



St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net

OCTOBER 2, 2022 † TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

Author, Dr. Scott Peck in the opening line of his acclaimed book, The Road less Traveled got it right. 'Life is difficult'. The sooner we realize and allow this truth into the reality of our world view, the better we will be able to know and love ourselves and others in this troubled world. The world does not owe us and will not offer us the favor of a life of ease, security, or comfort.

True as it is that life is a gift from God, we will nonetheless feel the challenges and disorder of a wounded and sinful world. God intends our happiness here and hereafter in the unitive life of heaven. How do we find happiness and peace in the travail of so much greed, injustice, poverty, and evil in the world? Christ is the answer and the promise. The humility of the Incarnation through the birth of the Lord Jesus is clear evidence that God is ever-present with us and for us in all things.

The Prophet Habakkuk makes a soulful plea to God in a time of injustice, violence, and social destruction. Is the prayer of Habakkuk not our prayer in these troubled and anxious times? It is, and well it should be. "How long, Oh Lord? I cry for help, and you do not listen!" "Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife and clamorous discord." We hear in these words the weariness and longing of the Prophet for some evidence of the Lord and his help in a time of misery.

I invite you to pray with this passage and the images it presents. Pray to God with all your heart for the will and wisdom of God against all the evil, division, greed, and social injustice evident in the world today. As you move to the second half of the reading, ponder the words and listen to the response of the Lord. Be confident the Lord is listening and willing to hear your prayer.

Consider the word given to Habakkuk. It is a strong word of hope and direction. It does not promise an immediate solution, but a vision for the course of Divine action. It is a vision of hope and promise that secures the people in the awareness of the presence and action of the Lord. 'Write down the vision clearly on tablets, so that one can read it readily. The vision will have its time, it presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint. If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.'

Notice that God gives a plan in the form of a vision, and he wants the vision clearly presented and made known to the people. Why? Isn't God going to come and take care of the problem and make life better for us? Yes, God will come and triumph over the problem

of evil, injustice, hatred, and division. However, God will not and cannot do it on his own. Out of necessity, in the human-Divine relationship, God intends to use those who believe in him to bring to fulfillment the vision laid out for us.

The theme is the same in the gospel. The preceding verses not read today have Jesus telling the disciples they must forgive seven times a day should they find offense in another. The disciples understand seven times means endlessly, or without limit. The opening verse today is their response. "Increase our faith". In other words, if you expect so much forgiveness then increase our faith. Jesus challenges them not in the quantity of their faith, but the quality. If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it would obey you." Faith is power held by the One in whom we believe. Our trust releases God's power.

In Christ, we are the servants of God. Our profession of faith makes us co-workers with God to bring about the vision exemplified in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. A master does not applaud his servant for simply doing what is expected of him/her. With Christ we are servants of God's vision and plan of redemption for the world. God cannot save the world without us. As believers, we are Christ in the world with the hands and feet, words and deeds that reveal and bring about the justice of God's vision for all.

God doesn't need to be saved; we do. God has shown us the vision and the way of his Kingdom in the life and death of the Lord Jesus. Baptism has made us one with Christ empowered with his Spirit. Through faith and trust in God, we have the power to change the world one prayer, one act of love, justice, compassion, mercy, and forgiveness at a time. Through our actions of love, God will do the rest. That is the power of Christ.

Are we worthless, unprofitable servants? Likely so, if we only do the minimum expected of us for the sake of squeaking into heaven. We are not doing God a favor by coming to Mass once a week. The Mass is not for God, it is for us and for our salvation which we are to work out day by day with the strength we gain in the Holy Sacrament. If we share the vision of Christ, and sincerely receive the nourishment Mass offers, we will bring its power to the world. Then we will have done what we are obliged to do for the good of human salvation. Be an agent of God's will in the world. Live with love, forgiveness, mercy, and justice. God will do the rest.

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**



MONDAY, October 3, 2022

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

TUESDAY, October 4, 2022

NO MORNING MASS

WEDNESDAY, October 5, 2022

8:00am Mass: Jerry Gutowski† req. by Carl Copen

THURSDAY, October 6, 2022

8:00am Mass: Bob Mazurco† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

SATURDAY, October 8, 2022

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Helen Vithol req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler Peter Conway req. by Mom

Michael Magri† req. by Kim Magri and Family

Jessica Magri† req. by Kim Magri and Family

Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler (Special Intention) req. by Tom & Dianne Karolski

Robert Mazurco† req. by daughters, Michelle & Ann

SUNDAY, October 9, 2022

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Krebs Family req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

Clarice Kovala† req. by Linda Karolski

Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler (Special Intention) req. by Tom & Dianne Karolski



**READINGS FOR
THE WEEK OF
October 2, 2022**



- Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10
- Monday: Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37
- Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42
- Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4
- Thursday: Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
- Friday: Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26
- Saturday: Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28
- Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19

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Excerpt From a Letter from Archbishop Allen Vigneron Regarding Proposal 3

“We are less than two months from the November 8 election, during which voters in Michigan will decide on an issue of paramount importance to protecting the inherent, God-given dignity of all people.

Abortion advocates under “Reproductive Freedom For All” seek to amend the state constitution to allow unregulated abortion on-demand through all nine months of pregnancy. This effort, primarily funded by out-of-state dollars, is spearheaded by Planned Parenthood and the ACLU. It will appear on the ballot as Proposal 3.

The implications of this proposal are vast and extreme”

For the Archbishop’s recommendations or to view the full letter visit: aod.org or pick up a copy today in back of church.



**Respect Life
Sunday
October 2nd**

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JOIN THE LIFE CHAIN—OCT. 2ND

Thousands of participants across the United States will stand on the sidewalks in witness of their commitment to love and protect the preborn and their mothers. Right to Life-LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care.

Join others standing along Woodward Ave. and 12 Mile Road from 2-3:30pm.

For a list of other sites to witness at in Metro Detroit area visit: <http://milifespan.org/events/2022-35th-annual-life-chain/>

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS

When we were kids, my brothers and sisters and I thought that you were not supposed to say the blessing before meals in a restaurant. You were not supposed to flaunt your faith in public. It probably had more to do with fear of being embarrassed if non-believers saw us praying. I think of that when I hear St. Paul telling Timothy, “God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control” (2 Timothy 1:7). All three readings mention the difficulties that people of faith will encounter, and each reading has its own way of facing those hardships.

Jesus gives the practical advice: Look at the difficulties of being a disciple as just part of your job. No servant expects to be praised by his master for doing his job. So if the Lord says I must forgive those who hurt me, or be patient with customers, or share what I have with the poor—no problem; it’s part of the job of a disciple. If someone I know is in pain, I’m there to support them. Too tired to go to church after work on a holy day? Just taking care of business.

So how do we get the strength and self-control to roll with the punches? Paul reminds us in the second reading to stir the gifts of the Spirit into flame. If you take time to pray every day, if you look for God in other people, if you see difficulties as your share of the cross—you’ll find those gifts of faith, power, love, and self-control beginning to grow stronger inside.

We can trust that this is more than just wishful thinking by going to the first reading. When the prophet cries out for help with the misery and violence in the world, he hears God’s promise that the vision (of hope for deliverance) will be fulfilled even if it seems to be delayed. We too hear that promise when we start to get discouraged, for God’s promise “will not disappoint” (Habakkuk 2:3).

Tom Schmidt,
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Mark Your Calendar

2022

PARISH MISSION!

Presenter: Fr. Craig Marion
OCTOBER 23-25 - 7:00pm
St. Vincent Ferrer Church
28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, 48071

Want to feel closer to God?

An engaging spiritual gathering that weaves story, prayer and scripture into an enjoyable 45 minute presentation each evening.

For anyone who desires a spiritual boost or spark- come join us for 3 evenings you won’t forget! All are welcome (especially kids!).

EACH EVENING

Praise & Worship	7:00pm
Presentation	7:15pm
Hospitality & Fellowship	8:00pm

Ignite your faith!

ATTENTION ELECTRONIC DONORS

We appreciate your continued support with St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church. Our current E-Giving platform is being discontinued by our bank as of October 31, 2022. To better serve you all donations going forward will be submitted through Tithe.ly, our new donation online platform. The new platform is user friendly and holds more payment options for your convenience. You will need to re-register on the new platform to set up your contribution account. The link is provided for you on our website: www.stvincentferrer.net

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this change. We believe this will make giving easier than ever for our church community. If you have any questions, or if you need assistance setting up a recurring contribution, please feel free to reach out to us at 248-542-8720.



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis. ...medical and humanitarian aid for

those suffering from economic hardship and from complications caused by catastrophic weather ...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom. ...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually and emotionally ...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 in these difficult times. 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

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of



**Gerald Gutowski
Joseph Arant**

Please remember him and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

FOOD PANTRY

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

**MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION
October 8/9**

Items requested: Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like: Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including: Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are appreciated and used to buy perishable foods



September 28 thru November 6, 2022

40 Days for Life is a National Prayer Campaign to end abortion

Participants offer prayers, fasting, and peaceful vigils at local abortion centers if able

To participate in a peaceful vigil at a local abortion center, visit: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-search.aspx>

MERCY OUTREACH GOES ON

St. Vincent Ferrer family members are invited to participate in a continued mercy outreach effort with St. Mary Parish in Royal Oak, one of our Family of Parishes.

The events and dates are:

- 1.) Forgotten Harvest food packaging activity on Friday, Oct. 7: 9am to 12 pm;
- 2.) Sandwich Makers needed on Friday, Oct. 7, 6:30pm to 8pm. to prepare sandwiches for distribution at St. Aloysius street BBQ event;
- 3.) Street BBQ on Saturday, Oct. 8: 7am to 12 noon at St. Aloysius church in downtown Detroit. Grill and serve hot dogs & hamburgers and pass out lunch bags to feed the hungry and giveaway hats, gloves and hygiene kits to the homeless of St. Aloysius Parish.

Sign up at stmaryroyaloak.com/mia.

Faith Formation



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Faith Formation Classes begin this Monday. Parents and students to meet in church at 6:15pm.

Our Lady of the Rosary October 7



In 1571 Pope Pius V instituted “Our Lady of Victory” as an annual feast to commemorate a victorious naval battle near Lepanto, Greece. In 1573, Pope Gregory XIII changed the title of this feast day to “Feast of the Holy Rosary.” In 1969, Pope Paul VI changed the name of the feast to “Our Lady of the Rosary.” Prayer to Our Lady now focuses more on peace than on military victory.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

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Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Almighty ever-living God, who in the abundance of your kindness surpass the merits and the desires of those who entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.

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 God’s kindness surpassed what I think I deserve?

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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.



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.

Ministry Schedule October 8/9

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 Kairis	L Yolkiewicz
	P Miles	A Goll
	T Riley	D Gray
Greeters	L Proszkowski	D Vu
	K Heffner	T Oparka
	L Collins	N Oparka
	R Bertolini	T Lane

STIR INTO FLAME
the gift of God



**Twenty-seventh
Sunday in
Ordinary Time**

We live in a society of instant gratification. We download and stream and binge-watch at our convenience; we use drive-throughs or have our food and groceries delivered. Wonderful things are indeed coming, but we must learn patience and humility! The Lord encourages Habakkuk to quit being impatient and wait for the vision to mature.

Anyone who has started a fire knows how patient you must be to, as Paul admonishes, "Stir into flame the gift of God you have," and to guard it well. Even in their good zeal, Jesus slows down the apostles. He equates faith to a mustard seed and tells them to settle down. As it takes that little seed many years to become a great tree, the Apostles and disciples must spend their time in service and grow in learning and love, and faith will come with it.

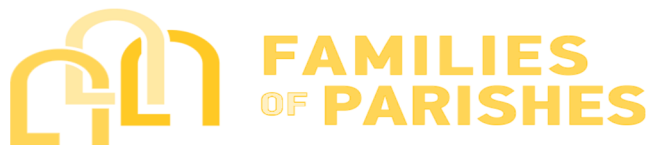
LESS IS MORE

The last few weeks, we have seen Jesus speaking in parables that were long and complex, and sometimes it was difficult to find the point of his message. But today he speaks simply to the Apostles and gives them a graphic image that is very easy to grasp. Think of how many pictures you have seen with an open hand holding mustard seeds, or the image of the seeds and the grown tree. The thing is, those photos are worth a thousand words. One could call it the "elevator pitch" on faith. Jesus provides his followers with a touchstone to hold onto, a spiritual roadmap as it were. But along with that beloved parable is a more difficult message.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

At some point, Jesus must just get exasperated with these folks. The Apostles and disciples have been following him for how long now? And they still don't understand. The kingdom of God is not about how great you are on earth, or how much faith you have. There is much work to be done. He reminds them that they are still the folks who are going to be cooking dinner when they come home in the evening. They are the servants. Their work continues until the kitchen is clean! Similarly, it is not enough for us to simply show up to church on Sunday morning. We must be servants in our daily lives. On my computer screen is a yellow sticky note that says "If serving is below you, then leadership is above you." Right now, "Servant Leadership" is a big buzzword phrase bordering on overuse, but there is a lot of truth to it. Some of the ways we may lead our families, our workgroups, our faith groups include: listening to others, showing empathy, healing yourself through work-life balance, developing your self-awareness, and being a good steward. Wrap it any way you want, it is all about being a good Christian. Have faith. Serve others. Watch it grow!

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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**



Offerory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants Aug 6/7	727
Offerory Env. Used & e-fund participants	92
Total Amount in Offerory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 3,914.00
Loose Cash /Check Collection	196.00
Total	\$ 4,110.00
Budgeted Amount for Offerory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 25.00

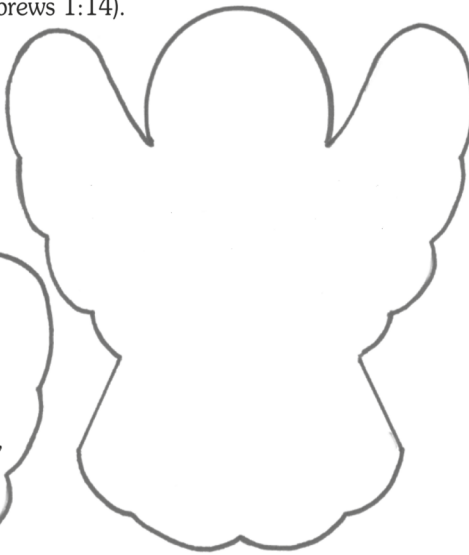
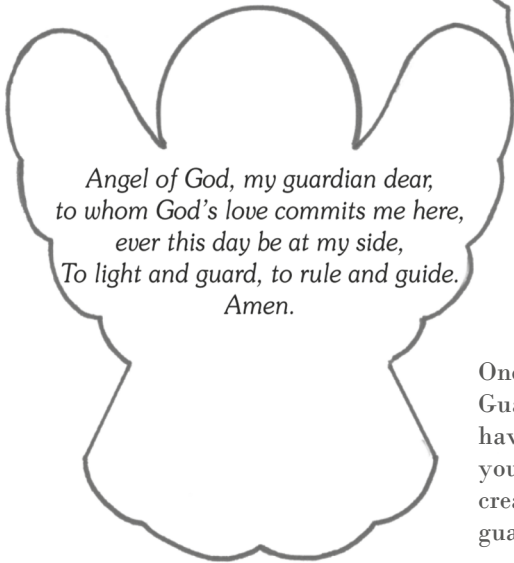


GUARDIAN ANGELS

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones,
for I say to you that their angels in heaven
always look upon the face of my heavenly Father.”
(Matthew 18:10)

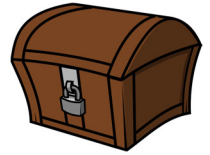
When not on a Sunday, October 2nd is celebrated as Feast of Guardian Angels. An angel is a messenger from God. This passage from the Gospel of Matthew reminds us that each of us has an angel who is sent from God to protect and guide us. St. Paul, in his letter to the Hebrews, writes that these angels are spirits who serve the special task of helping us on the path toward God (see Hebrews 1:14).

God knows that we always try to do the right thing. Sometimes that is hard and we need some help. In times when we are afraid or sad or worried, it is good to know that we have a guardian angel who reminds us of God’s presence.



One angel has the prayer to a Guardian Angel that most Catholics have learned. You can learn it for your nighttime prayer or you can create your own prayer to your guardian angel.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Sometimes human relationships go awry, but Christ’s choice for us is irrevocable. In marriage celebrations, the Church always recalls God’s faithfulness to help prepare married couples for enduring the inevitable rough spots. The Byzantine liturgy does this by adorning the couple with crowns that remind them of the martyr’s crown. The couple therefore takes on a vocation of witnessing to the sacredness of life in all of its suffering and joy, and of keeping their eyes fixed on the banquet of heaven.

In Eastern theology, people have a liturgical vocation to give God praise, and marriage fits within that plan. It is not so much saying prayers that counts, but becoming prayer. Interestingly, in this liturgy the couple never utters a word other than joining in the community’s chants; there are no marriage vows as such. There is therefore not a hint of our Western Christian sense that marriage is a legal contract. Rather, it is all about living out one’s baptismal vocation, embracing the cross, pouring oneself out in love, and opening to the grace of the Holy Spirit.

—James Field,
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- Sunday: Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
- Tuesday: St. Francis of Assisi; Yom Kippur Jewish Day of Atonement) begins at sunset
- Wednesday: St. Faustina Kowalska; Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
- Thursday: St. Bruno; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher
- Friday: Our Lady of the Rosary; First Friday
- Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

**AQUINAS COLLEGE OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAYS, OCTOBER 8 AND
NOVEMBER 12**

Aquinas College welcomes any high school students and families to our Fall Open Houses on Saturday, October 8 or Saturday, November 12! Choose your own path throughout the day to get the inside scoop on academics, athletics and scholarships, as well as our Dominican pillars of prayer, study, community and service! Details and registration information can be found at aquinas.edu/openhouse.

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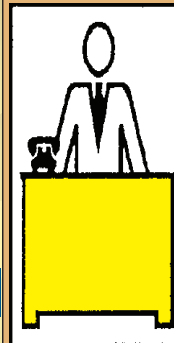
Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.

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