl.org

Saint Sebastian Catholic Parish in Fort Lauderdale, Inc.

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

Ms. Cathy Spitzer
Vocalist

Mr. Patricio Diaz-Pizarro
Maintenance

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Nancy Adams
Elizabeth Calhoun
Judy Fisher
Rosemary Guerin
Frank Krauser
Johnny Mann
Richard Page
Connie Reed

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 IS OUR GOOD SHEPHERD.

My dear brothers and sisters,

Please allow me to express to you my deepest gratitude for last Sunday when we had our Kitchen and Storage room blessed and named in honor of Msgr. James Fetscher, my predecessor here at Saint Sebastian. It was right to do since the initiative of the project came from him and thank God he was also part of the event. I cannot thank enough all those who worked to see that project come to completion and those who worked so hard so that we can have a very successful inauguration, and good and delicious food. So, we are looking forward to future events that will be facilitated because of our kitchen and storage room.

In the meantime, the Easter Season is rolling on and this weekend, the 4th Sunday of Easter, we celebrate Jesus, the Good Shepherd and pray for vocations to priesthood and missionary life. When we contemplate the wonders that our Savior has done for us, it is also worth asking ourselves how we can get involved in his Prophetic Mission. To pray and promote priestly and religious vocations is a very urgent task for us. The Good Shepherd who gives his life to the world wants to do so by using men and women who will accept to sacrifice their lives for their brothers and sisters here and in the whole world.

Sometimes we hear negative opinions toward missionary life that other peoples know God and have their forms of religion and therefore do not need Christianity. That argument is not correct because Jesus came for everybody and died for all humankind. While it is true that we can find many good things in other religions, we have to acknowledge that Christianity is the best because in it we have the Revelation that the Son of God himself taught us about God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Jesus gives us divine life through his Word, through the Eucharist which is his Body and Blood, and through the other Sacraments that He has instituted for our salvation. Those treasures are only found in the Catholic Church. This is not to denigrate any other religion at all, but to affirm the richness of what the Catholic Church has to offer to humankind and why it is worthy and urgent for us to have missionaries go to announce the Good News in the whole world, up to 'the end of the earth'.

I remember a few years back, possibly in 1996/1997, in the Parish of the Immaculate Conception in Hialeah, how I approached three teenage boys after a Mass on Vocations and asked them if they wanted to go in the seminary to become priests: One said he wanted to become a doctor, another wanted to be a lawyer, the third one wanted to be an engineer. And one added, 'we want to make money and priests do not earn any money'. They were right. How often do I have to remind this to my family members in Burundi (Africa) when they ask me for help in their need- which I try to do-, but they think that I am here to make money like any other person out there. Recently, some have made comments on the rectory: 'Father! You live in a big house!!!' Then I humbly reminded them that the house belongs to the Archdiocese, that when I leave I will not sell it or take anything of it. In some ways, those vows of poverty, chastity and obedience are essential to priestly life and ministry. We are shepherds of God's flock not for material benefices but for the salvation of God's people.

So, we cannot stop praying for vocations because of sacrifices inherent to the priestly vocation; the good of the Church is in itself a great benefice for us. In the shortage of priests, in some cases, the bishop has to close churches or group together two or three parishes under the pastorship of one priest. In some other cases people say: 'why not ordain married people? Why not ordain women? Why not let the priests marry?' Would all that solve the problem? Not exactly. The priesthood is not just 'a function' to fulfill like an office in a municipality. It is a vocation to act 'in persona Christi' the head and bridegroom of the Church (CCC #1547, 1548, 1549, 1577 etc.). "In the name of Jesus".

So, we pray to the Good Shepherd to send more laborers to his field. We pray also for families, because good vocations come from good Christian families. May God bless our land with abundant and holy vocations.

Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm	April 20 † Joan Fuccillo, req. by Bill, Gary & Joan † Mildred McGinity, req. by Grace Middlemiss Wellbeing of Connie Reed, req. by Abernethy Family
Sunday 8:30 am	April 21 † Dolores Hesse Fink, req. by husband, Jack † Margaret Barrosse † Edna Salg, req. by her loving daughter
11:00 am	Living & Deceased of our Parish
Monday 8:30 am	April 22 Wellbeing of Nancy Adams, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti
Tuesday 8:30 am	April 23 † Cruz Maria Hernandez
Wednesday 8:30 am	April 24 Priests & Religious of Our Archdiocese
Thursday 8:30 am	April 25 † Manuel Juarbe
Friday 8:30 am	April 26 Wellbeing of Lizette Marero
Saturday 5:00 pm	April 27 † Allan Chreslen Sorensen, req. by Bob & Dana Mullaney † Mildred DeSantis, req. by Jesse & Patti Holshouser
Sunday 8:30 am	April 28 † Charles & Marie Maher, req. by Maher Family In Thanksgiving, req. by Maher Family
11:00 am	Living & Deceased of Our Parish

SAVE THE DATE

April 21 - Bloodmobile in our Parking lot

April 27-28 St. Vincent de Paul Truck in our parking lot



“Only, we were to be mindful of the poor, which is the very thing I was eager to do. (Galatians 2:10). This is exactly what we do each week when we place non-perishable food and hygiene items in the shopping carts at the church doors. Let’s keep those carts filled to the brim with food to show our love for the poor in Broward County. To care is to share.

PLEASE REMEMBER: *In addition to* food and hygiene items, the Pantry needs plastic grocery bags for food distribution and empty, clean egg cartons for 6 or 12 eggs (they cannot use the cartons for 18 eggs). You can also 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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

There will be a Special Collection next weekend for the **Catholic Home Missions Appeal**. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal and plan to use the specially designated envelopes -either in your boxed set, or those you will find in the pews- for your gift to this appeal, and place it in the offertory basket, which is passed only once.

HAVANA NIGHTS

The Archbishop invites you to join him for his annual Havana Nights event on Friday May 3rd at 6:30 p.m. at Corpus Christi Catholic Parish, 3220 NW 7 Avenue in Miami. Cost is \$100. per person. Come enjoy an evening of dominos, Cuban music, cigars, food and drinks, while raising much needed funds for the Unaccompanied Minors Program of Catholic Charities. For more information, please call (305) 762-1051 or email events@theadom.org. We look forward to seeing you there!

A THOUGHT ON STEWARDSHIP

We show our love of Christ by financial and immaterial generosity and stewardship. May we respond with a courageous “Yes!” to support and advocate for those in need and to receive the generosity of others in a spirit of humility and joy.

What does it mean to be God’s people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God. We aren’t “owners” of anything, we are merely “stewards” of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don’t know, just as God cares for each of us.

“See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called children of God!”

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, Anne McCormick, Patty Marma, Diane Johnson, Susan Lochrie, Teri Beth Gooch, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney, Lila Ferzacca, Cash Dugan, Harriette Sessa, Mary Ann Smith, Linda Spitzer, Stephanie & Savannah Kate Allen, Grace & Angelo Ferrara, Blakeleigh Riley, Connie Reed, Melissa Mirabile, Marge Mitchell, Rasoul Karimi

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 Gospel of Mark with Angela McNaughton facilitating.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Eucharistic Adoration takes place in our Chapel of the Divine Healer on Fridays from after the 8:30 am Mass until 5:00 pm. Please consider this opportunity to spend some quiet time with the Lord in prayer. If you’d like to commit to a specific time slot each week,

please call the office as there are available times.





FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS

The nonpartisan public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Florida

201 West Park Avenue, Tallahassee, Florida 32301-7715 * (850) 222-3803 * www.flaccb.org

Florida Bishops Oppose Extreme Abortion Amendment **Vote No on Amendment 4**

Florida Amendment 4, which will appear on Florida's November 2024 ballot, is an extreme proposal that legalizes full-term abortion with no protections for the preborn child, including when the child is capable of feeling pain. This proposed amendment to our state constitution would prohibit all restrictions on abortion before viability and create a broad exception that any healthcare provider could exploit to allow abortion up to birth.

Furthermore, the amendment would effectively overturn or seriously jeopardize common-sense state laws that have regulated abortion for years. These include basic health and safety requirements for clinics where abortions are performed, requiring a physician to perform abortions, informed consent requirements, laws limiting public funding of abortion, and parental consent requirements before a minor's abortion.¹ These risks demonstrate the extreme nature of the amendment.

We urge all Floridians of goodwill to stand against the legalization of late-term abortion and oppose the abortion amendment. In doing so, we will not only protect the weakest, most innocent, and defenseless of human life among us but also countless women throughout the state from the harms of abortion.

Human life is sacred. The dignity of the human person is the foundation of a moral vision of society. Direct attacks on innocent persons are never morally acceptable, at any stage or in any condition. In our state, human life is repeatedly being destroyed by abortion. Over 84,000 vulnerable and voiceless children were aborted in Florida in 2023.

This matter concerning the respect for human dignity and the fundamental value of human life is of grave importance to both our Church and our state. The threat of abortion remains our pre-eminent public policy priority. Therefore, we support a coordinated campaign to mobilize against the proposed amendment. To this end, we offer this prayer to defeat Amendment 4:

Ever-living God, you give life and desire a future for all your children. Take hold of our nation, state and community and awaken in every heart awe for the gift of life. Send your Spirit to strengthen us with wisdom and fortitude as we defend mothers and children in Florida from laws that disregard their health and safety.

Mary and Joseph trusted in you and welcomed Jesus into our broken world. God Almighty, we ask their intercession to protect the preborn and their mothers, and to guide all parents in raising their children. May they help us build a civilization of love by upholding the sacredness of life and accompanying pregnant women in need.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady, Mother of the Family, pray for us! St. Joseph, Protector of the Unborn, pray for us!

Most Rev. Thomas G. Wenski
Archdiocese of Miami

Most Rev. Gerald M. Barbarito
Diocese of Palm Beach

Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane
Diocese of Venice

Most Rev. John G. Noonan
Diocese of Orlando

Most Rev. Gregory L. Parkes
Diocese of St. Petersburg

Most Rev. William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee

Most Rev. Erik T. Pohlmeier
Diocese of St. Augustine

Most Rev. Enrique E. Delgado
Archdiocese of Miami

¹ Florida law distinguishes between parental *consent* prior to a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.01114(5) which would be invalidated by Amendment 4 and parental *notice* of a minor's abortion (Ch. 390.01114(4)), which would be retained.