



St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net

JULY 31, 2022 † EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor

If the words of Qoheleth in the Book of Ecclesiastes regarding the nature of vanity are true, they are particularly true today. For good or ill, vanity is a universal trait of human nature. Cartoonists thrive on exaggerated or distorted images of celebrity figures, politicians, or everyday people in the humor and futility of vanity. You may, for instance, have seen shots of pet owners who bear a striking resemblance to their pet; or is it the other way around?

In biblical Hebrew, vanity means vapor or breath. It indicates something short-lived, without substance, or futile. It can also mean something that defies reason. In today's reading, vanity can mean something that leads to or ends with little meaning or disdainful misfortune. This sets a context against those tasks we often consider a drudgery due to their tedious repetition. Cleaning house, washing dishes or clothes, raking leaves, or cutting grass. Each of us could make our own favorite list, right? Anyone charged with these kinds of tasks will regularly feel their efforts and labor are meaningless and unappreciated. Yet, try living without clean clothes, or dishes to eat on for any period of time. These kinds of tasks do not lead to vanity as much as they do to drudgery.

Vanity is clinging to things beyond their value, meaning, or importance to the reality of human life. The person who fears death because they will have to surrender all they worked for in life feels the weight of vanity. Such a state of life will lead to resentment, bitterness, and a lonely unhappiness. Death in the body is a reality for all of us. If the mood and context of our death is measured only by what we have accomplished or attained in this world, then life is like a vapor and a passing breath of futility. Example: literally in the moment I am writing this I got a robo call for an insurance burial plan. I passed on it.

The birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus changes everything. For the mature believer, everything is different because of the mission of Jesus in his dying and rising. Let me put it this way: how does the dying and rising of Jesus make any difference to you in how you live with the hope of eternal life? How might it change how you gain and hold things, or how you share what you have for the betterment of others?

Why is everything different because of Jesus in his dying and rising? Death is not the end. It is a new beginning. Anything done with love will have a lasting impact, here and hereafter. Washing dishes, clothes, or the house without love will only give you wrinkled hands and a wrinkled attitude. Done with love, they will sow bonds of love and commitment through those

who benefit from your service. It may not often feel like it, but love is formative. It leaves a mark and impression on those who have matured beyond ego-centered selfishness. Examples are endless of things that take lots of time, energy, and emotional commitment that reap the fruits of love. Caring for the sick, visiting the nursing home, funeral parlor, or prison will take a conscious effort. With love, the effects are out of this world. This is obviously a short list of the endless possibilities to live with love.

St. Paul confirms the point in what is known as a teaching for all the baptized. 'Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden now with Christ in God.' What does this mean? When Christ died, all humanity, all sinful human nature died with him. When Christ rose from the dead, all humanity rose with him freed from the death of sin. We are now alive in Christ who is alive in us through baptism. God, now hidden in human nature is seen in acts of love and self-giving after the example of Christ. This is not a complete mystery. Everyone knows how to love and the peace that comes to us when we freely share ourselves for the good of others. It is Christ in us in the Spirit as evidence of our baptism. Laborious, repetitious tasks done with love will bear their fruit and will never be without meaning.

The man in the gospel did not get the message. He is the epitome of vanity. Life is all about him. In the realization of a great abundance, his first thought is not to share with those in need, but how he will store and secure his bounty. He does not think of God. He thinks only of himself. He is the one Qoheleth refers to in the first reading. Imagine his distress at death and the anxiety it will produce in the loss of his passing security. In his blindness, he is confronted by his very soul.

When God says to him, 'You fool, this very night your life will be demanded of you; and the things you have prepared, to whom will they belong?' The word 'life' in this sentence means soul. The soul is your inner self, the inner sanctuary of God's dwelling in you. Where is this man's love, compassion, or basic connection with other human beings? How will he ever meet God?

Direct your life in the things that matter to God: love, compassion, sharing, relationships, and caring for others. In love, you will spare yourself the illusion of vanity and your daily tasks of drudgery will secure you in a meaningful peace.

Father John Esper

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



Live Streaming of Mass
Monday thru Thursday
8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

One hour of Adoration on
Tuesday following
8am Mass

Livestream of Rosary on Thursday following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721
Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm
Closed Friday, Saturday & Sunday

Parish Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Business Manager/Spiritual Direction
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/RCIA
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

FAITH FORMATION

For information on our Faith Formation Program contact the Parish office at 248-542-8720

For information on Baptisms, RCIA and Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



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MONDAY, August 1, 2022

8:00am Mass: Holy Souls in Purgatory req. by Mong Ching

TUESDAY, August 2, 2022

8:00am Mass: Paul Halkey† req. by Jerry & Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, August 3, 2022

8:00am Mass: Tom & Tim Espert† req. by Family

THURSDAY, August 4, 2022

8:00am Mass: Genevieve Kairist†(3rd R.A.) req. by Family

SATURDAY, August 6, 2022

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway req. by Mom

Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, August 7, 2022

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Precila Selga† req. by Leny Lechniak & Family

Cathy McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Larry Celmer (for healing) req. by Stan & Linda Yolkiewicz



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF July 31, 2022



- Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Col 3:1-5, 9-11; Lk 12:13-21
- Monday: Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102; Mt 14:13-21
- Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
- Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13; Mt 15:21-28
- Thursday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:12-15, 18-19; Mt 16:13-23
- Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41; Mt 16:24-28
- Saturday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Lk 9:28b-36
- Sunday: Wis 18:6-9; Ps 33:1, 12, 18-22; Hb 11:1-2, 8-19 [1-2, 8-12]; Lk 12:32-48 [35-40]

ROBBING A BANK

The second reading from the Letter to the Colossians goes well with the first reading and the Gospel. Those passages warn how useless material wealth will be when we die. St. Paul continues this warning by reminding us that we have already died with Christ in baptism and risen to new life. To live this new life we must put to death whatever tendencies keep us from Christ.

Wealth can be a gift from God. The abuse is not necessarily in the possession of wealth. More likely, we abuse wealth either in the ways we attain it or use it—or both. How do we abuse the attainment of wealth? I can give an obvious answer, such as robbing a bank, but this makes it too easy to justify myself. Do I work a full day for my pay, or do I spend a lot of time visiting with other employees, surfing the Web, taking extra-long breaks, or texting my friends? Am I honest with my customers, charging only for work I have done?

As for using our wealth, we usually think of family first. Do we spoil our kids, so they can “have the things I couldn’t afford when I was young”? Or do we teach them to work for what they get? Do we also think of the poor and homeless? Do we teach our children to be generous to others?

Notice that Paul does not mention wealth. Instead he goes deeper, pointing out the thoughts and desires that lead to a life centered in wealth. In baptism, we put to death passion and greed, tendencies that push us to own more or to control another person. Paul uses the image of taking off these vices as if they were clothing and putting on a new self that shows Christ in us. When we have been renewed that way, then Christ becomes visible in all people. We no longer have reason to look down on anyone for being poor or sickly or of another race. We begin to see Christ in them, for as Paul says, “Christ is all and in all” (Colossians 3:11).

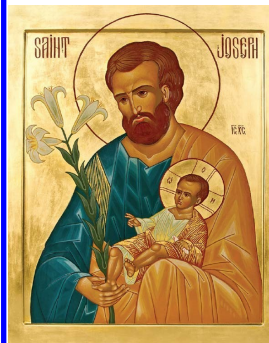
Tom Schmidt,
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**Pilgrim Icon Rosary
Prayer Service
in Honor of St. Joseph
Tuesday, August 9th
7:00pm**

All are Welcome!

In his Apostolic Letter, *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis describes in detail attributes of St. Joseph as a father figure and as a model for all. He states “Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation.” Likewise, during his papal years, Pope Benedict stated “From the example of St. Joseph, we all receive a strong invitation to carry out with fidelity, simplicity and modesty the task that Providence has entrusted to us.”

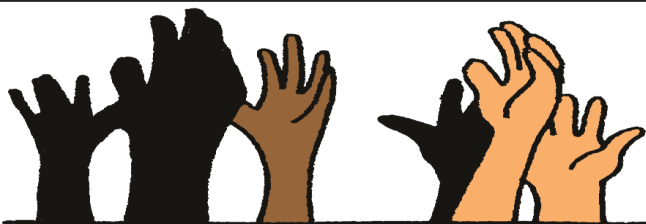
Not only is St. Joseph a role model for all, he also has an important role in the Church. Pope Pius IX thought so and proclaimed St. Joseph Patron of the Universal Church in 1870. Pope St. John Paul II affirmed St. Joseph’s patronage when he said, “This patronage must be invoked as ever necessary for the Church, not only as a defense against all dangers, but also, and indeed primarily, as an impetus for her renewed commitment to evangelization...”

All of God’s children need prayers, the Church needs prayers, our country needs prayers and the world needs prayers. Plan to join us in prayer as we to invoke St. Joseph’s intercession.

THE CENTER OF A MEANINGFUL LIFE

Today’s readings invite us to reflect upon some of life’s deepest questions, and to explore the meaning of faith. We hear of the universal human search for meaning in our lives in the book of Ecclesiastes. In Luke’s Gospel, we hear Jesus’ parable about one who foolishly seeks ultimate security through the accumulation of wealth. In Colossians, faith in the crucified and resurrected Christ is proclaimed as the path to a richly purposeful and meaningful life. The path of Christian faith places our work, our sufferings, and our limitations within the larger picture of God’s purposes for all of us. In Jesus, God is revealed as our companion in human suffering and limitation. God’s love is at the center of a meaningful life. We place our trust in this loving God, who created us to share in this love, and to share this love with others.

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EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

FOOD PANTRY

Parishioners in need of food at this time can contact Doris at St. Mary Magdalen Parish (248-542-8060)

EYEGASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

JOM SPECIFIC SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION ENDS JULY 31ST

BUCKET OF BLESSING THANK YOU

Thank you so much for the beautiful buckets of cleaning supplies. Your support and charity is so appreciated! With St. Vincent Ferrer's Parishioners life is made much easier for our JOM Outreach. Thank you

Sister Peggy & JOM Team

(P.S.) Inflation hit people very hard!

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Draw near to your servants, O Lord, and answer their prayers with unceasing kindness, that, for those who glory in you as their Creator and guide, you may restore what you have created and keep safe what you have restored. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

How has the Lord answered my prayers?

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Each Christian needs half an hour of prayer each day, except when we are busy; then we need an hour.

-St. Francis de Sales

Prayer Requests

Pray for...

...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis.

...medical and humanitarian aid for the wounded in Ukraine and the refugees fleeing the country.

...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...the homeless and all who are suffering physically and emotionally due to economic conditions.

...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing, and those who have made specific prayer requests.

Lord Jesus,

You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally especially during this crisis. In their pain and brokenness, we ask that you bring them the comfort of your loving presence. In You, may they find strength for the day and hope for the journey. Amen

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



On a summer day, with the windows open, we may hear the sound of church bells. Bells seem to have come into church life in Irish monasteries around the seventh century, and spread around the Christian world by Irish monks on missionary journeys. By the eighth century, bells were standard equipment in even small parish churches. An ancient ceremony, once called the "baptism of the bells," recognizes that the church bell has a voice to call people to awareness and summon them to worship, and even bestows a name on the bell.

In a world without clocks or watches, the bell had an indispensable role. For calling monks in from the fields for prayer, or alerting far-flung visitors, the bell's voice was enhanced by hoisting it high into a tower. Soon it was learned that the sound of several bells clanging together in harmony imparted a sense of joy to great celebrations, and bell towers prospered, some chock full of bells. Different combinations of rings could indicate a death, a Mass, a wedding, a fast day, the curfew at the end of day, and the Angelus. Before electricity, bell-ringing was hard work indeed: the biggest bell in the Catholic world, in Cologne, Germany, weighs twenty-seven tons! There's no substitute for the resonant roar of a mighty bell; electric chimes are not eligible for blessing!

James Field,
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**Eighteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
July 31, 2022**

Teach us to number our days aright,
that we may gain wisdom of heart.

— Psalm 90:12

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP &
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

Saturday, August 6 - 9am

**Faith Formation Office
in School Building**



No need to register, no cost involved. Join fellowship at any time. Come and see what God might want to say to you! Bring a friend or come and make new ones.

saint snippets

It is always
springtime in the
heart that loves God.

St. John Vianney

19th-century parish priest in Ars, France known for his love for the Blessed Mother and the Sacrament of Confession. He radically transformed his parish and is known as the patron of priests.

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August 4

Ministry Schedule

August 6/7

Mass	Sat. 4 pm	Sun 9 am
Sacristan	D Tourville	T Karolski
Reader #1	P Miles	A Goll
Reader #2	D Tourville	T Karolski
EME	M Hochstetler	L Yolkiewicz
	P Miles	A Goll
	T Riley	M Waskowski
Greeters	L Proszkowski	D Vu
	K Heffner	T Oparka
	L Collins	N Oparka
	R Bertolini	T Lane

**Join us to
Pray the Rosary
this Monday, August 1st
Herbert St. Parking Lot
by statue of Mary**



The Immaculata prayer group invites all to come and pray the Holy Rosary this Monday at 7:00pm in the Herbert St. parking lot by the statue of Mary. (Immaculata prayers will be at 6:30 pm)

If the weather is questionable, we will meet on the Admin Bldg. patio. If the weather is intolerable, we will not meet but ask all to pray the rosary in private.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

COME, FOLLOW ME



RCIA
A Journey In Faith

“Come, follow Me” was the invitation Jesus gave to those who would be in a new relationship with God through Him. We who are members of the St. Vincent Ferrer community have also heard

and responded to this invitation. Our lives have been deeply touched by the Love of God celebrated here: through life-giving and healing sacraments, faith-sharing community, outreach to those in need and in many other ways. Is there someone whom you believe that God may be calling to share in this same life with us? If so, pray that they hear Jesus’ invitation to them. If the occasion arises, invite them to “Come and see” through our RCIA process facilitated by Mary Ann Przybysz. Call (248)542-8720 for further information.



Parents who desire to have their infant or toddler baptized can contact Mary Ann in the Parish Office at 248-542-8720 to set up an appointment.



**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

“Teach us to number our days aright.” Is there a more wise and prudent prayer for people of all ages than this verse from today’s responsorial psalm? As we savor the lovely but limited days of summer we are reminded that nothing lasts forever. In today’s first reading, the master teacher (Qoheleth) asserts “All things are vanity!” while the Gospel of Luke describes the ease with which

our possessions can possess us. The second reading makes the point as well: “Think of what is above, not of what is on earth.” We see the problem of wealth from both sides today—from the viewpoint of the wealthy person who inevitably has to leave his riches to someone else and from the perspective of the potential inheritor who is at odds with his brother over how to divide their inheritance. The problem is clear; the wisdom is also.

YOU CAN’T TAKE IT WITH YOU

Stephen Covey, in his book *The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, lists as his second habit: Begin with the end in mind. Is that not the point of our scripture reflections today? We know we will die. We know we “can’t take it with us.” If you’ve ever been tasked with cleaning out the home of a deceased person, you know how easily once-treasured items simply become another burden to deal with. Or you may have experienced how quickly the joy of owning the latest smart phone becomes as outdated as the model itself. So how do we think about all the stuff that we buy, accumulate, fret over where to store, and pay taxes on? Heaven forbid if we ever have to move!

RICH IN WHAT MATTERS TO GOD

Luke sets us on the right path when he affirms that we must be “rich in what matters to God.” Needless to say, he is not saying that possessions themselves are evil. Today’s psalm asks God—twice—to “prosper the work of our hands for us!” The danger is that, as one wag put it, “we never have enough of what we don’t really need.” What *does* matter to God? What is the opposite of vanity? Kindness to one another, mercy, forgiveness, generosity to the poor and needy—all of these remain beyond death. These are what we can take with us when we die. The great mystery in all this is that God is never outdone in generosity; the more we give away, the more we have.

July 31 is also the feast day of Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits). He epitomizes richness in what really matters. His military and court aspirations evaporated after he was seriously wounded in battle. His subsequent change of heart led him to found one of the most influential religious orders in the history of the Church. If the opposite of vanity is wealth that remains after death, Ignatius is most appropriately honored today.



**FAMILIES
OF PARISHES**

OUR FAMILY - MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY

8:30 am

4:30 pm (livestreamed) and 6:30 pm

SUNDAY

7:00 am, 9:00 am (livestreamed)

10:45 am, 12:30 pm,

4:00 pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00 pm

WEEKDAYS (Monday - Friday)

6:30 am (Livestreamed), 8:30 am

St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J)

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)

SATURDAY - 4 pm - St. Justin

SUNDAY - 9 am & 11 am - St. Mary Magdalen

MON-WED, FRI- 9am - St. Justin

No Mass on Thursday

St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30 pm

SUNDAY - 9 am, 11 am

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30 am

WED - 12:10 pm

**Weekly
Offering**



Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants	726
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	97
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 4,557.00
Loose Cash /Check Collection	86.00
Total	\$ 4,643.00
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 30.00



TEACH US TO PRAY

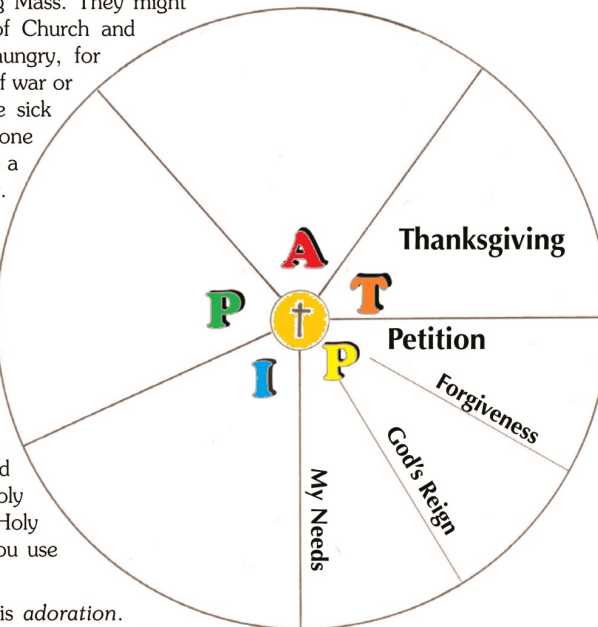
Last week we learned about prayer of *thanksgiving* and prayer of *petition*. This week we will discuss three more: intercession, praise, and blessing and adoration.

Intercession is another word for petition, or asking, but with one difference. Prayer of petition asks for things we need. Prayer of intercession asks that the needs of another be met. We hear prayers of intercession during Mass. They might include prayers for leaders of Church and state, for people who are hungry, for people living with the threat of war or violence, for people who are sick or dying. When you tell someone you will pray for them, that is a great gift and a responsibility. Who would you include in your prayers of intercession?

Prayers of *praise* give us the chance to look toward God. In these prayers we recognize how great God is and we say so. A prayer called the Divine Praises is usually pray after Benediction. It includes praises like "Blessed be God," "Blessed be his holy name," and "Blessed be the Holy Spirit." What words would you use to praise God?

The final form of prayer is *adoration*. The "Glory Be" prayer is a good example of a prayer of adoration.

Fill in the final three forms of prayer in the sections marked with I, P, and A in the circle. Try to use all of these prayers during the week. You can decide to use a different type each day, or you could make a spinner and use it to choose your prayer for the day. Each one of these prayers is a good way to keep connected to God.



SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

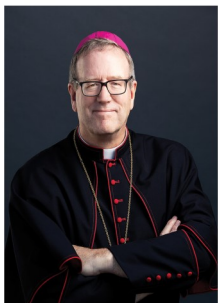
- Sunday: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: St. Alphonsus Liguori
- Tuesday: St. Eusebius of Vercelli; St. Peter Julian Eymard
- Thursday: St. John Vianney
- Friday: Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major; First Friday
- Saturday: The Transfiguration of the Lord; First Saturday

Cherished: A Morning of Reflection for Couples in a Season of Infertility
Sep 10 - 8:30am to 12:30pm
St. James Parish, Novi
\$20.00/couple or \$10.00/individual
 (scholarships are available)

Couples in a season of infertility are invited to gather for a morning of reflection with Springs in the Desert, a Catholic apostolate committed to walking with individuals and couples on the path of infertility. If you have questions or are in need of a scholarship, please email Nicole Joyce at joyce.nicole@aod.org. To register visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cherished-a-morning-of-reflection-for-couples-in-a-season-of-infertility-tickets-365881400117>

LIVE at the Basilica
Speaker Series/SUMMER EDITION!
Noon in the Basilica

Each month we'll bring in a world-renowned speaker to inspire and reinvigorate us to live as missionary disciples in today's changing world.



Thursday, August 11, 2022 - 12:00pm
 Talk followed by Mass
The Most Reverend Bishop Robert E. Barron

Recently named Bishop of Winona-Rochester in June 2022, Bishop Barron is the founder of the Catholic ministerial organization Word on Fire, and was the host of Catholicism, a documentary TV series about Catholicism that aired on PBS.

Letters from Heaven

Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus said to the crowd, "Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist ..."

	S	S	O
I	E	P	S
O	F	S	
O	N	S	

O _ _ _ _ _ "

Answer: *envy of possessions*

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Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.

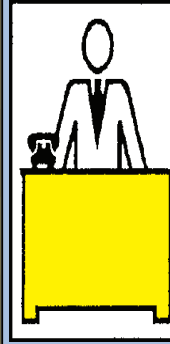
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Cell: **(248) 808-4353**

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