

TWENTY-FIRST Sunday in Ordinary

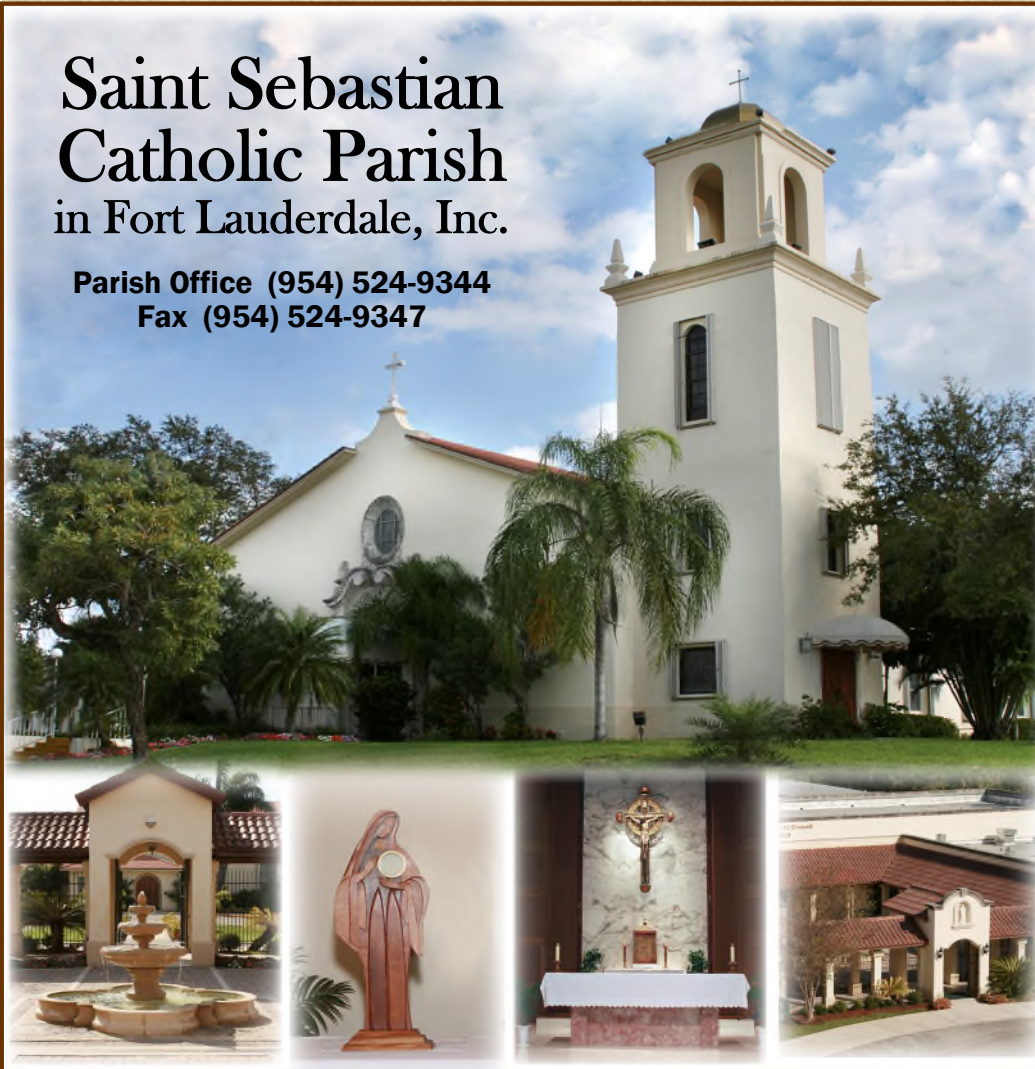
2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

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 & 11am
Weekdays 8:30am
(Mon. through Fri.)

Office Staff

Rev Ernest Biriruka
Pastor

Andrea Badyna
Office staff
Kathryn Cabrrisas
Office staff

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 EMAIL:

info@stsebastianfl.org

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.

OUR PARISH FINANCIAL SITUATION

My dear brothers and sisters:

Today I would like to share with you one aspect that is vital to our Parish Life: The State of our financial situation.

I remember a few months back how some of you asked me questions on the new kitchen and storage but as you know when I arrived here, their construction had already begun and I was unable to give answers. Now that the project has been completed, although we are still working on how we get good use of it, we can disclose that it cost over \$800,000, part of which came from the proceeds of the house that was sold, and another part from private donations which were kept anonymous. We may get some left-over money from the original budget of this project.

The audit report on our finances that was conducted in 2022 by 'Verdeja-De Armas-Trujillo-Alvarez' Accounting firm, accredited by the Archdiocese, indicated an annual deficit of \$97,089. Currently we are still in deficit, and understandably because our collections are much lower than our regular parish expenses necessary to keep the doors open, especially at this summer time when our brothers and sisters who come from north are away for their vacation.

In addition, we had and will have all kinds of expenses that were not budgeted for that needed or need to be done:

One of them was the AC unit for the Chapel that needed to be replaced earlier this year for the cost of \$23,000; we are very grateful for the Womens Council of our parish who generously donated \$20,000 for this new AC unit. In the mean time the AC in the church required multiple repairs that cost us more than \$4,000. The leaks over walkways and electric room area of the office and parish hall are being repaired for over \$8,000.

The roof of the Rectory is leaking badly in many spots that we were advised to change it completely. The estimate by NAST Roofing Company amounts to over \$45,000, plus another \$25,000 for gutter and ceiling repairs, and painting.

The trimming of trees and hedge is estimated at \$10,000.

Please bear with me that I am bringing all this at once to you, but I do not see any way forward unless you are fully aware of our financial situation. From now on you will be informed of our finances so as to see how your contributions are managed; this is a practice in many parishes and I intend to do the same here.

I truly appreciate your kind attention, generosity and commitment to our parish family of Saint Sebastian.

"In God we trust",

Father Ernest

(Please see back cover for Fr Ernest weekly letter)

Mass Intentions

- Saturday** **August 24**
5:00 pm † Mary Agnes Rubino req. by Mary Fran & Steven
 † Joan Fuccillo, req. by Fuccillo family
 † Ossi Pierotti, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti

- Sunday** **August 25**
8:30 am † Dolores Hesse Fink, req. by husband Jack
 † Conor Griffith, req. by Sajdera Family
 † Juana Esperanza Madera Posada, req. by the Family

- 11:00 am Living & deceased of our Parish

- Monday** **August 26**
8:30am † Peggy Kieff, req. by Judy Fisher

- Tuesday** **August 27**
8:30 am Wellbeing of Sandy Mann, req. by Parish Staff

- Wednesday** **August 28**
8:30 am † John Anderson, req. by family

- Thursday** **August 29**
8:30 am Wellbeing of Atina Marquart, req. by Anna Marie Pierotti

- Friday** **August 30**
8:30 am † Joan Fuccillo, req. by Parish Staff

- Saturday** **August 31**
5:00 pm † Isabel Odabashian, req. by Fuccillo Family

- Sunday** **September 1**
8:30 am Living & deceased of our Parish

- 11:00am † Conor Griffith, req. by Sajdera Family
 † Juana Esperanza Madera Posada, req. by the Family
 † Juana Posada

REMEMBER THE

Mary Lou Mann, Linda Grable, Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, Don Loughran, Jr., Sandy Rodrigues,

John Harris, Stephen Black, Alvaro Arevalo, Paul Ristow, Matt Key-sers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Rob Messer-schmidt, Anne McCormick, Patty Marma, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney, Lila Ferzacca, Mary Ann Smith, Linda Spitzer, Blake-leigh Riley, Melissa Mirabile, Marge Mitchell, Rasoul Karimi, Jean Gorman, Linda DeBold, Jay Hoover, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Bogler, Joel Rivera, Amparo Leon.

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 1 and 2 Thessalonians with Michele Namemek 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



During the (very hot!) month of July, we were able to serve 759 clients representing 2515 individuals. Our expenses for the month were \$4459.07. In addition to assisting several people with partial rents and utility bills and giving gift cards to homeless/non-cooking clients, we were able to replace a few old donated freezers with new (and much more efficient) ones. All of this is possible because of the continual food and financial donations from surrounding parishes and many generous donors. In the name of our grateful clients, I thank each of you for that.

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 only (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. **Proverbs 22:9, "Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor".**



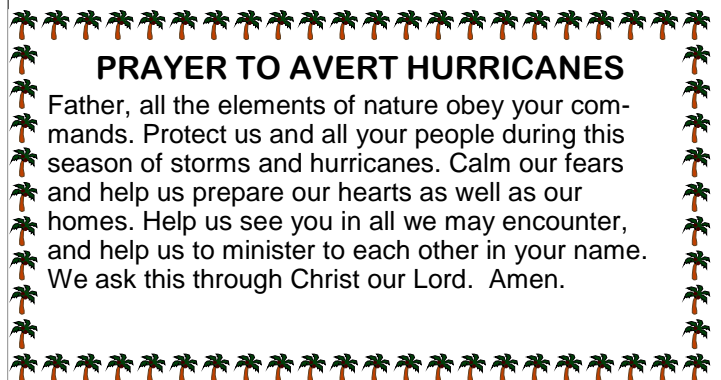
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES

Classes for children in grades 1-12 will begin on September 29th at 9:45-10:45am. Registration forms are available one line. In person registration will take place on Sunday, September 22 in the parish office from 8:30- 1:00pm. Registration fee of \$100 to assist with books and materials.

SANDWICH MINISTRY— Will meet on Saturday, August 31 at 8:30am. Please join the group to make sandwiches to help those struggling at this time.

ST SEBASTIAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN - October 4 Start their season with mass at 11am in Chapel followed by lunch. *Please feel free to join them.*

RESPECT LIFE MONTH- October is Respect Life Month. We will be collecting baby items. Please check bulletin for a list of items as October approaches.



PRAYER TO AVERT HURRICANES

 Father, all the elements of nature obey your commands. Protect us and all your people during this season of storms and hurricanes. Calm our fears and help us prepare our hearts as well as our homes. Help us see you in all we may encounter, and help us to minister to each other in your name. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the desk of our Pastor, Father Ernest

Excerpts from Cardinal Tagle's Homily at the Eucharist Congress in Indianapolis

"The first point. The theme of our National Eucharistic Congress is taken from the sixth chapter of the Gospel of St. John. In the fullness of time, the Father sent His eternal Word, who became flesh, through the Holy Spirit. He was present among us human beings, as one like us in the flesh, except in sin. The Son sent by the Father came as a life-giving gift, a gift in the human flesh of Jesus, "My flesh for the life of the world," Jesus Himself declares. We should note that Jesus' description of His being sent by the Father is always connected to the gift of His flesh for others, being sent and being a gift.

In the Gospel of John, chapter 6, verse 38, Jesus says, "For I came down from heaven, not to do my will, but the will of the One who sent me." Jesus has a profound consciousness of having been sent, of being on a mission. He also says in John 6, 32, "My Father gives you the true bread from heaven." But what is this bread? He says in verse 35, "I am the bread of life." Jesus is sent to be given by the Father to others, sent to be a gift. He is not sent just to wander around and to enjoy Himself. He is sent to be given. The missionary is a gift. Mission is not just about work, but also about the gift of oneself. Jesus fulfills His mission by giving Himself, His flesh, His presence to others as the Father wills it.

The presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is a gift and the fulfillment of His mission. This is my body for you, my blood for you. Always for you, for all. Never for me, for you, for all. In Jesus' mission and gift of self meet, the Eucharist is a privileged moment to experience Jesus' mission as a gift of Himself.

Dear friends, it occurred to me that where there is a lack or a weakening of missionary zeal, maybe it is partly due to a weakening in the appreciation of gifts and giftedness. Do we still look at ourselves, at persons, at objects, at our work, at society, at the events of daily life, and at creation within the horizon of gift? Or is this horizon disappearing? If our horizon is only that of achievement, success, and profit, there is no room to see and receive gratuitous gifts.

There is no place for gratitude and self-giving. There will only be a relentless search for self-affirmation that eventually becomes oppressive and tiring, leading to more self-absorption or individualism. And when pessimism takes over, we see only darkness, failures, problems, things to complain about, blah, blah, blah. (.....)

After the departure of some disciples, Jesus asked the twelve apostles, "Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God." Jesus is asking each one of us, "Do you also want to leave me like the others?" I hope we can answer like Peter, "We will stay with you, Lord. We refuse to live far from your presence." But let these not be empty words.

Like Peter, we should believe with conviction. Jesus does not impose himself on anyone.

He appeals to our interior freedom. Faith and conviction are our gifts to Jesus, who gives himself to us.

So I ask you, dear brothers and sisters, will you stay with Jesus? Okay, I'm not finished.

Those who choose to stay with Jesus will be sent by Jesus. The gift of his presence and love for us will be our gift to people. We should not keep Jesus to ourselves. That is not discipleship.

That is selfishness. The gift we have received, we should give as a gift. Have you experienced the tenderness of Jesus towards his tired disciples, offering them time to rest and to eat, as recounted in the gospel today? Go and share Jesus' tender love to the weary, the hungry, and the suffering.

Have you experienced Jesus' compassion and guidance when you were like sheep without a shepherd? Go and share Jesus' shepherds' caress to the lost, confused, and weak.

Have you experienced Jesus' wounded heart uniting those who are separated from each other, as St. Paul states in his letter to the Ephesians? Go and share Jesus' gift of reconciliation and peace to those who are divided. In his letter to me, Pope Francis expressed the hope, and I quote, "that the participants of the Congress, fully aware of the universal gifts they receive from heavenly food, may impart them to others." End of quote. Fully aware of the gifts they have received from the heavenly food, may they impart them to others. So a Eucharistic people is a missionary and evangelizing people."

RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS)

First class will begin on October 7, 2024 at 6:00pm in the Parish Office. The schedule of classes will be offered on the first Monday and third Wednesday of the month. These classes are for adults who wish to become Catholic or for baptized Catholics who have not completed the sacrament of Communion and/or Confirmation.