AUGUST 31, 2025

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

St. Sebastian Catholic Parish in Fort Lauderdale, Inc. (954)524-9344

MASSES
Saturday 5 pm (Sunday Vigil)
Sunday 8:30 am,11 am & 6 pm

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

OFFICE HOURS
Monday-Friday 9:00 am - 4:30 pm
Lunch: 1:00 pm—1:30 pm

Pastor
Rev. Ernest Biriruka

Office Staff
Francy Gonzalez
Kathryn Cabrisas
Judy Fisher

Director of Music
Peter J. Manfredi, Jr.
(954) 868-6137

Vocalist
Cathy Spitzer

Facilities
Patricio Diaz-Pizarro

Pastoral Council
Nancy Adams
Mauricio Bautista
Judy Fisher
Rosemary Guerin
Johnny Mann
Sandi Mann
Ed Rebholz
John Mann

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 contact the office at least six months in advance of the proposed wedding date.

PARISH REGISTRATION
If you haven't registered yet as a parishioner of St. Sebatian, we invite you to do so in order to be recognized as member of our parish.

You can find the registration form in the church, at the office, or online.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

Takes place in our **chapel of the Divine Healer** on **Fridays** after morning Mass until 5:00 pm.

We still need adorers of the **Holy Eucharist** for the following times: 1-2 pm, 2-3 pm & 3-4 pm.

Please contact the office if you are able to come to any of those hours.

Thank you!

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 PASTOR'S DESK: TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

HUMILITY

"**For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled but the one who humbles himself will be exalted" (Lk 14:11).**

This weekend, the Lord teaches us about humility. The first reading from the Book of Sirach which is part of the Books of Wisdom recommends that we '*conduct our affairs with humility' (Si 3:17)*. But what is humility? We do not hear about this word very often. We rather hear about pride; "I am so proud of this and that." But where is humility? According to Saint Thomas Aquinas, humility is a virtue that 'avoids inflation of one's worth or talents on the one hand, and avoids excessive devaluation of oneself on the other' (Harper Collins Encyclopedia of Catholicism, Art. On Humility).

There are some works of art or productions whose producers are given the title of "creator." I felt very scandalized to hear that human beings could give themselves the title of "creator" which should be reserved exclusively to God because He is the Creator. In fact, in our pride and foolishness we exclude God and enclose ourselves in our ego: *me, myself and,* as they say. Me, myself and I and nobody else." This kind of pride generates absolute selfishness which excludes God and neighbor. We forget that we cannot be or do nothing without God and neighbor. That is when we use other people instead of loving them and treating them as brothers and sisters, with dignity and mutual respect. According to Bultmann, "*This pride, whether it is based on national or social advantages, or on wisdom or works of the law, is rebellion against God, before whom no man may boast."* (Alois Stöger, Humility in Encyclopedia of Biblical Theology, edit. Yohannes Bauer, Vol. II).

The famous example of the two men who went in the temple to pray in *Luke 18*, brings the point home that before God we cannot pretend, we cannot inflate our worth because he knows us in every way. So it is rather through humility that we can gain his favor. (Lk 18:9-14). "*A broken, contrite heart you never scorn" (Ps 51:17).*

The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that humility is the *sine qua non* condition to prayer: *"Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting good of things from God. But when we pray, do we speak from the heights of our pride and will, or "out of the depths" of a humble and contrite heart? He who humbles himself will be exalted; humility is the foundation of prayer" (CCC #2559; see also CCC #2628, 2706, 2712 &2713).*

The Best examples of humility are found in Jesus himself and Mary his Mother. The Blessed Virgin Mary answered to the angel that she was the humble servant of the Lord, and therefore was ready to carry out the will of God. Saint Paul in his letter to the Philippians describes how Jesus humbled himself *(kenosis*) to the point of dying like a criminal on the cross: "*But he emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, becoming as human beings are; and being in every way like a human being, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death on a cross. And for this, God raised him high, and gave him the name which is above all names…." (see Ph 2:5-11*).

Humility is the right attitude before God in every way.

Father Ernest Biriruka.

Keep praying and continue your special devotions during this time of the year!

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — AUGUST 31, 2025

Mass Intentions

Saturday — **AUGUST 30**

5:00 pm
† Joan Fuccillo, by Family
† Carolina Malpica, by Husband Kelvin
† Mary Lou Mann

Sunday — **AUGUST 31**

8:30 am
† Msgr. James Fetscher
† Mitchell John Sajdera, by Sajdera Family
† Mary Lou Mann

11:00 am — **Living and Deceased of the Parish**

6:00 pm
† Carolina Malpica, by Husband Kelvin

Monday — **SEPTEMBER 1**

8:30 am
† Msgr. James Fetscher
† Jeannie Allen, by Cousin Jack
† Carolina Malpica, by Husband Kelvin

Tuesday — **SEPTEMBER 2**

8:30 am
† Msgr. James Fetscher
† Carolina Malpica, by Husband Kelvin
Wellbeing of Paul Rizzo, by Grace Middlemiss

Wednesday — **SEPTEMBER 3**

8:30 am
† Msgr. James Fetscher
† Charles, Marie and Anne Maher, by Maher Family
† Mary Lou Mann

Thursday — **SEPTEMBER 4**

8:30 am
† Msgr. James Fetscher
† Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba
† Mary Lou Mann

Friday — **SEPTEMBER 5**

8:30 am
† Msgr. James Fetscher
† Mary Lou Mann
Wellbeing of Danielle Barisch, by Grace Middlemiss

† Rest in Peace, Mary Lou Mann 08-28-25

REMEMBER THE SICK

Suzanne Plum, Gail Mills, Don Loughran, Jr., John Harris, Stephen Black, Alvaro Arevalo, Paul Ristow, Matt Keysers, Judy Flood, Sister Frances Voss, O.S.C., Rob Messerschmidt, Anne McCormick, Ray Wicklander, Kathy Mahoney, Linda Spitzer, Blake-Leigh Riley, Melissa Mirabile, Marge Mitchell, Rasoul Karimi, Jean Gorman, Ed Kidd, Mary Beth Vogler, Joel Rivera, Fred Zagone S.J., Anthony Cotilus, Mark Bromage, Jonathan Hughes, Donato Montanaro, William Hirsch, Gary Demberg, Bill Fuccillo, Lawrence Biondi S.J., Angela Cowherd, Michael Fisher, Sean Ennis, Richard Kurzenberger, Danielle Barisch

A PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for the men and women that you have called to discern the calling to priesthood and religious life. We beg your continued blessing on our Archdiocese of Miami and on all our families. Call forth more women and men of generous spirit and fervent love whom you desire for this holy work. We make this prayer in Jesus' name,
Amen.

RCIA and FAITH FORMATION

First-class will **begin** on **Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. In the Parish Hall**.

Classes are held on the **first Monday and third Wednesday of each month** for adults who wish to become Catholic, and for adults who are baptized Catholic but have not received Communion and/or Confirmation.

THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Conditions to receive the Eucharist

- *Be a practicing Catholic and without mortal sin.*
- *Must confess mortal sins before receiving.*
- *Divorced who are single can receive.*
- *Those in a civil marriage or cohabitating cannot receive until they are married in the Church.*
- *Note: For any question or to begin the annulment process for a previous marriage, please contact the Pastor.*

SAINT SEBASTIAN CHURCH
DRIVE OUT HUNGER!
HELP PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE IN BROWARD COUNTY

"*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink.* (Matt. 25:35). How often have we heard these words spoken by Jesus? Through our weekly contributions of non-perishable food and hygiene items to the needy of Fort Lauderdale, we respond to Jesus. 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**. You can also place these items in the shopping carts. If you know of anyone in need, please tell them that a drive thru grocery distribution takes place every Friday from 1:30-4:00 PM at Blessed Sacrament Church, and closes at 3:15 PM. The Food Bank is currently in special need of canned meat, fish or similar protein items.

First time must provide proof of residency in Broward County.

Thank you! Your donations are greatly appreciated!

PARISH EVENTS AND DATES

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/StsebastianFL

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME AUGUST 31, 2025

FROM THE ARCHDIOCESE OF MIAMI

ABCD

Our contributions to ABCD are not merely financial transactions; they are expressions of our faith in action. Like water that quenches fire, our almsgiving has the power to heal, restore, and bring hope to those who struggle. Through our collective generosity, we become instruments of God's grace, reaching into communities where poverty, illness, and despair have taken hold.

Visit www.isupportABCD.com today to make your donation and be part of this mission.

Planned Giving:

Planned giving is a thoughtful and powerful way to support the ministries and missions that are so vital to our church, extending your stewardship beyond your lifetime. It's about making a difference for generations to come, allowing your legacy to continue nurturing faith, providing essential services, and fostering a vibrant spiritual home for all.

By including our church in your long-term financial and estate plans, you help us continue our essential work, ministering to those in need, educating our youth, and maintaining our sacred spaces. Your generosity helps secure a bright future for our faith community.

Let us help you explore planned giving. You can reach Katie Blanco at Kblanco@theadom.org or visit www.adomgift.org. today!

Stewardship

The Christian steward knows that gratitude is at the heart of stewardship. Indeed, gratitude lies at the heart of our spirituality; it's a primary door through which we enter into a relationship with our Creator. Having the freedom to deepen our relationship with the Lord offers us much for which to be grateful.

"Rather, when you hold a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind; blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you." LUKE 14:13-14

One of the main principles of living a Stewardship lifestyle is to give without expecting anything in return. This is difficult for some to comprehend in our "consumerist" culture that we live in.

NEW AMERICAN BIBLES!

Now available
In the parish office
for a ten dollar donation

Blessed LABOR DAY

Sept. 1st, 2025
THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED
Thank you!

CELEBRATING
THE LIFE OF
MARY LOU MANN
8/25/1961 - 8/28/2025

CELEBRATION OF LIFE MASS

THE MEMORIAL SERVICE WILL BE ON TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2025

VISITATION
9:00-10:30AM ALL ARE WELCOME

FUNERAL MASS AT 11:00 AM

THE RECEPTION FOLLOWING IN THE PARISH HALL ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND.

WEEKDAY 8:30 AM MASS
IN THE CHAPEL OF THE DIVINE HEALER
Located in THE PARISH CENTER

LET'S PRAY THE ROSARY

We invite everyone to join us in praying the Rosary, **Monday - Friday, at 7:50 am,** before daily mass, in the Chapel of the Divine Healer. Let us come together in prayer and deepen our devotion to Our Blessed Mother.
All are welcome!

BIBLE SHARING

Joins us for **Scripture sharing every Thursday** in the Parish Hall **from 9:15 to 10:30 am.**

We are sharing **The Acts of the Apostles. With the help of Fr. Ernest**

You may also join us online by dialing 848-777-1212; when prompted, put in 1431434#.

For more information, please contact **Miriam Rivas At 954-673-1522**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

You may use this QR code

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 to 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.

FOR BETTER PARTICIPATION IN THE MASS

With your smart phone or computer, you can find Daily Mass Readings and Prayers easily. Search for: Daily Bible Readings: WWW.USCCB.ORG
For Prayers, go to Mass Prayer or Order of Mass.
USCCB, stands for US Conference of Catholic Bishops.