

Seven Sisters

APOSTOLATE



Join a group of seven women who spend a weekly holy hour in prayer for our pastor or one of our priests. Each woman commits to one day per week, on which she prays her holy hour for the priest's intentions. If you feel called to participate in this ministry at St. Mary, please contact Paula Molloy, paula.k.molloy@gmail.com.

Seeking a quietness in the day, in the midst of your usual routines, you steal away to pray for your Pastor - unbeknownst by most - effecting eternal affairs.



Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. - Heb 4:13a

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Why pray for our priests?

From the joy of Baptism to the final apostolic blessing at death, they help carry us through all the seasons of life, facilitating the outflow of the Lord's grace through the sacraments and are the anchors of faith, hope, and love. They feed our souls, offer support and wisdom, and are commissioned to lead our parish community to holiness.

As they are a stronghold of our faith, priests are often a target of the enemy. Therefore, they need our prayers for protection and help in strengthening their spiritual life.

We pray for the grace they need to persevere in fidelity to their vocation and rekindle the grace of ordination. Our prayer supports them as they strive to be models of holiness for the church.

I invite you to join in the effort to support them with your prayers. If you can commit to offering a holy hour on a particular day each week for one of our parish priests, please send an email or text to the contact information listed below.

Whether at an adoration chapel, a church, or a quiet room in your home, at a time of the day that is convenient for you, together we can lift up their intentions and desire for holiness to the Lord each and every day.

Paula Molloy

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Under the **tri-patronage** of
Madonna of the Grapes, St John Vianney and St Margaret Clitherow



Madonna of the Grapes – Mignard, Pierre (original in Louve ~ Paris)

This image and title of Our Lady is perhaps indicative of how intimately she holds not only Jesus, but those chosen *in persona Christi*, the priests – close to her heart and ever-encouraging the centrality of the Eucharistic life. She simply and quietly offers and encourages the grapes – Jesus embraces. Our Lady, though holding Jesus securely, does so tenderly and lightly. Jesus glances from beneath the security of her veil, where there is a shadow cast on His eyes, creating for Him a veil of sorts, as well. How close is Mary in His veiled Eucharistic presence! The window in the background gives a glimpse of a world of somewhat hazy skies, perhaps a world that summons the fullness of light offered and hoped for in the Eucharistic Presence and Eucharistic life. The gaze of Jesus is on us, deliberate. Mary maintains a posture of humility, peace and contemplation – all hallmarks of the life of a Seven Sister. Let us remain faithful in our tender, hidden, prayer offerings in the splendid Eucharistic Presence, holding our pastors near our hearts, but loosely so – for they are not ours to claim, but ours to support and ours to bring to Mary, their Mother and formator.

Madonna of the Grapes, pray for us and guide us in our prayers!

