SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

TWENTY-THIRD 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-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

LOVE GOD ABOVE ALL THINGS

"If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother… (Lk 14: 26)
"In the same way anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions…"
(Lk 14: 33)

My dear brothers and sisters, this gospel seems very hard to all of us. It appears to confirm what some call ' radicalism' in the Gospel of Saint Luke. A good example is in chapter 9, 57-62, when Jesus tells the one who wants to follow him that he has nowhere to lay his head and to the other who had lost his father, to 'let the dead bury their dead' and just follow him, and to the other one that he cannot waste time in farewell to his family.

It is true that we have to choose between Jesus and the glories of this world. But we know also that Jesus does force us to make choices without our cooperation. Rather he revealed himself as 'gentle and humble in heart' (Mt 11:29) and invited us to go to him to find rest and peace. So, how do we understand this gospel that we have to renounce not only our family relations but even our own life to be his disciple. That we must renounce all our possessions to be his disciples? In the Vatican II document called *"Lumen Gentium*" (*Christ the Light of the Nations*), we can find the right understanding of this Gospel.

First of all, we are all called to love God above all other creatures and above all things. If our family or family members would be an obstacle to that love, we would have to leave them aside. But thanks be to God, our family is an amazing gift from God, and usually that gift leads us to love God even more. Our possessions can also be understood as a gift from God with the responsibility to use them for the greatest glory of God through our generosity and works of charity. Married people have the responsibility to be good stewards of God's gifts by using them for the wellbeing of their family, the good of the Church and society through works of charity, especially helping the poor and the needy.

In *Lumen Gentium* then we read that the Religious are called to live the 'Evangelical Counsels' of chastity, poverty and obedience so as to set an example of holiness for their brothers and sisters in the Church. Not everyone is called to that vocation, but we are all called to holiness. (LG 43 and following).

In the Church there are three groups of people according to the calling God has given them: We have the Lay People who also are called the Faithful People of God: they are all the baptized who are not 'Religious' or 'Priests'. We have the Religious, some of whom are cloistered for a contemplative life, and others live an active life by carrying out their mission in the world. The Religious make vows to live the Evangelical Counsels of renouncing having a family by living in celibacy and chastity, and to live in poverty and obedience to a superior. Then we have the Hierarchy who consist of the Bishops, Priests and Deacons and who exercise the ordained ministry of the Priesthood.

All of these are part of the one family of God, the Church, and all are endowed with equal dignity; and all are called to holiness according to their proper vocation. For instance, those who are not 'Religious' cannot let lust, riches and libertinage dominate them: Each baptized is called to live a new life in Christ, obeying the commandments, practicing true charity and striving to embrace the kingdom of God as Jesus taught us.

"*If anyone comes to me and does not hate his own father and mother and wife and children and brother and sister, yes, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple". Lk 14:26. So it* is with possessions. We all need to love God above all human beings and above all things."

Father Ernest Biriruka.

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

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME — SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

Mass Intentions

SATURDAY **SEPTEMBER 6**

5:00 pm
† Joan Fuccillo, by Fuccillo Family
† Margaret Montanaro, Barbara Scalpato
† Albertina Biondi, by Anna Marie Pierotti

SUNDAY **SEPTEMBER 7 Grandparents Day!**

8:30 am
† Richie Grable, by Mom and Dad
† Martha Natalia Boveda, by Sajdera Family
† Conor Andrew Griffin, by Sajdera Family

11:00 am
Living and Deceased of our Parish

6:00 pm
† Nilda and Domingo Lezcano,
by Ira Fernandez
Wellbeing of Doleen Borba,
by Joseph and Jennifer Borba

MONDAY **SEPTEMBER 8**
The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

8:30 am
† Ossi Pierotti, by Anna Marie Pierotti
Wellbeing of Doleen Borba,
by Joseph and Jennifer Borba

TUESDAY **SEPTEMBER 9**

8:30 am
†Mary-Lou Mann, by Jacob and Shari Vela

WEDNESDAY **SEPTEMBER 10**

8:30 am
†Mary-Lou Mann, by Jacob and Shari Vela

THURSDAY **9/11 VICTIMS & THEIR FAMILIES**

8:30 am
† Brad Leal, by Joseph and Jennifer Borba

FRIDAY **SEPTEMBER 12**
The Most Holy Name of Mary

8:30 am
† Marie Schehrer, by Daughter Carolyn
† Anne Calabro, by Jarchow Family
Wellbeing of Charmaine Frazer and Family,
by Sajdera Family

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 pray for 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–THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SEPTEMBER 7, 2025

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**

NEW AMERICAN BIBLES!

Now available
In the parish office
for a ten dollar donation

Heavenly Father, we pray and remember the tragedy of September 11, 2001. We lift up to you the lives lost, the families who still carry grief and for the heroes who sacrificed themselves for the sake of others. Lord we ask to heal their hearts, and protect our nation from dangers..

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday

Sept. 8

Only three birthdays are celebrated on the Church's liturgical calendar: the Nativity of Our Lord (December 25), the Nativity of His Forerunner, John the Baptist (June 24), and the Nativity of His Mother on September 8. Thus, the Church uniquely honors the three principal figures connected to the Incarnation and the Redemption.

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.

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!

(**A Rosary a day keeps the devil away. Fr. Ernest)**

WEEKDAY 8:30 AM MASS

IN THE CHAPEL OF THE DIVINE HEALER

Located in THE PARISH CENTER

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION

You may use this QR code to donate to our Parish

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.