

September 17, 2023

24<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

# forgiveness

*"Then Peter approaching asked him, 'Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him?'"*

MATTHEW 18:21



## ST. MARTHA CATHOLIC CHURCH

USA National Circus Church The Pallottines (Society of Catholic Apostolate)



### Mass Schedule

**Saturday** 7:30am • 8:30am • 4pm *Vigil* • 5:30pm *Vigil*

**Sunday** 7:30am • 9am • 10:30am • 12pm • 5:30pm  
12pm Vietnamese *Parish Hall*

**Weekday** 7:30am • 8:30am • 12pm • 5:30pm

### Confession - Reconciliation Room

**Saturday** 9-10am • 3-4pm **Sunday-Friday** 11:30am-12pm

### Eucharistic Adoration - Carosella Chapel

**Tuesday-Thursday** 9am-12pm

### Rosary

Rosary prayed after 7:30am Mass

### St. Martha Catholic Church

200 North Orange Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34236 • Tel 941.366.4210 • Fax 941.954.8434 • StMartha.org

**Facebook** St. Martha Roman Catholic Church • **Instagram** smarthachurch\_in\_sq • **YouTube** St. Martha Catholic Church Sarasota, FL

**Parish Office Hours** Monday-Friday 8am-12pm and 12:30-4pm



## *From Our Pastor, Father George*

September 17, 2023

**Sunday Sermon – 24th Sunday of Ordinary Time**

**From Deacon Vern Sermon**

**Dear Parishioners of St. Martha,**

**How often must I forgive?**

- *For as the heavens are high above the earth,*
- *So surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.*
- *As far as the east is from the west,*
- *So far as he put our transgressions from us.*

These words, taken from the 103rd psalm, outline the dimensions of God's mercy. How great is it? As high as the heavens are above the earth, as wide as the east is from the west. These are the dimensions of God's forgiveness. Savor the words. Let them give you peace of heart. Let them fill your soul with trust. Be grateful for the forgiveness you have received. That's why you are here today, to give thanks for the forgiveness God has given you.

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus: *Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive?* Jesus replies in multiples – *not seven times but seventy-seven times.* And then Jesus tells a story about a generous master who is *moved with compassion* and forgives a servant's loan. But the one whose obligation to repay was forgiven, himself becomes a creditor and refuses to forgive his fellow servant who happens to owe him money. On hearing of his hard-heartedness, his refusal to forgive, his master turns him over to torturers, and Jesus, who is telling this story, says to all of us who will hear hit down through the centuries, *So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.*

This is a serious and demanding doctrine. Whoever said that being a Christian, a follower of Christ, a believer in Christ, was going to be easy? One of the first lessons you must learn and put into practice, if you are going to be a good Christian, is the lesson of forgiveness. Is it possible that hidden somewhere in your heart or mind today is a block, a bolder, a weight that can be nothing else but a refusal to forgive? Is the pull of evil at work within us today, holding us back from forgiving others as we have been forgiven?

Let me invite you today to take a visual walk with me along the Way of the Cross. You see the stations on the walls of our Church. You see Jesus condemned to death. You see him shouldering the cross, falling, being stripped, scourged, nailed to the cross and hung there to die. There are indeed three stations of consolation: Veronica wipes his face; Simon of Cyrene helps to carry the cross; he finds his mother Mary standing at the foot of the cross. But there he is unjustly condemned, hanging on the cross, suffering, waiting to die. And a soldier pierces his side with a lance. Blood and water flow out – symbols of baptism and the Eucharist, sacraments of life and reconciliation.

There is a temptation to quantify forgiveness as Peter tried to do, but Jesus' point is that forgiveness is not about quantity – the number of times we extend forgiveness to another. In the parable the king's forgiveness is like God's forgiveness, and it transforms us, helping us to be as forgiving as God. The lesson is clear: If we hoard God's mercy while showing no mercy to others, we risk forfeiting the effects of God's mercy in our lives.

And remember this, the forgiveness God offers you has dimensions that you

can imagine by seeing how far high the sky is above the earth, and how far the east is from the west. And remember that unpleasant prospects await you *unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart.*

**From Father George**

I am happy to report to the Parish that the Church's interior's painting is in progress. Unfortunately, this means that we need to celebrate all our Masses in the hall and our Sunday 12pm Mass is suspended on this Sunday and most probably also the next. We should be back in the church as soon as the works is done.

**Traveling Rosary Congress.** Bishop Frank J. Dewane wrote in his letter about two months ago: *The Rosary Congress is held in response to Our Lady of Fatima's call to prayer and conversion. It includes Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and the praying of the Rosary for families, the Church, and peace in the world.*

**We will hold the chain of Rosaries in St. Martha's church on October 8-9, 2023.** Each hour of Adoration will start with the Rosary at the round hour and then will be followed by silent adoration until before the next round hour when the next group begins the Rosary and their adoration. In such a way 22 groups will fulfill St. Martha's 24 hours part in the Traveling Rosary Congress. Our Adoration will start after the 5.30pm Mass on Sunday, October 8 and will conclude with the 5.30pm parish Mass on Monday, October 9. Here is the schedule of our Rosary Congress to help you to participate if you want to join in. Contact the Parish Office if you do.

**Sunday, October 8, 2023:**

- Group 1: 7-8pm (*in Spanish*) - Mangin Family
- Group 2: 8-9pm (*in English*) - Knights of Columbus
- Group 3: 9-10pm (*in Polish*) - Fr. George
- Group 4: 10-11pm
- Group 5: 11-12pm (*in Vietnamese*) - Fr. Joseph and Vietnamese Community

**Monday, October 9, 2023:**

- Group 6: 12pm-1am
- Group 7: 1-2am
- Group 8: 2-3am (*in English*) - David Hill
- Group 9: 3-4am
- Group 10: 4-5am
- Group 11: 5-6am
- Group 12: 6-7am
- Group 13: 7-7:25am: (*in English*)

**7:30am – Parish Mass**

- Group 14: 8-8:25am: (*in English*) - Parish Rosary Group

**8:30am – Parish Mass**

- Group 15: 9-10am (*in English*) - Deacon Bill Ladroga
- Group 16: 10-11am (*in English*) - Susan Schussler
- Group 17: 11-11:55am

**12:00pm – Parish Mass**

- Group 18: 1-2pm
- Group 19: 2-3pm
- Group 20: 3-4pm (*in French*) - Linda Blouin
- Group 21: 4-5pm (*in English*) - Bill Brien
- Group 22: 5-5.25pm: (*in English*) - Diane Bush

**530pm – Parish Mass**

*continued on next page*



## Religious Education Classes

2023-2024

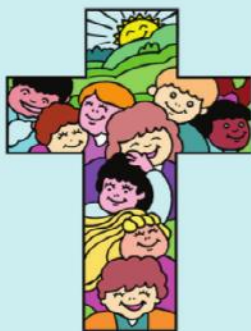
Religious Education /

Faith Formation

Registration

can be found online at

[stmartha.org](http://stmartha.org)



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*Prayer for Safety in Hurricane Season: O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude. You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster. During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with the passing of time. O Virgin, Star of the Sea, our beloved Mother we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us. Amen*

Next Sunday (September 24, 2023) – is 25th Sunday of Ordinary Time

With prayers for God's blessing to you and your family,  
Father George



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and embrace the Catholic Faith?*

Contact Fr. George to meet and start your journey!  
[frgeorge@stmartha.org](mailto:frgeorge@stmartha.org)

## Chesterton Academy of St. Padre Pio

Join us for an informational event in celebration of our patron,

**St. Padre Pio!**

- September 23, 2023 from 1-3pm
- Finnegan Center at Incarnation Catholic Church
- Light refreshments provided.
- RSVP using QR Code below

[chestertonsarasota.org](http://chestertonsarasota.org)



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Questions?  
Contact Martha at 941-525-2697  
Or  
Kelly at [rizzo\\_kelly@yahoo.com](mailto:rizzo_kelly@yahoo.com)

[www.walkingwithpurpose.com](http://www.walkingwithpurpose.com)

## St. Martha Youth Ministry Service Club

The St. Martha Service Club is asking for items to make Blessing Bags for the clients of the Resurrection House.

The Resurrection House is a resource center offering help and basic services to the most needy in our community.

Please drop items off at the St. Martha Parish Office:

- Gloves, Scarves
- Trial-Sized: Chapstick, Combs, Moisturizer, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Grooming Kits, Instant Coffee, Tea, Juice Boxes
- Beef Stick, Dried Fruit, Trail Mix, Nuts, Granola Bars, Fruit Snacks, Cookies, Snack Packs, Candy Bars, Mints, Gum
- Single-Serve, nonperishable food (canned tuna, canned chicken, etc.)



## Weekly Mass Intentions

**Sun, Sept 17** ..... Sir 27:30-28:7; Rom 14:7-9; Mt 18:21-35

7:30am ..... [GS] ..... Don Molaro by Roberta  
 9:00am ..... [FS] ..... Louis Castelli by the Castelli Family  
 10:30am ..... [JB] ..... For All Parishioners  
 12:00pm ..... [JV] ..... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
 5:30pm ..... [GS] ..... L & D Mbrs of the Burch Family by Joe & Betty Plouffe

**Mon, Sep 18** ..... 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 7:1-10

7:30am ..... [GS] ..... Thomas & Marie Kelly Families by Thomas & Jacqueline Kelly  
 8:30am ..... [CF] ..... Poor Souls in Purgatory by Javier and Gloria Olivos  
 12:00pm ..... [GS] ..... Inez Bristol by Cathy and George Phillips  
 5:30pm ..... [CF] ..... Ryan Halstead by Mother

**Tue, Sep 19** ..... 1 Tm 3:1-13; Lk 7:11-17

7:30am ..... [CF] ..... Loran Zumbum by Judy Kozlowski  
 8:30am ..... [GS] ..... Janice Berghoff by Molly and Peggy O'Connell  
 12:00pm ..... [CF] ..... Brian Stephens by Mom  
 5:30pm ..... [GS] ..... Joan Nerney by Regina Broderick

**Wed, Sep 20** ..... 1 Tm 3:14-16; Lk 7:31-35

7:30am ..... [GS] ..... Missing and exploited children by Joe and Betty Plouffe  
 8:30am ..... [CF] ..... Thomas A. O'Malley by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly  
 12:00pm ..... [GS] ..... Marie Hofferger  
 5:30pm ..... [CF] ..... Poor Souls in Purgatory by Mary and John McGruder

**Thu, Sep 21** ..... Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Mt 9:9-13

7:30am ..... [CF] ..... Catherine O'Rourke by Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly  
 8:30am ..... [GS] ..... (L) Eileen Roma by Peggy  
 12:00pm ..... [CF] ..... Owen Trumbull by Stu Love  
 5:30pm ..... [FS] ..... Ester Calata Tengco by Romie Tengco

**Fri, Sep 22** ..... 1 Tm 6:2c-12; Lk 8:1-3

7:30am ..... [GS] ..... Ann Donovan by Marge and Paul Lortie  
 8:30am ..... [CF] ..... Marcelina Cruz by Vivien Cruz  
 12:00pm ..... [CF] ..... Missing & exploited children by Joe and Betty Plouffe  
 5:30pm ..... [GS] ..... L & D Mbrs of the Julie Tierney Family by Friend

**Sat, Sep 23** ..... 1 Tm 6:13-16; Lk 8:4-15

7:30am ..... [GS] ..... Alphonse and Mary Moretti by Carmela  
 8:30am ..... [JV] ..... L & D Mbrs of the Thomas Family by Joe & Betty Plouffe  
 4:00pm ..... [FS] ..... John and Adele Borome by the Borome Family  
 5:30pm ..... [GS] ..... Dec'd Mbrs of the Urdaneta & Castro Fam. by A. & R. Urdaneta

**Sun, Sept 24** ..... Is 55:6-9; Phil 1:20c-24, 27a; Mt 20:1-16a

7:30am ..... [GS] ..... Gavin Murphy by Michael Houlihan  
 9:00am ..... [CF] ..... Harry E. Hammond by Ursula and Bob  
 10:30am ..... [FS] ..... For All Parishioners  
 12:00pm ..... [JV] ..... (Hall/Vietnamese) Special Intentions  
 5:30pm ..... [CF] ..... Ray Cruet by Bradford and Cynthia Larson

*Father George (GS), Father Jan (JR), Father Chris (CF),  
 Father Joseph (JV), Father Fausto (FS), Fr John Belmonte (JB)*



## Usher Volunteer

We are looking for a friendly and personable person to serve as an usher at weekend liturgies. As a member of a four-person team, duties include welcoming, assisting with seating, collecting the offertory, distributing bulletins, and insuring a safe environment for all worshippers. Visits last 1½ hours. Volunteers are needed to join the 9am & 12pm usher teams. No experience required. Training provided.

**Interested persons should contact**  
**Stuart Love, Volunteer Coordinator**  
**941-780-7834 • volunteer@stmartha.org**

## Come Join The Rosary Makers

**The first Friday of the month from 10:30-11:30am  
 at St. Martha's Geenen Hall**

Join us for coffee and sweet treats  
 while learning how to make **Cord Rosaries**.

They are distributed to the hospital, nursing homes,  
 and have been sent to different countries to spread the  
**love of the Blessed Mother and her Son Jesus Christ.**



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE

**September 27-November 5, 2023**

Help to save lives by praying for an end to abortion. The *40 Days for Life* is a coordinated campaign that aims to end abortion through prayer, fasting, community outreach and a peaceful all-day vigil in front of abortion facilities.

People of faith also are invited to fast throughout the *40 Days for Life*. We believe that when God's people fast our heavenly Father will hear and heal our lives, our churches, our communities, our nation and our world.

The visible, public centerpiece of the campaign is a focused 40-day, round-the-clock prayer vigil outside a Planned Parenthood Center, as well as other abortion facilities.

It is a peaceful and educational presence. Those who participate can send a powerful message to the community about the tragic reality of abortion. It also serves as a call to repentance for those who work and patronize the abortion centers. Christ told us some demons can only be driven out by prayer and fasting. The two go hand in hand.

Please join other St. Martha parishioners on our dedicated parish day,  
**October 16, 9am-7pm**, at Planned Parenthood on Central Avenue, Sarasota.





**This Week**  
at St. Martha Catholic Church

**Sun, Sep 17**  
10:15am - Religious Ed Classes - *Upstairs Classrooms*

**Tue, Sep 19 • Saint Januarius**  
10:30am - Emmaus Bible Study - *Conference Room*

**Wed, Sep 20 • Saint Andrew Kim Taegon & Saint Paul Chong Hasang**

**Thu, Sep 21 • Saint Matthew**  
10am - Lectio Divina - *Geenen Hall*

**Sat, Sep 23 • Saint Pius**

**St. Martha Clergy**

Rev. George Suszko, S.A.C. Pastor  
Rev. Jan Rykala, S.A.C.  
Rev. Krzysztof Chris Frost, S.A.C.  
Rev. Joseph Yu, C.R.M.,  
*Hospital Chaplain*  
Very Rev. Fausto Stampiglia, S.A.C.  
*(Retired)*  
Rev. Deacon William Ladroga  
Rev. Deacon C. Patrick Macaulay  
Rev. Deacon Robert Gaitens  
Rev. Deacon Vern Smith  
Sr. Cathy Bonfield, S.S.N.D.  
Br. Lawrence Skitzki, C.S.C.  
Br. William Dygert, C.S.C.

**St. Martha Parish Staff**

Samantha McDonald,  
*Business Manager*  
Patricia Sileo,  
*Director of Religious Education*  
Pamela Paulson, *Reception/Data Entry*  
Maxine Brand, *Reception*  
Virginia Bray, *Music Director*  
Susie Runnells, *Sacristan*  
Janet Cocco, *Sacristan*  
Joe Angelicola, *Sacristan*  
Miguel Jimenez, *Facilities Manager*  
Eris Nunez, *Maintenance*  
Carlos Sierra Naploes, *Maintenance*  
Blanca Goetz, *Rectory Housekeeper*  
Claudia Moschini, *Rectory Chef*



**Diocese of Venice**

1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285 . . . . . 941.484.9543

**Outreach Ministries**

Altar Servers . . . . . Dn. Vern Smith . . . . . dcvern@stmartha.org  
Altar Society . . . . . Parish Office . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Archivist . . . . . Parish Office . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Arimathean Ministry . . . . . Parish Office . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Catholic Charities . . . . . Joan Pierse . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Community Pregnancy Clinics . . . . . 941.260.5427  
Casa Santa Marta . . . . . 941.366.4448  
Choir/Cantor . . . . . Virginia Bray . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Council of Catholic Women . . . . . Parish Office . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Development Committee . . . . . Parish Office . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Eucharist Adoration . . . . . Parish Office . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Extraordinary Ministers . . . . . Dc. Pat Macaulay . . . . . dcpatrick@stmartha.org  
Finance Council . . . . . John Corey . . . . . coreyjjj5@gmail.com  
Family Ministry . . . . . Gary Kerschner . . . . . fmosm@comcast.net  
Herrig Caritas (9-11am, M-F) . . . . . Tony Cocco, Chair . . . . . 941.366.5620  
Hospitality Ministry . . . . . Beth Cannata . . . . . 941.321.2953  
Jail Ministry . . . . . Dc. Kevin McKenney . . . . . kmckenney55@gmail.com  
Knights of Columbus . . . . . David Kiszak . . . . . 941.928.8388  
Lectors . . . . . Dc. Pat Macaulay . . . . . dcpatrick@stmartha.org  
O.C.I.A. . . . . Sue Thompson . . . . . suehome2@verizon.net  
Parish Council . . . . . Beth Cannata . . . . . 941.321.2953  
Prayer Line . . . . . Parish Office . . . . . 941.366.4210  
Respect Life Ministry . . . . . Kate Shaver . . . . . ksshaver@comcast.net  
Rosary Makers . . . . . Maxine Brand . . . . . 941.374.6605  
Solve Maternity Homes . . . . . Peggy Kerwin . . . . . 941.748.0094  
Ushers . . . . . Dc. Bill Ladroga . . . . . dcbill@stmartha.org  
Volunteer Coordinator . . . . . Stuart Love . . . . . 941.780.7834  
Witness to Love . . . . . Jim & Agnes Rutushni . . . . . 941.960.5128

**Neighboring Diocesan Parishes**

St. Jude . . . . . Sarasota . . . . . 941.955.3934  
Christ the King . . . . . Sarasota . . . . . 941.924.2777  
Incarnation . . . . . Sarasota . . . . . 941.921.6631  
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs . . . . . Sarasota . . . . . 941.755.1826  
St. Patrick . . . . . Sarasota . . . . . 941.378.1703  
St. Mary Star of the Sea . . . . . Longboat Key . . . . . 941.383.1255  
St. Thomas More . . . . . Sarasota . . . . . 941.923.1691  
St. Joseph . . . . . Bradenton . . . . . 941.756.3732  
St. Michael the Archangel . . . . . Siesta Key . . . . . 941.349.4174  
Our Lady of the Angels . . . . . Lakewood Ranch . . . . . 941.752.6770

**Bishop Nevins Academy**

4380 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232  
St. Martha Catholic School . . . . . Principal Mrs. MariJo Hanson 941.953.4181  
St. Mary Academy . . . . . Principal: Mrs. Rebecca Reynolds 941.366.4010

**Cardinal Mooney Catholic High School**

4171 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34232 . . . . . 941.371.4917



## Women in the Bible Summer Bible Study Series



**When:** Wed - Sep 20 • Oct 18, 25  
following the 9am Mass

**Where:** St Michael the Archangel Church  
5394 Midnight Pass Rd., Siesta Key

**Contact:** St. Michaels for more information  
[stmichaelssiesta.com](http://stmichaelssiesta.com) • 941-349-4174

## Evangelization Training!

Incarnation Parish, Finegan Center  
September 30, 2023

8:30 - 6:00 Mass, Workshop & Live Lab

Interested in learning about  
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Mass at 8:30am, Bishop Frank J. Dewane  
Incarnation Chapel  
2929 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

\$15 per person includes breakfast & box lunch  
To register, use the QR Code or  
[dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/evangelization-training](http://dioceseofvenice.regfox.com/evangelization-training)

To Register



## Upcoming Events

**Red Mass - The Red Mass**, a medieval tradition of the Roman Catholic Church, has been observed annually in the Diocese of Venice since 2008. This year, the Red Mass will be celebrated on **October 18** at 5:30pm at **St. Martha Catholic Church**. The Most Rev. Frank J. Dewane, Bishop of the Diocese of Venice, will be the Main Celebrant. A reception hosted by the Catholic Lawyers Guild (CLG) follows immediately at the Parish Hall. More information, Atty. Paul Consbruck at **866.558.7285; 941.966.6706** or [adoptfla@yahoo.com](mailto:adoptfla@yahoo.com).

**Catholic Date Night** - All engaged and married couples are invited to attend a Catholic Date Night featuring guest speakers Ryan and Mary Rose Verret, creators of the Witness to Love marriage initiative at **6:30pm, Wednesday, October 4** at **Epiphany Cathedral**. Come enjoy faith and fellowship with other couples striving for holiness while enjoying wine and cheese. Advanced registration is required. For more information contact Carrie Harkey at [harkey@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:harkey@dioceseofvenice.org) or **941.484.9543**.

**Dinner for Life** - Are you looking for a fun and meaningful way to spend your evening? Do you want to support a great cause and enjoy a delicious meal? If so, you are invited to attend a *Dinner for Life*, a special event to celebrate and support the Culture of Life in our community on Saturday, **October 7** at 5pm at the **Columbus Banquet Hall**, located at 4880 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. Appetizers are served followed by a delicious prime rib dinner at 6pm. You can also enjoy cocktails served at the cash bar. Featuring guest speakers from **Solve Maternity Homes** and **40 Days for Life**, you will also hear from Father Chris of St. Martha Church, who shares insights and experiences on the importance of defending the dignity and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. This fund-raising event supports these two non-profit organizations providing Christ-centered care to pregnant mothers. Tickets are \$40 or \$320 for a table of eight. Advanced tickets purchased at the Parish Office of St. Martha Church call 941.330.1752.

## Luau on the Lawn

Family Promise of Sarasota-Manatee  
invites you to join us for our fundraising Event

### Luau on the Lawn

Saturday, October 14, 2023 from 11am-2pm

at Pine Shores Community Center 6120 Crestwood Avenue, Sarasota

Enjoy food, music, and games to support **Family Promise** programs.

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Family Promise Sarasota, 8499 S Tamiami Tr,  
PMB 267, Sarasota FL 34238.

Learn More / Donate  
[familypromisesarasota-manatee.org](http://familypromisesarasota-manatee.org)

 **Family Promise**  
of Sarasota-Manatee



Above: Future Priests are supported by the Venice Diocesan Council of Catholic Women's Fund to encourage, educate, and support them.

## The Council of Catholic Women of the Diocese of Venice

Join The Council of Catholic Women of the Diocese of Venice in celebrating **PRIESTHOOD SUNDAY** on **September 24, 2023**.

Our diocese is educating 11 men in various seminaries.  
A donation of ANY AMOUNT will be a great help.

To take part, please send your donation, plus \$1 per honor of card  
(to cover postage and printing)

to: Cornelia Zanetti, Seminarian Fund Guardian,  
5808 Gulf Drive, #204, Holmes Beach, FL 34217

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