



17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"Suppose one of you has a friend to whom he goes at midnight and says, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread,' and he says in reply from within, 'Do not bother me.' I tell you, if he does not get up to give the visitor the loaves because of their friendship, he will get up to give him whatever he needs because of his persistence." - Lk 11:5b, 7a, 8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCC

"LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY."

St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church 820 Hickory Street Sebring, FL 33870

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Office Hours Monday—Friday 8:30 AM to 3:00 PM

CLERGY Pastor Very Reverend José González, V.F. frjose@stcathe.org

> MASS SCHEDULE Weekend Saturday: 4:00 PM & 6:00 PM (Spanish) Sunday—8:00 AM & 10:00 AM 12:00 Noon (Spanish)

DAILY MASS Monday to Friday: 8:00 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturday: 3:00-3:45 PM

> ST CATHERINE SCHOOL 2835 Kenilworth Blvd. (863)385-7300

Principal Steve Cullipher, M. Ed. cullipher@stcatheschool.org

Pre-School 747 S. Franklin St. Sebring, FL 33870 (863)385-7300 Fax: (863)385-7310 www.stcatheschool.org Office summer hours 8:00 AM—2:00 PM

St. Catherine Parish

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER

FOR THE 5th WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY 2025 [27 July 2025] Blessed are those who have not lost hope (cf. Sir 14:2)

Dear brothers and sisters,

The Jubilee we are now celebrating helps us to realize that hope is a constant source of joy, whatever our age. When that hope has also been tempered by fire over the course of a long life, it proves a source of deep happiness. Sacred Scripture offers us many examples of men and women whom the Lord called late in life to play a part in his saving plan. We can think of Abraham and Sarah, who, advanced in years, found it hard to believe when God promised them a child. Their childlessness seemed to prevent them from any hope for the future.

Zechariah's reaction to the news of John the Baptist's birth was no different: "How can this be? I am an old man and my wife is advanced in years" (Lk 1:18). Old age, barrenness and physical decline apparently blocked any hope for life and fertility in these men and women. The question that Nicodemus asked Jesus when the Master spoke to him of being "born again" also seems purely rhetorical: "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" (Jn 3:4). Yet whenever we think that things cannot change, the Lord surprises us with an act of saving power.

The elderly as signs of hope

In the Bible, God repeatedly demonstrates his providential care by turning to people in their later years. This was the case not only with Abraham, Sarah, Zechariah and Elizabeth, but also with Moses, who was called to set his people free when he was already eighty years old (cf. *Ex* 7:7). God thus teaches us that, in his eyes, old age is a time of blessing and grace, and that the elderly are, for him, *the first witnesses of hope*. Augustine asks, "What do we mean by old age?" He tells us that God himself answers the question: "Let your strength fail, so that my strength may abide within you, and you can say with the Apostle, 'When I am weak, then I am strong'" (*Super Ps.* 70,11). The increasing number of elderly people is a sign of the times that we are called to discern, in order to interpret properly this moment of history.

The life of the Church and the world can only be understood in light of the passage of generations. Embracing the elderly helps us to understand that life is more than just the present moment, and should not be wasted in superficial encounters and fleeting relationships. Instead, life is constantly pointing us toward the future. In the book of Genesis, we find the moving episode of the blessing given by the aged Jacob to his grandchildren, the sons of Joseph; his words are an appeal to look to the future with hope, as the time when God's promises will be fulfilled (cf. *Gen* 48:8-20). If it is true that the weakness of the elderly needs the strength of the young, it is equally true that the inexperience of the young needs the witness of the elderly in order to build the future with wisdom. How often our grandparents have been for us examples of faith and devotion, civic virtue and social commitment, memory and perseverance amid trials! The precious legacy that they have handed down to us with hope and love will always be a source of gratitude and a summons to perseverance.

Signs of hope for the elderly

From biblical times, the Jubilee has been understood as a time of liberation. Slaves were freed, debts were forgiven, and land was returned to its original owners. The Jubilee was a time when the social order willed by God was restored, and inequalities and injustices accumulated over the years were remedied. Jesus evoked those moments of liberation when, in the synagogue of Nazareth, he proclaimed good news to the poor, sight to the blind and freedom for prisoners and the oppressed (cf. Lk 4:16-21).

Looking at the elderly in the spirit of this Jubilee, we are called to help them experience liberation, especially from loneliness and abandonment. This year is a fitting time to do so. God's fidelity to his promises teaches us that there is a blessedness in old age, an authentic evangelical joy inspiring us to break through the barriers of indifference in which the elderly often find themselves enclosed. Our societies, everywhere in the world, are growing all too accustomed to letting this significant and enriching part of their life be marginalized and forgotten.

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Given this situation, a change of pace is needed that would be readily seen in an assumption of responsibility on the part of the whole Church. Every parish, association and ecclesial group is called to become a protagonist in a "revolution" of gratitude and care, to be brought about by regular visits to the elderly, the creation of networks of support and prayer for them and with them, and the forging of relationships that can restore hope and dignity to those who feel forgotten. Christian hope always urges us to be more daring, to think big, to be dissatisfied with things the way they are. In this case, it urges us to work for a change that can restore the esteem and affection to which the elderly are entitled.

That is why Pope Francis wanted the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly to be celebrated primarily through an effort to seek out elderly persons who are living alone. For this reason, those who are unable to come to Rome on pilgrimage during this Holy Year may "obtain the Jubilee Indulgence if they visit, for an appropriate amount of time, the elderly who are alone... making, in a sense, a pilgrimage to Christ present in them (cf. *Mt* 25:34-36)" (APOSTOLIC PENITENTIARY, *Norms for the Granting of the Jubilee Indulgence*, III). Visiting an elderly person is a way of encountering Jesus, who frees us from indifference and loneliness.

As elderly persons, we can hope

The Book of Sirach calls blessed those who have not lost hope (cf. 14:2). Perhaps, especially if our lives are long, we may be tempted to look not to the future but to the past. Yet, as Pope Francis wrote during his last hospitalization, "our bodies are weak, but even so, nothing can prevent us from loving, praying, giving ourselves, being there for one another, in faith, as shining signs of hope" (*Angelus*, 16 March 2025). We possess a freedom that no difficulty can rob us of: it is the freedom to love and to pray. Everyone, always, can love and pray.

Our affection for our loved ones – for the wife or husband with whom we have spent so much of our lives, for our children, for our grandchildren who brighten our days – does not fade when our strength wanes. Indeed, their own affection often revives our energy and brings us hope and comfort.

These signs of living love, which have their roots in God himself, give us courage and remind us that "even if our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day" (*2 Cor* 4:16). Especially as we grow older, let us press forward with confidence in the Lord. May we be renewed each day by our encounter with him in prayer and in Holy Mass. Let us lovingly pass on the faith we have lived for so many years, in our families and in our daily encounter with others. May we always praise God for his goodness, cultivate unity with our loved ones, open our hearts to those who are far away and, in particular, to all those in need. In this way, we will be signs of hope, whatever our age.

From the Vatican, 26 June 2025 LEO PP. XIV

Prayer of an Aging person

Dearest Lord, teach me to grow old gracefully. Help me to see that my family does me no wrong when gradually it takes from me my duties, when it no longer seems to seek my views. Rid me of my pride in all the "wisdom" I have learned. Rid me of the illusion that I am indispensable.

Help me in this gradual detachment from earthly things to grasp the meaning of your law of time. Teach me, in this turnover of work and workers, to discern a striking expression of life's constant renewal under the impulse of your providence.

And please, Lord, let me still be useful, contributing to the world of my optimism, adding my prayers to the joyful fervor and courage of those who now take their turn at the helm.

Let my lifestyle now become one of humble and serene contact with the world in change, shedding no tears for the past, making of my human sufferings a fit of reparation to all my brothers and sisters.

Let my leaving the field of action be simple and natural - like a glowing, cheerful sunset. Lord forgive me if only now in my tranquility I begin to know how much you love me, how much you've helped me.

And now, finally, may I have a clear, deep understanding of the joyful destiny you have prepared for me, guiding my every step from the first day of my life. Lord, teach me to grow old... - Author Unknown

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Dear St. Catherine Catholic School Families and Friends,

First, let me thank all of you for kind words and support during this time of transition into my new role as principal. I am humbled by the opportunity to serve our team, students, families, and our community. I would be remiss to not give a heartfelt thank you to Fr. Jose, who has graced me with his support and encouragement during this time.

The usual preparations for the new school year have been underway over the summer. Our maintenance and custodial crew have been hard at work cleaning, painting, repairing, and updating our facilities. Thank you, Hector, Silvia, and Nancy! An additional thanks to Mr. Ken Bruce for mounting our new 85" interactive touchscreens in grades 1-8 classrooms that were purchased through the EANS grant, and the Olguin family for painting the interior of the cafe building.

We are incorporating a new theme for this school year: Unapologetically Catholic. We will be increasing the visibility of our faith with a renewed focus on the traditions of the Catholic Church. We have partnered with Hallow to "help teachers strengthen their students' mental and spiritual lives through encountering Christ in meditative prayer." This program will help students overcome life's challenges through the strength of the Holy Spirit. The solution to all problems begins with faith. It can even help students study for their exams! We have new artwork and posters with reminders and explanations of some of the tenets of our beliefs and additional Catholic relics for our classrooms. We will be increasing students' exposure to our beautiful traditional Catholic prayers and biblical teachings. As St. Paul tells in the second letter to the Thessalonians, "...stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught..."

I ask that you keep St. Catherine Catholic School, including our students and teachers, in your prayers. I invite you to join our Guardian Angels in supporting our mission of sharing the love of Jesus Christ with the world. More information can be found on our website <u>www.stcatheschool.org</u> and clicking on Giving/Guardian Angel at the top of the page.

May God Bless You and God Bless St. Catherine Catholic School.

Mr. Steven Cullipher, M. Ed. Principal



We are in need of more volunteers to serve as Liturgical Ministers. Please help if you can. A Liturgical Minister is simply being involved with or assisting with the Mass. While the Priest is the presider and main guide for the movement of the liturgy, it is a community effort to complete the Mass, and to do so in a safe, dignified and reverent manner.

ALTAR SERVERS

Altar Servers must have received First Communion to serve. These young people serve at weekend Masses, and other liturgical celebrations.

LECTORS

Lectors proclaim the readings from the Scriptures during the celebration of the Mass and other liturgies, and read the pulpit announcements and prayers of the faithful.

SACRISTANS

Sacristans are "humble servants" of Christ who serve by preparing the altar and sanctuary for Mass, and arranging and managing the liturgical books, sacred vessels, bread, and wine.

USHERS & GREETERS

Ushers and greeters do much more than just seat people, take up the collection, stand watch in case of emergency, and greet people. They are the "Open Doors" to fellow worshipers, and hence serve as the face of the Church! They welcome each new arrival, make them feel at home, and point them towards Christ.

July 27, 2025 St. Cat		Page 2
SACRAMENTS	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
RECONCILIATION	Mass Intentions of the Week	
This sacrament is available every Saturday from 3:00—3:45 PM or by appointment with a Priest.		SATURDAY July 26th
Anointing of the sick, Baptism & Marriage	4:00 PM	CHARLES & CATHARINE RITCHEY † Madonna Williams
For questions or more information (863)385-0049 or e-mail at office@stcathe.org.		EDD VOWELS † Rita, Laurie, Tim & Susan TODD VOWELS † Rita, Laurie, Tim & Susan
SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK Monday: Ex 32:15-24, 30-34, Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23, Mt 13:31-35	8:00 AM	<u>SUNDAY July 27th</u> THOMAS J. TIRDIL † Katherine Tirdil FR. SEAN MULCAHY † Nora Schmidt
23, Mt 13:31-35 Tuesday: Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28, Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42 Wednesday: Ex 34:29-35, Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9, Mt 13:44-46 Thursday: Ex 40:16-21, 34-38, Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a	10:00 AM	For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. Jos
	8:00 AM	<u>MONDAY July 28th</u> IGNACIO CASTAÑO & AFRA ACOSTA † Gloria Bouters
and 8a, 11, Mt 13:47-53 Friday: Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37, Ps 81:3-		TUESDAY July 29th
4, 5-6, 10-11ab, Mt 13:54-58 Saturday: Lv 25:1, 8-17, Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8,	8:00 AM	MARY KATHREN † Hannah Henneberry
Mt 14:1-12		SOULS IN PURGATORY † Candida Reyes
Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23, Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1), Col 3:1-5, 9-11, Lk 12:13-21		WEDNESDAY July 30th
	8:00 AM	VICTOR DIAZ † Jose and Zoraida
ADORATION Every Friday from		THURSDAY July 31st
of the 8:30 to 11:45 AM	8:00 AM	TERESA ADAMS † Her Daughters
BLESSED in the Chapel		FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY † Kim
		FRIDAY August 1st
WELCOME TO ST. CATHERINE PARISH	8:00 AM	For the Hall Family — Mother
We invite you to register with us or if you have		SATURDAY August 2nd
changed any of your contact information, please	4:00 PM	For All Living and Deceased Parishioners — Fr. Jos
fill out this form.		SUNDAY August 3rd
Visit the Parish Office during open hours.Mail the Parish Registration or Update Form	8:00 AM	DONALD ROWE † Buschmann Family
to the Parish Office.	10:00 AM	DAVID JACKSON † Jim & Eileen Jackson
Drop the Parish Registration or Update Form into the weekend collection basket.Register online at www.stcathe.org		MASS INTENTIONS
	Mass Intentions forms are available at the Parish Office or	
Name: Address:	online, at https://web4ucorp.com/massintentions/catherinesebring	
City and Zip Code: Telephone:	Return Mass Intention forms at Parish Office or drop it in the weekend collection. The usual donation is \$10.	
E-mail: PLEASE CHECK ALL THAT APPLY () New Registration () Moving out of the Parish () Up-date information () Need contribution envelopes		ccify whether the person is living or deceased. <i>Mass</i> must be made a minimum of 10 days prior to the dat ntion.

July 27, 2025

dioceseofvenice.org/ways-to-give/cfa/

To watch the video go to <u>https://vimeo.com/1052376784</u>

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Suly 21, 2025 St. Cutherine I utish 1 age 0		
BOOKKEEPER'S CORNER	Tax Smart Giving	
OFFERINGS	Fulfill Your Required Minimum Distribution	
<u>Second Collections</u> This Week: Charity Next Week: Youth Group	If you reached age 73 in 2024, your second Required Minimum Distribution is due by December 31, 2025, based on your account balance on December 31, 2024.	
<u>July 20th</u> Regular Collection: \$4,633.77 Insurance: \$1,868.00 Weekly Online Giving: \$1,551.00	Did you know that you can direct your Required Mini- mum Distribution to St. Catherine Catholic Church and avoid increasing your taxable income by making a Qualified Charitable Distribution? You can request your IRA Administrator to send a check payable to St. Catherine Catholic Church to satisfy your Required Minimum Distribution.	
For Online Giving instructions visit <u>https://www.osvhub.com/stcathe/funds</u>	Please check with your professional advisors for more information on this beneficial giving option.	
Flocknote June: \$3,021.00 For Online Flocknote Giving visit	St. Catherine Catholic Church does not provide legal tax, or financial advice. When considering gifting op- tions, seek the advice of your own legal and/or financial	
https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/fundit/give	professionals.	
Thank you for your help with insurance bill	SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL	
GOAL: \$110,000	This week we served 27 visitors/ shoppers with a total of 75 family members. 10 volunteers/ Vincentians op- erated the food pantry with 3 students. We received 6 donations from Parish families. We shared Holy Communion and prayer with 6 pa- tients and their family at the hospital. We invite anyone interested in joining or learning more about our efforts to join us in the food pantry at 10:00am every Tuesday. We thank you for your generosity and support. For more information call 863-835-0571 Food Pantry For the Needy & Foor 206 Hickory Street Setting. Flow and States Use Martes	
CATHOLIC FAITH APPEAL 2025 Our assessment for 2025 is \$115.00.00		
We have received: \$114,257.00	Safe Environment Training	
Please make checks payable to CFA and in the Memo write "St. Catherine".	As part of the Safe Environment Program, the Diocese of Venice requires that all employees and those volun- teers who work with children and/or vulnerable adults be fingerprinted and complete online training in Safe	
Thank you for your generous support to St. Catherine's and the CFA. To contribute online go to $\underline{https://}$	Environment prior to beginning employment or volun- teering. Please visit the <u>Diocese of Venice website</u> for	

further information.

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ORGANIZATION DIRECTORY

Pastor: Very Reverend José González, V.F	OCIA: Juana Nava385-0049
	navaj@stcathe.org
Arts and Environment: Gloria Fontanes	Religious Education: Rose Hall
	rose@stcathe.org.
ddiaz8558@gmail.com	Respect Life:
Liturgical Ministries: Diane Sochacki	SVDP:
6	Ushers: Mike Flood471-6381
Ministry to the Sick: Claudia Spradlin991-3271	USHEIS. MIKE FIOUL

MINISTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN

Women of our parish, come join us and see how St. Catherine's Council of Catholic Women can enrich your life. We meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 4:30 P.M. with a social time starting at 4:00 P.M. Meeting is at building S200 Hickory Street. For more information please call Mrs. Jennifer Lindsey at (618) 521-8730 or email jcsojlindsey@yahoo.com.

<u>GRIEFSHARE GROUP:</u> For more information please call (863) 385-0049

YOUHT GROUP: For more information please call (863) 385-0049.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Council Member Business Meetings are held on the first Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 PM in Building S200 on Hickory Street with the Rosary being said starting at 6:30 PM. <u>Fourth Degree Assembly Meetings</u> are held on the first Monday of <u>every other Month</u> at 7:00 PM in Building S200. New Members and Transfers are **ALWAYS welcome!** Any questions please contact Grand Knight Donald Israel (239)691-4777. Thank You!

LEGION OF MARY

Meetings are Wednesdays at 9:00 AM in the Parish Hall, Room #17. For more information please contact Mary Ann Buckley (863)385-1386.

PRAYER CHAIN

For questions or more information please call Claudia Spradlin at (863)991-3271 or email <u>claudia@stcathe.org</u>.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Registrations are available for First Communion and Confirmation classes in the Church vestibule. You also may complete the paperwork at the Church office, Monday through Friday from 8:30 AM—3:00 PM. . For more information please call (863)385-0049.

ROSARY

The Holy Rosary will be prayed at 9:30 AM each Sunday in the Chapel.

Raffle: You Can't Win if You Don't Play

To help us achieve our goal of \$100.000 to pay the cost of our insurance, we offer you the opportunity to participate in a raffle with your donation of \$10. The raffle will take place November 16th in the Parish Hall. For \$100 you can receive 11 tickets (\$10 each, ONE FREE) to win any of the following prizes.

1st Prize : \$3,000 2nd Prize: \$1,500 3rd Prize: \$500

The proceeds will go to help the Parish offset the price of our Insurance Premiums. **Time to move the thermometer!**

BUY YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS NOW: <u>https://stcatherineofseb.flocknote.com/</u> <u>give/33806</u> and we will send your tickets by regular mail.

For those who wish to enter personally (rather than electronically) raffle tickets will also be available:

- At the Parish Office
- After Masses





For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

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