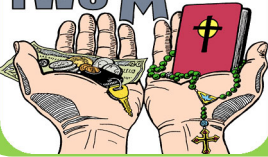


NO SERVANT CAN SERVE
TWO MASTERS



St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net

SEPTEMBER 18, 2022 † TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

How do you suppose Jesus owned or managed his personal possessions? Every indication would suggest that Jesus held or owned very few personal worldly things. I can imagine Jesus likely had clothes or a tunic, perhaps sandals made for him by his mother. Maybe he was given a favorite cloak or prayer shawl he enjoyed having. I don't believe Jesus ever carried what we know as a wallet, credit card, personal identification, or what might be considered spendable cash.

I don't know the social or cultural practices of such things in the time of Jesus, but I am confident that Jesus did not secure himself in worldly goods. Jesus knew that money, wealth, and personal possessions were always going to be a touchy subject for any who were benefited in this way. The story of the Rich Young man comes to mind. Jesus did not disdain worldly goods. He must have enjoyed the good things of life as much as anyone. What he did know and actively practiced was the greater wealth of spiritual or heavenly possessions.

Today's parable is a subtle but sensitive way to alert his followers about the difference between worldly wealth and the spiritual wealth of his heavenly kingdom. This first point he makes is that the wealth of the world is different than the wealth of heaven. He points out the misuse of the steward who abuses the possessions of his master. To be clear, the master is God, the generous giver and provider of all good things. The steward uses what belongs to the Master in a worldly way for his own enrichment. He is not honoring, reverencing, nor loving the benevolence of his Master's abundant generosity, but stealing for his own enrichment.

First tickle of awareness; do we honor, reverence, and love the gifts God gives us as members of the Divine Kingdom? Do we use the blessings of our lives to enrich ourselves and others in ways of the Kingdom, or only for personal security and comfort? Do we have a willing freedom to share our goods with others?

Next, the steward is commended for his practical wisdom in using the Masters' wealth to favor himself to others when he may be in need. Why are people so much more creative and accomplished in worldly affairs than in the works of the gospel? Remember that Jesus is subtly causing his listeners to think about worldly possessions against heavenly ones. Which will matter more when worldly wealth fails? 'When it fails,' refers to the value and effectiveness of worldly things at the time of death.

At the conclusion of the parable, Jesus adds several other sayings. Dishonest wealth refers to worldly possessions used to make friends in this world so that at death you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings. Dishonest means things that will pass away, not things gained by stealing or other disreputable ways.

Jesus continues to teach the nature of the Kingdom of God only realized through the selflessness of the Cross. To be trustworthy in 'small matters' is to be trustworthy in the passing things of this world. A person dishonest in the small matter of money and possessions will also be dishonest in greater matters. 'Greater matters' refers to the things of God, spiritual things that lead to eternal life given by Jesus through the works of redemption. If a person cannot be prudent and wise about the things of the world, how will they recognize and honor the things of heaven?

When Jesus became incarnate, he closed the gap between heaven and earth. Earthly things and heavenly things were put in a new relationship. The value and dignity of the good things of the earth which we all love and value are gifts of God to be shared for the sake of the Kingdom. Jesus makes the point that the value of earthly things is that they reveal the goodness of God, and never more effectively than when they are used for the love, reverence, and honoring of God and others.

In parables like this one, Jesus is showing his human and Divine nature. Humanly, Jesus needed, used, and valued the things of the earth like the rest of us. He did not live for passing worldly things. In his Divine nature, Jesus possessed only heavenly things. Consumed in the love of the Father and the shared desire to reconcile and unite all creation in the heavenly Kingdom, Jesus was determined to form his followers in the mind and heart of God.

Money, wealth, sharing, and almsgiving will always be a touchy subject. To get the right answer, you must ask the right question. As a follower of Jesus, is God first in my life or not? If yes, how do I live and respond to the call of God through the use of earthly things? As Jesus makes clear, you cannot serve both God and money. Both are important. One will pass away. The other is eternal. Make love your best and most abundant possession, freely and generously shared. The only one who can peacefully decide such things is the one you see in the mirror. God loves your face and would pay anything to have it in heaven. God gives all for us. How can we share what we have to honor our profession of faith in the Lord Jesus?

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

Friday - 9am to Noon - Closed Saturday & Sunday

Parish Office 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/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Office

**Hours: Monday thru Thursday 12-3pm or
by appointment 248-398-1743**

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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

MASSES for the Week



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MONDAY, September 19, 2022

8:00am Mass: Pranas Juska† (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

TUESDAY, September 20, 2022

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, September 21, 2022

8:00am Mass: Paul Halkey† req. by Marie Bessler

THURSDAY, September 22, 2022

8:00am Mass: Mary Jane Guc (In thanksgiving & gratitude) req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

SATURDAY, September 24, 2022

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Donna Dietrich† req. by John & Jenny Dietrich
Peter Conway req. by Mom

Shirley Novak† req. by Pat King

SUNDAY, September 25, 2022

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Joseph Kuzma† req. by Nancy Sadowski
Peter Kauffman req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler
Marion Welsh† req. by Regis & Family



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Sept. 18, 2022



Sunday: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-8; Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]
Monday: Prv 3:27-34; Ps 15:2-5; Lk 8:16-18
Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13; Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44; Lk 8:19-21
Wednesday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13; Ps 19:2-5; Mt 9:9-13
Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc; Lk 9:7-9
Friday: Eccl 3:1-11; Ps 144:1b, 2abc, 3-4; Lk 9:18-22
Saturday: Eccl 11:9 — 12:8; Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17; Lk 9:43b-45
Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7; Ps 146:7-10; 1 Tm 6:11-16; Lk 16:19-31

THE CLEVER CROOK

The parable in today's the Gospel has a crooked steward who is commended by his master for being prudent, or clever, trying to protect himself. Jesus wanted us to be just as clever in serving the Lord. Let's look at the first two readings and how they challenge us to do more.

The reading from Amos talks about those "who trample upon the needy and destroy the poor" (Amos 8:4). The challenge here is to ask yourself, "What do I do for the poor?" Most parishes have organizations to help the needy and are happy to get volunteers. Do you ever think of praying for the poor?

Speaking of prayer, our second reading also challenges us to do more. Paul recommends prayers for "kings and for all in authority" (1 Timothy 2:2). It's easy to pray for friends and family; how much time do we give to prayers for government leaders and executives? Paul reminds us that God wants everyone to be saved (1 Timothy 2:4), sinners as well as saints, terrorists and embezzlers, atheists and agnostics. I'll bet you don't spend much time praying for the "bad guys." Yet Jesus said, "Love your enemies. Pray for those who hurt you" (Matthew 5:44). I can't say I've ever heard anyone say that was their favorite Bible passage. But if Jesus expects more from those who love him, who are we to let him down?

Tom Schmidt,
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Pray for



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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.

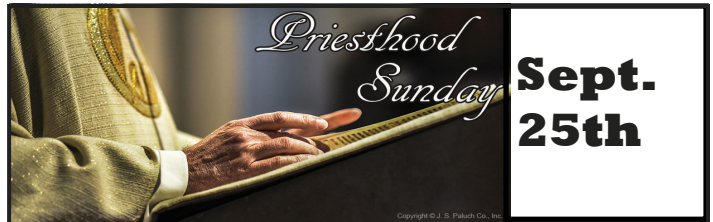
...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...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



Although, Priesthood Sunday is next Sunday, September 25th, today, we recognize and offer our prayers and thanks to Fr. John Esper for his love and faithful ministry to our parish family for the past seventeen years and for serving in the Priesthood for almost 39 years. (He will be directing an Inner Healing Retreat next weekend.)

We are also grateful to Br. Bob Malloy, Fr. Dennett Jung, Fr. Joel Medina, the PIME Missionaries and our Family of Parishes priests: Fr. Paul Snyder, Fr. Joe Horn, Fr. Bob Williams, Fr. Joe Lang, and Fr. Mark Livingston for their sacramental assistance to our community.

Pray for priests and vocations to the priesthood!

Annual Appeal for Priest Retirement Fund Collection - Sept. 24/25

Each year, the Archdiocese of Detroit requires an annual contribution to the Priest Retirement Fund. To help defray the cost of this assessment, we will take up a collection next weekend. Your generosity toward the support of retired priests who have served the faithful in the Archdiocese of Detroit is greatly appreciated!

Envelopes for this collection are at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.



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Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

O God, who founded all the commands of your sacred Law upon love of you and of our neighbor, grant that, by keeping your precepts, we may merit to attain eternal life.

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 do I show love for my neighbor?

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PARISH MISSION
October 22 to 25
Facilitator:
Fr. Craig Marion

Annual Parish Baby Shower
Weekend of October 1/2



Items needed
 diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, diaper bags, wash clothes, burp pads, quilts, blankets, receiving blankets, pacifiers, nail clipper sets, brush and comb sets, light-weight sleepers, shampoo, body wash, outfits, rattles, onesies, socks, booties, layettes, bibs, bottles

Return unwrapped gifts weekend of October 1/2 or drop off at Parish Office during business hours.



EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER
PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY
 After our summer hiatus it's time to resume our Prayer Blanket Ministry. We will meet this Thursday, September 22, 2022 from 6-9pm in the church social hall. You don't have to be a seamstress to join our group. If you can cut material, decorate squares, arrange squares to be sewn or pin backings to blankets, we need you. Come join us and bring your own scissors or sewing machine. We meet the 4th Thursday of each month. God Bless You.
 Renee Hauzie

VOLUNTEER **FOR MIA DAY**

To help in the success of Mercy in Action Day, October 1st, volunteers are needed for different activities taking place.

Volunteer sign-up sheets explaining the various kinds of help needed are on the tables in back of church today. Please sign up today!

MERCY IN ACTION DAY
October 1st - drop in any time between 9am-12pm

<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoration</i>	In church and online	ALL are welcome
<i>Rosary</i>	Outside at Mary Statue 10am	ALL are welcome
<i>Card Decorating</i>	School Gymnasium 10am to Noon	Children, parents, grandparents, everyone is invited to join us in decorating/coloring pop up cards for our homebound seniors. Materials will be provided.
DRIVE UP	DROP OFF	COLLECTIONS
<i>Blessing Bag Items</i>	Admin building	Travel size: deodorant, tooth brush, tooth paste, shampoo, conditioner, comb, brush, kleenex packet, hand/foot warmers, tube socks. No liquids.
<i>Pet Supplies</i>	Admin building	Wet & dry cat/dog food, "Science Diet" food is requested, cat/dog treats, toys, towels, blankets, trash bags
<i>Prescription Eye glasses & Hearing aids</i>	Admin building	Prescription glasses, cases and hearing aids accepted
<i>Incontinence Supplies</i>	Admin building	Adult size large and X-large are requested



WE'RE BACK! CHOIR RESUMING!

Practices will be Wednesdays
at 7pm in the Admin Bldg. Choir Room

You are invited to join us in the Admin Bldg. at 7pm on Wednesday,
September 21st to see if this ministry is a good fit for you.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PASSING FAITH TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

Please consider volunteering in our religious education program!

We are looking for volunteers to serve as catechists (teachers), teacher aides, and hall monitors.

If you are interested in volunteering, there will be a meeting in the Religious Education Office on Monday, September 19th at 6:15 p.m.

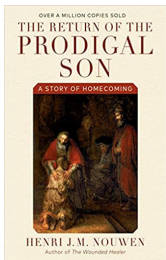
Can't make the meeting? Please call Matthew, our new Director at 248-398-1743 or email ReligiousEducation@stvincentferrer.net

**Ministry Schedule
September 24/25**

Mass	Sat. 4 pm	Sun 9 am
Sacristan	T Riley	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Kairis	C McCarthy
Reader #2	T Riley	T Karolski
EME	M Hochstetler	A Goll
	M Kairis	C McCarthy
	M Simmons	M Waskowski
Greeters	L Proszkowski	D Vu
	T Oparka	Volunteer
	N Oparka	Volunteer
	B McEvoy	T Lane

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY
beginning this Wednesday, Sept. 21st**

***The Return of the Prodigal Son*
A Story of Homecoming**



by **Henri J.M. Nouwen**

In seizing the inspiration that came to him through Rembrandt's painting of the Prodigal Son, Henri Nouwen probes different aspects of the parable from the gospel story: the younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's vengefulness, and the father's compassion. Henri takes us on a journey of exploring themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation in light of the human condition.

Series begins on Wednesday, September 21st after the 8am Mass. A light breakfast will be served. Please call the parish office at 248-542-8720 to register. Books are available online through Amazon or other book dealers.

RCIA NOW OCIA

ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

A new change has been made in the title of the process in which adults are prepared in the Catholic Church for Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist, and for reception into the Catholic Church for persons already Baptized in another Christian tradition. Formerly known as "RCIA" or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process will now be referred to as "OCIA" or "Order of Christian Initiation of Adults." "Why the change?" you may ask. This is a change that focuses on the initiation process, recognizing the candidates for the sacraments of initiation are in a life-changing journey within the Catholic community. Upon participation in the "Rite of Acceptance" at which candidates express their free choice to pursue preparation for the Sacraments, they officially are welcomed into the Church's "Order of Catechumens" which affords them certain rights in the church.

The ongoing support of our local faith community is essential for this journey. So please pray for those who may be considering a call to Baptism within our parish. If you know an adult who is at this place in her/his life, encourage them to contact Mary Ann Przybysz, OCIA coordinator, at the parish office, (248)542-8720.



Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

When we listen to the scriptures at liturgy, there is kind of an unspoken idea that we will hear something amazing and uplifting, that will stir our hearts into flame and make us better Catholics, better Christians, better people, as we carry the Living Word of God out in our lives. So how surprising is it when we get

a day like today, when so much seems to run counter to our expectations? Amos warns us about cheating and taking away someone's rights. In Paul's first letter to Timothy, he explains we must pray for everyone, no matter what we think of them, even if they are in a place of power and authority. And Jesus' praise of the "children of this world" in today's Gospel passage is really disconcerting!

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- Sunday: Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
- Monday: St. Januarius
- Tuesday: Ss. Andrew Kim Tae-gõn and Paul Chõng Ha-sang and Companions
- Wednesday: St. Matthew
- Thursday: Autumn begins
- Friday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio)
- Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

PRIORITIES

Make a choice. God or money, material things, earthly pleasure. This is what Jesus asks us to do in today's Gospel. The Pharisees and scribes, and many people, want it both ways. God and wealth. But Jesus knows that "no servant can serve two masters." It is not that wealth is inherently bad, but the pursuit of it to the exclusion of what is good and righteous is. Our faith is meant to guide and shape the way we live. If we are followers of Jesus Christ, we will treat others, especially the poor and vulnerable, fairly and justly. We will live with devotion to God and let our lives speak the truth of God's love for all. We will put first things first, or more precisely, put God and God's ways first, assured that when we do, everything else will fall into place.

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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 Aug 6/7	727
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	121
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 5,861.00
Loose Cash /Check Collection	138.00
Total	\$ 5,999.00
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 604.00

TOGETHER IN HOLINESS
MARRIAGE CONFERENCE

Join us for the first annual Together in Holiness marriage conference presented by the St. John Paul II Foundation and Archdiocese of Detroit. This one-day conference provides an opportunity for quality time with your spouse and includes dynamic presentations, Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, Reconciliation, on-site childcare, and more.

Saturday, October 15, 2022 - 9:30 am - 4:00pm
Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church
 Plymouth, MI

Mass Celebrant:
Most Rev. Gerard W. Battersby
Speakers: Ryan Hanning, PhD; Janet and Luis Diaz; and Sr. Joseph Andrew Bogdanowicz, OP
Registration: \$64/couple and \$40/individual.

Scholarships available upon request. On-site childcare (6m-12yrs) available with pre-registration. For more information, please visit: togetherinholiness.org or email amanda@forlifeandfamily.org.

2022 Annual Banquet
Image of God
Crisis Pregnancy Centers

We cordially invite you to join us in celebrating another successful year of IOG pro-life ministries in Metro Detroit. Our dedication to sharing the love of Jesus Christ with pregnant women has resulted in hundreds of them choosing life, receiving counseling, parent classes and spiritual guidance.

Thursday, October 6, 2022

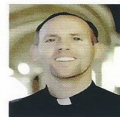
SS. Cyril & Methodius Parish
 41233 Ryan Rd, Sterling Heights, MI 48314

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m. - Beer & Wine
Dinner promptly at 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

2022 "DEFENDER OF LIFE" AWARD
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\$40.00 per person - \$280 table of 8
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 33700 Groesbeck Hwy, MI 48026

Info @ 313-331-4728



Fr. Gonyeau
 Special Guest Speaker
 Beth Hool - MC



e-tickets @ ImageofGodCPC.eventbrite.com

Connect the dots to see what we call someone who is dependable and honest. Ask God to help you always to be this kind of person!

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God's Word for Children

Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We must not be tricked or tempted to worship money.
 Color all the squares with even numbers orange.
 Color all the squares with odd numbers yellow.
 Then you will see the name of the only One we should serve!

18	2	4	12	23	33	45	35	11	29	11	42
42	21	11	15	35	27	17	27	23	9	25	38
36	7	37	25	9	37	47	11	19	43	11	40
14	31	49	35	15	17	9	25	15	31	49	26
32	17	29	21	41	8	12	18	41	12	24	30
34	19	40	44	33	34	5	22	3	14	15	26
4	21	47	48	37	40	39	42	25	28	23	20
8	6	16	2	37	38	16	20	21	50	26	48
33	13	17	35	31	43	35	37	7	43	21	45

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Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.

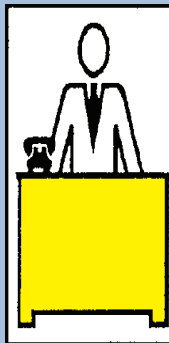
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WHY IS IT?



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Medical Alert System



\$29.95/MO. billed quarterly

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- Price Guarantee
- Easy Self Installation

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 - ✓ Friends/Family
- FREE Shipping
 FREE Activation
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 As Shown GPS,
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 Nationwide, No Land Line Needed
 EASY Set-up, NO Contract
 24/7 365 Monitoring in the USA

MDMedAlert
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