

# TWENTY-FIFTH Sunday in Ordinary Time

2000 Marietta (S.E. 25th) Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316

[info@stsebastianfl.org](mailto: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 HOURS

Monday-Friday 8am-1:30pm  
CLOSED FRIDAYS

### Office Staff

**Rev Ernest Biriruka**

### Pastor

Andrea Badyna  
Kathryn Cabrisas  
Ms. Judy Fisher

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

**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.

**THE FIRST COMMANDMENT**  
**CCC: 2083-2094**

**THE FIRST COMMANDMENT**

I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. You shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself a graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; you shall not bow down to them or serve them. It is written: "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

God makes himself known by recalling his all-powerful loving, and liberating action in the history of the one he addresses: "I brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage." the first word contains the first commandment of the Law: "You shall fear the LORD your God; you shall serve him.... You shall not go after other gods." God's first call and just demand is that man accept him and worship him.

The one and true God first reveals his glory to Israel. The revelation of the vocation and truth of man is linked to the revelation of God. Man's vocation is to make God manifest by acting in conformity with his creation "in the image and likeness of God":

There will never be another God, Trypho, and there has been no other since the world began . . . than he who made and ordered the universe. We do not think that our God is different from yours. He is the same who brought your fathers out of Egypt "by his powerful hand and his outstretched arm." We do not place our hope in some other god, for there is none, but in the same God as you do: the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

"The first commandment embraces faith, hope, and charity. When we say 'God' we confess a constant, unchangeable being, always the same, faithful and just, without any evil. It follows that we must necessarily accept his words and have complete faith in him and acknowledge his authority. He is almighty, merciful, and infinitely beneficent. Who could not place all hope in him? Who could not love him when contemplating the treasures of goodness and love he has poured out on us? Hence the formula God employs in the Scripture at the beginning and end of his commandments: 'I am the LORD.'"

**Faith:** Our moral life has its source in faith in God who reveals his love to us. St. Paul speaks of the "obedience of faith" as our first obligation. He shows that "ignorance of God" is the principle and explanation of all moral deviations. Our duty toward God is to believe in him and to bear witness to him.

The first commandment requires us to nourish and protect our faith with prudence and vigilance, and to reject everything that is opposed to it. There are various ways of sinning against faith:

Voluntary doubt about the faith disregards or refuses to hold as true what God has revealed and the Church proposes for belief. Involuntary doubt refers to hesitation in believing, difficulty in overcoming objections connected with the faith, or also anxiety aroused by its obscurity. If deliberately cultivated doubt can lead to spiritual blindness.

2089 Incredulity is the neglect of revealed truth or the willful refusal to assent to it. "Heresy is the obstinate post-baptismal denial of some truth which must be believed with divine and catholic faith, or it is likewise an obstinate doubt concerning the same; apostasy is the total repudiation of the Christian faith; schism is the refusal of submission to the Roman Pontiff or of communion with the members of the Church subject to him."

**Hope:** When God reveals Himself and calls him, man cannot fully respond to the divine love by his own powers. He must hope that God will give him the capacity to love Him in return and to act in conformity with the commandments of charity. Hope is the confident expectation of divine blessing and the beatific vision of God; it is also the fear of offending God's love and of incurring punishment.

The first commandment is also concerned with sins against hope, namely, despair and presumption:

By despair, man ceases to hope for his personal salvation from God, for help in attaining it or for the forgiveness of his sins. Despair is contrary to God's goodness, to his justice - for the Lord is faithful to his promises - and to his mercy.

There are two kinds of presumption. Either man presumes upon his own capacities, (hoping to be able to save himself without help from on high), or he presumes upon God's almighty power or his mercy (hoping to obtain his forgiveness without conversion and glory without merit).

**Charity:** Faith in God's love encompasses the call and the obligation to respond with sincere love to divine charity. the first commandment enjoins us to love God above everything and all creatures for him and because of him.

One can sin against God's love in various ways:

- indifference neglects or refuses to reflect on divine charity; it fails to consider its prevenient goodness and denies its power.
- ingratitude fails or refuses to acknowledge divine charity and to return him love for love.
- lukewarmness is hesitation or negligence in responding to divine love; it can imply refusal to give oneself over to the prompting of charity.
- acedia or spiritual sloth goes so far as to refuse the joy that comes from God and to be repelled by divine goodness.
- hatred of God comes from pride. It is contrary to love of God, whose goodness it denies, and whom it presumes to curse as the one who forbids sins and inflicts punishments.



## Mass Intentions

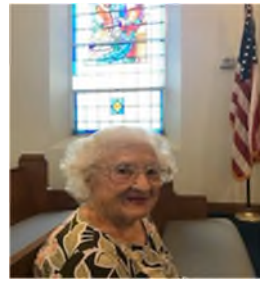
- Saturday September 21**  
5:00 pm † Olga Pasini, by Dale Kovatto  
† Joan Fuccillo, by Fuccillo family  
† Juana Esperanza Madera Posada, by Sajdera family
- Sunday September 22**  
8:30 am † Dolores Hesse Fink, by husband Jack  
† Margaret Barrosse  
† Conor Griffith, by Sajdera family
- 11:00 am Living & deceased of our Parish
- Monday September 23**  
8:30 am † Michael Fink, by the Family  
† Ossi Pierotti, by Anna Marie Pierotti
- Tuesday September 24**  
8:30 am † Veronica Grace Lostack, by Mary Louise Toomey  
Wellbeing of Judy Fisher, by Jarchow Family
- Wednesday September 25**  
8:30 am † Stephen Sjoblom, by the Jarchow Family
- Thursday September 26**  
8:30 am Wellbeing of Rob & Suzanne Loughran by Bill Loughran
- Friday September 27**  
8:30 am † Virginia Potter, by family
- Saturday September 28**  
5:00 pm † Scott Anselmo, by Jacquie Anselmo  
† Leo T. Fink, by family  
† Eddy Saldira, by her son
- Sunday September 29**  
8:30am Living & Deceased of our Parish
- 11:00am †Conor Griffith, by Sajdera Family  
†Juana Esperanza Madera Posada, by Sajdera family  
†Franco Chesarone, by E.Lorraine Hermes

**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 Keyzers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Rob Messerschmidt, Anne McCormick, Patty Marma, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney, Lila Ferzacca, Linda Spitzer, Blake-Leigh Riley, Melissa Mirabile, Marge Mitchell, Rasoul Karimi, Jean Gorman, Linda DeBold, Jay Hoover, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Vogler, Joel Rivera, Amparo Leon,

## 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.



## Connie Reed Celebrates Her Centennial on September 21, 2024

Connie was born in Summit, NJ, graduated from Summit High School in 1942 and Ithaca College

School of Music in 1945. She married Dick Reed and has a son, Michael who will join her for her birthday celebration. She retired from South Kortright Central School in 1984. Connie was a church choir director and member and past president of the Delaware County, NY Music Association. She enjoyed playing French horn with the Albany, NY Symphony Orchestra.

In 1984 Connie and Dick began wintering here and joined St. Sebastian. Connie channels her energies into devoted service to the Lord, serving on the Pastoral Council, and as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. She chaired the funeral mass receptions for the bereaved. She is an active member of the St. Sebastian Council of Catholic Women and was voted their Woman of the Year in 2008. Connie was a mentor at Bennett Elementary School and was a member and past president of the East Broward Federated Women's Republican Club. She is also a long-time member and past president of the Lake Mayan Board of Directors.

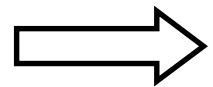
Connie, you are a blessing and an inspiration to our St. Sebastian family. Happy birthday

OFFERTORY	
WEEKEND OF 09/14-09/15	
Last Week's Total	\$3,140
Year to Date	\$49,801
YTD Budget	\$63,025
YTD Variance	\$(13,224)



## PARISH EVENTS AND DATES

SEE BACK PAGE OF BULLETIN



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,



### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES:**

- Register for class on September 15 and September 22 from 8am– 12pm or Monday through Thursday 8am-1:30 in the Parish Office please bring a copy of your child/ children's baptismal certificate. Class begins on September 29 for parents and students.

### **RCIA (RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS) & FAITH FORMATION**

- First class will begin on October 2 2024 at 6:00pm in the Parish Office. The schedule of classes will be offered on the first 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 and wishes to know more about their faith.

### **BIBLE SHARING**

Come for coffee and Scripture sharing each Thursday in the Parish Hall at 9:15am. Everyone is invited. You may also join us online by dialing 848-777-1212, when prompted put in 143143#. For more info call Michele at 954.290.1194. We will be sharing from the Gospel of Luke with Mary Ann Leseke facilitating.

### **ST. SEBASTIAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN**

- **October 4, 2024** begins their season with mass at 11am in the Chapel followed by lunch in the Parish Hall. RSVP to Sandi Mann 954-235-4005.
- **Trinkets and Treasurers**– Will be held on February 8th and 9th. **Please**, start bringing in your treasurers now. Call Sandi Mann at 954.235.4005
- **Annual SSCCW Luncheon** Will be held on March 22, 2025 at Coral Ridge Yacht Club. Details of the event will be presented in the near future.

### **ST. SEBASTIAN MEN'S CLUB**

- Will kick off its 24/25 season with a meeting on **Sunday, September 29** at 9:45am in the Parish Hall. Club President Edward Rebolz will discuss the calendar of key events for the fall and winter season. Coffee and donuts will be available.

### **RESPECT LIFE MONTH**

- **October is Respect Life Month** . We will be collecting baby items at all masses . A bassinet will be placed in front of the ambo for the entire month. Please check bulletin for a list of items as October approaches.
- **Life Chain on University Drive. Sunday Oct. 6th 2-3pm** Carpool information from here to St. David's will be announced in October
- **Rosary Rally Saturday, Oct. 12th 12:00pm** will be held at Mary Star of the Sea mosaic. Rosary, prayers, litany, etc. on the anniversary of Mary's final apparition in Fatima and the miracle of the sun.