



# St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

OCTOBER 16, 2022 † TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

In today's gospel, God is not the irreverent, unjust judge intentionally difficult in the face of human concerns. If either character in the gospel is an image of God, it is the persistent widow who tenaciously pleads her cause to gain rightful justice. God is faithful, compassionate, and trustworthy to all who seek him.

Prayer is a communion of love between the believer and the God whom we seek. As an act of trust, we yield to the Lord our deepest desires, needs, and concerns in the hope of God's provident care. Prayer is built on the understanding and acceptance of our dependence on the Lord and is loving care. On our own, we can do nothing of value without the direction and care of the Divine will. Prayer is not begging. We do not have to shout and scream or shove our needs before the Lord as if in a long line of traffic as we sneak to the front confident we can wiggle in.

Prayer is relationship in our desire to be one with God in the awareness and faith that God seeks to be one with us. This is not, 'I'll scratch your back if you scratch mine.' Prayer is desire built on faith, trust, and experience of a God who first came to us in the hope of our acceptance of the Divine offer. God does not play hard to get, keep score of debts, or count the long absences between contacts. If you want to practice and learn how to be in relationship or how to be a friend, practice with God. You can tell God anything and he will not repeat it. You can trust God. You can tell God your hurts, losses, fears, and sins. You can talk to God about your dreams and plans, hopes, and desires. God wants to know these things beforehand. Before making plans for anything, ask the Lord for his wisdom and will. Things will always go better with the Lord in the driver's seat.

This is the case with Moses, Joshua, and the Israelites as they are confronted with war against Amalek. As the Israelites journeyed through the desert to the Promised Land, they are confronted by those who already occupy the land. Notice the first action of Moses. He prays. He will not enter the fray before he has engaged the Lord his God. Further, he instructs Joshua to set his battle plan only after Moses has set himself in prayer.

With staff in hand, Moses raises his arms in prayer to God trusting in the power of Divine providence. The staff is the symbol of his authority and power before the Lord. This is the staff with which he struck the rock that flowed with gushing water, divided the Red Sea, and had previously called forth the seven plagues as the Israelites sought freedom from the Egyptian Pharaoh.

In time, Moses grew tired and his arms wavered.

Prayer is not always singular. We pray in and with the support of a larger community. Aaron and Hur hold up the arms of Moses that the favor of God remain with them. We all grow tired at times. We need the encouragement of others to help us persevere in prayer and the works of the Christian life. Sometimes we pray for others. Sometimes others pray for us. In times of discouragement or weariness, remembering that others are praying for you is all it takes to feel the grace to persevere. Intercessory prayer is powerful and essential to sustain the Christian life. The angels and saints are constantly praying and praising God on our behalf. Jesus is praying for you even as the Holy Spirit prays in you and carries your prayers to the Father.

The point of the gospel is the perseverance of the widowed woman. She is alone and without an advocate. Still, the judge has a duty to give her a just hearing. Note that the story is directed to the disciples as they travel to Jerusalem with Jesus. He is teaching them the necessity and value of prayer and its persistence. Primary attention should not be given to the judge. Jesus is using an odd little example to accentuate the perseverance needed in prayer. In the end, due to her persistence the woman gains her just due.

Some will say God is too slow in answering our prayer. God's silence or delay in response is often God's wisdom. We fail to realize all the things God has to put in place before our prayer can be answered. If our prayer is for another person, perhaps God is waiting for that person to cooperate with his will for them. The lack of a perceptible response does not mean God is not listening. Sometimes God's answer may be no. If so, another path will be opened.

Prayer is a lifelong endeavor. Like any relationship, our prayer should change as we grow and mature in faith, trust, love for, and response to God's presence in our lives. Keeping love alive over the long haul can be quite a challenge. Like a long and faithful marriage, prayer will ebb and flow with the rhythms of life and the blessings and challenges of love. Even the deepest love needs regular nourishment and fresh expressions to animate the beloved. The same is true in our relationship with God.

We persist with many things in life to sustain the stability, security, and comforts we seek. Prayer is the most important. Without God as our source of truth in love through life we would soon be lost and aimless on our strength alone. God will never leave us. With prayer, we are assured of his constant and faithful presence.

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 Noon-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 17, 2022

8:00am Mass: Rimantas Labeika† req. by Regina Juska -Svoba

### TUESDAY, October 18, 2022

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

### WEDNESDAY, October 19, 2022

8:00am Mass: Jerry Gutowski† req. by Sheryl Brown

### THURSDAY, October 20, 2022

8:00am Mass: Richard McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy

### SATURDAY, October 22, 2022

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Donna Dietrich† req. by John & Jenny Dietrich  
Peter Conway req. by Mom  
Ann Brunk (for health) req. by Mike & Jean Pietraszewski

### SUNDAY, October 23, 2022

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family  
Joe & Genny Palazzola† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

James McCarthy† req. by Dolores & Family

Cathy McCarthy† req. by Dolores & Family

Jessie Giszczak (for health) req. by Dolores & Family

Jerry Gutowski† req. by Mary Jane Guc



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF October 16, 2022



Sunday: Ex 17:8-13; Ps

121:1-8; 2 Tm 3:14 — 4:2; Lk 18:1-8

Monday: Eph 2:1-10; Ps 100:1b-5; Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18;  
Lk 10:1-9

Wednesday: Eph 3:2-12; Is 12:2-3, 4bcd-6; Lk  
12:39-48

Thursday: Eph 3:14-21; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 11-12, 18-  
19; Lk 12:49-53

Friday: Eph 4:1-6; Ps 24:1-4ab, 5-6; Lk 12:54-59

Saturday: Eph 4:7-16; Ps 122:1-5; Lk 13:1-9

Sunday: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18; Ps 34:2-3, 17-19,  
23; 2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18; Lk 18:9-14

**PERSEVERANCE**

In today's Gospel, Jesus gives a clever example of why we are to persevere in praying, even if we think the prayer is not being heard. The crooked judge just wanted to get that widow off his back. So we can pray to God with even more confidence, because we know that God loves us and will answer our prayers.

St. Paul carries that theme of perseverance even further. He is not just talking about prayer here; he encourages Timothy to persevere in proclaiming God's word as well. That command we may find more challenging than prayer. He tells Timothy (and us!) to "convince, reprimand and encourage through all patience and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2). How can we do that?

"Convince" reminds me that our faith should be reasonable. Jesus' command to love one another, for instance, can be taught much more convincingly by giving examples of love. A mother who hugs her child when he is hurt and encourages him when he feels lost is teaching that command in a way that will be remembered much longer than just telling him to love people.

Paul also talks about reprimanding each other. Most people find it difficult to reprimand someone they are in charge of, much less one who is equal in status. That's where patience comes in. A reprimand can be made patiently and gently, as a sign of concern rather than authority.

Paul lastly mentions teaching. Parents can do their part by teaching the stories from the Bible, helping children to see God in creation, teaching them to pray, and being good examples of God's love for them. If you send your children to religion classes or the parish school, do what you can to support the teachers so that what the children learn at school is practiced at home.

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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 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*

**Make Plans to Join Us**

**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**

<b>Praise &amp; Worship</b>	<b>7:00pm</b>
<b>Presentation</b>	<b>7:15pm</b>
<b>Hospitality &amp; Fellowship</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>

*Ignite your faith!*

**THANK YOU**

**Deepest Gratitude To Our Parish Family**

It is with heartfelt gratitude and peace that I write this note on my and Jerry's behalf. The prayerful and emotional support, via cards and messages, that we received over the past 3 years and now at Jerry's passing has provided a sense of loving peace. Although he could not be physically at Mass, he definitely watched and listened well to what was going on. Thanks in a special way to Father John for the great send off he gave at the Funeral Mass.

I pray that we all continue to reach out to all in any need the same way you did for my Jerry. That is my ongoing mission. Love and gratitude to all,  
*Bernadette & Jerry Gutowski*

# EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER



September 28  
to November 6

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.

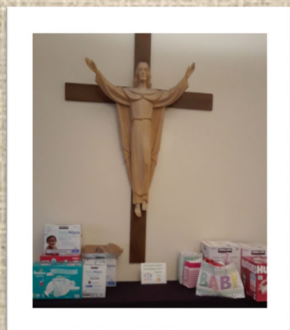
To participate in a peaceful vigil at a local abortion center, visit: <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-search.aspx>

## PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

Our Prayer Blanket Ministry is now underway. We had a good time at our last meeting. Our next meeting will be on Thursday, Oct 27, 2022 at 6 - 9 pm 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 our wonderful group and bring your own scissors or sewing machine. God Bless You. Renee Hauzie.

## MERCY IN ACTION UPDATE

Thank you to all who so generously gave of their time and treasure to our parish's Mercy in Action Day. Through these efforts we were able to prepare Greeting Cards for many occasions for those in need; 70+ blessing bags for the homeless and more; pet food for God's little creatures in pet shelters; hours of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament for the intentions of the day; an outdoor rosary at Our Lady's shrine. May Jesus be served in His People!



# Reproductive Freedom for All Vote NO

Archbishop Allen Vigneron is calling on Catholics to help defeat Michigan ballot Proposal 3. He has said "The implications of this proposal are vast and extreme." In a letter dated September 15, 2022, to his "Brothers & Sisters in Christ", he offers 3 invitations to act: Pray, Vote NO, and inform others about the true nature of this destructive proposal. To learn more, he encourages visiting:

[supportmiwomenandchildren.org](https://supportmiwomenandchildren.org).

The full letter from the Archbishop can be found on our website, at [aod.org](http://aod.org) or pick up a paper copy in back of church or at the Parish Office.

The archbishop's video message can be found at [www.aod.org/prolife](http://www.aod.org/prolife)

*"The right to life is the first among human rights."* -Pope Francis

## BABY SHOWER UPDATE

The R-T-L Baby Shower 2022 was very successful and all of the cute outfits, oh so soft layettes and blankets and the very necessary diapers have been delivered to Karen at Wee Care and Pat at Madison Family Planning. Karen and Pat were both very appreciative and commented on how very generous the people of St Vincent Ferrer are.

We collected 5 cases and 10 individual packages of baby wipes, 9 cases and 14 individual packages of diapers, 22 bibs/burp pads, 36 hooded bath towels and wash cloths, 28 tops and pants, 60 outfits, 30 small quilts and crocheted blankets with sweaters, hats and booties, 5 fleece blankets with matching pillows, shampoos, body lotion, bottles, nail clipper sets, rattles/stuffed toys, plus \$100.00 in cash. I am so blessed to be part of this wonderful ministry with all of you. Please keep all of these parents and their babies in your prayers. God bless us all. *Rorie Grant*

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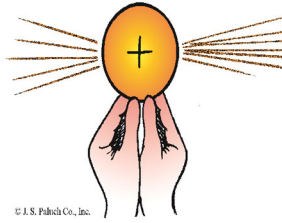


### CATECHETICAL SUNDAY AT SVF

*"This is my body given for you" Luke 22:19*

“Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the role that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. This year, the Church celebrated Catechetical Sunday on September 18, 2022, and the (year’s) theme is: “This is my body given for you”.

At SVF we were celebrating National Singles Day on September 18th and giving our newly hired Children’s Faith Formation Director some time to organize our program. This Sunday has been chosen as the day to call forth members of our Children’s Faith Formation Ministry to be commissioned for their ministry. Please keep them and our young people in your prayers.



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### A Prayer for Catechists

*Loving Father, we pray today for our catechists. We thank you for their gift of ministry in your Church. Grant them your wisdom that they may grow in the understanding and teaching of your Word. Grant them also your love that they may be fruitful heralds of your Word and lead others to love you. Pour forth your Holy Spirit upon them to grant them wisdom about what is important; knowledge of the truths of faith; understanding of their meaning; right judgement about how to apply them in life; courage to persevere even in the face of adversity; reverence before all that is sacred and holy; and that loving zeal which leads others to a transforming encounter with your Son. We pray this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Excerpts from the USCCB website

**Baptism Preparation**

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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.

### Faith Formation - October Schedule



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**Oct 17**  
**Class 6:15 to 7:30**

**October 24**  
**No Class - Parents and students requested to attend Parish Mission 7 to 8:00pm**

**October 31**  
**No Class - Halloween**



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### 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 22/23**

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	P Miles	A Goll
	M Kairis	C McCarthy
	M Simmons	M Waskowski
Greeters	R Bertolini	D Vu
	P Miles	M Bessler
	L Collins	P Rarus
	B Mc Evoy	T Lane



**GOD'S PERSISTENCE**

Today's Gospel is set within Jesus' instruction to his disciples to prepare for a future after his ascension, and before Christ's final return. The early Church lived in an unjust and violent world, and likely wondered when Christ would return to complete his work. In this context, we hear a parable of a corrupt judge and a widow seeking justice. The widow has no worldly resources to affect the judge, but only her own persistence. And that was enough.

We today also live in an unjust world, and we the Church long for Christ to fulfill God's promises. But we are not asked to wait passively; instead we must join God's work in bringing justice. We can imitate the widow with our persistence in prayer and action to be instruments of peace in our own place and time. These efforts might well extend beyond our own lifespans, but God will inspire new instruments of peace in future generations. God's persistence will be enough.

**A DEEP BREATH**

In today's passage from 2 Timothy, we hear that "all scripture is inspired." The Greek word translated as "inspired" literally means "God-breathed." That is, God breathes God's own life in and through scripture. We can see ourselves also as "God-breathed," as God's creation was the result of God's speech in Genesis, and as the Church received the Spirit from Jesus' breath (John 20:22). God breathes in and through these writings, and in our encounters with each other, to enliven and to transform us.

Using this word, Paul invites Timothy to engage with scripture, to allow it to teach, correct, and train. Scripture is not a set of rules or an answer book, but a breath of God's fresh air. It is the record of flawed human beings encountering a loving yet mysterious God. It is the story of God and humanity where we can place our life stories in dialogue with God's story. Take a deep breath.

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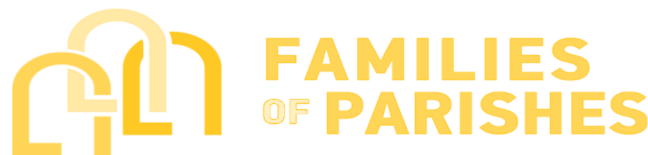


**ANNUAL COLLECTION  
October 22/23**

Next weekend, is World Mission Sunday, a day to remembering our baptismal call – to bring the Gospel to all!

We will take up the annual collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith which supports the work and witness of the Mission Church to the most vulnerable communities.

**Envelopes for this collection can be found at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.**



**OUR FAMILY - MASS SCHEDULES**

***National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica***

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY

8:30 am and 4:30 pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY

7:30 am, 9:30 am (livestreamed), 11:30 am

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

***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**



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Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants	725
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	113
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 4,944.19
Loose Cash /Check Collection	102.00
Total	\$ 5,046.19
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 280.00



PRAYER OF THE WEEK

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Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Almighty ever-living God, grant that we may always conform our will to yours and serve your majesty in sincerity of heart. 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:

When do I resist conforming my will to God's?

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- Sunday: Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: St. Ignatius of Antioch; National Boss's Day
- Tuesday: St. Luke
- Wednesday: Ss. John de Brébeuf, Isaac Jogues, and Companions
- Thursday: St. Paul of the Cross
- Saturday: St. John Paul II; Blessed Virgin Mary

TO SERVE AS GOOD STEWARDS

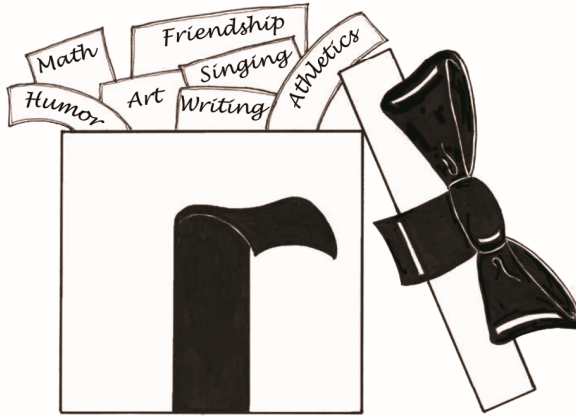
As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied grace. (1 Peter 4:10)

The Catholic Church believes that everyone has received gifts or talents from God, and we need to be stewards of them. This means that we need to use our gifts for good. But it is not always easy to recognize our own gifts and talents. Sometimes we need to ask someone in our family or a good friend to help us identify them. What would you name as your top five gifts or talents?

The U. S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Stewardship, *To Be a Christian Steward*, suggests four steps to take once we recognize our gifts.

1. *We should receive God's gifts gratefully.* Do you thank God every day for the gifts you receive and ask God to help you share them?
2. *We should cultivate them responsibly.* Do you try to develop your gifts every day by practicing them and using them only for good?
3. *We should share them lovingly in justice with others.* Do you share your gifts with only those people you like or who are your friends? Do you also think about sharing them with those who aren't your friends, or people in need, or people in other schools or in the neighborhood?
4. *We should return them with increase to the Lord.* If you identify your gifts, practice them, and share them, they increase and grow stronger. Then we offer them back to God by praying in thanksgiving for them and asking God to help us use them wisely. Do you offer your thanks in prayer at the end of the day? At Mass?

As a family, name at least one gift each person has. Talk about the four steps of becoming good stewards.



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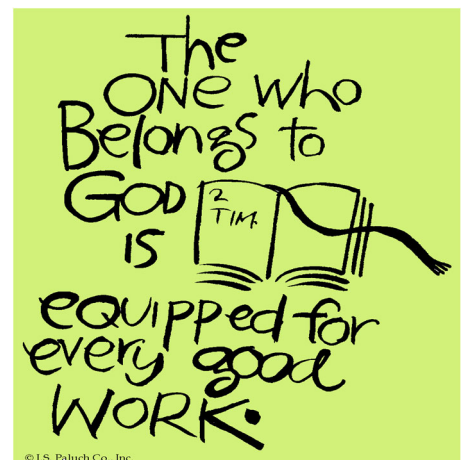
TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Although the hours of daylight are rapidly dwindling, many people would say that these October days bring the year's most splendid weather. Americans are riders and joggers, not strollers, and so the pleasures of the season are often lost on us. This is not the case with many Jewish people, who observe an ancient rule in walking to synagogue on the Sabbath. On city streets and suburban sidewalks in many cities, we may notice around sunset the nicely dressed families walking and chatting on Friday afternoon. After a short prayer at dusk, the families stroll home again for a relaxing and festive meal. They return to synagogue in the morning, and then spend an afternoon in family leisure until three stars appear in the night sky and Sabbath ends.

Catholics, on the other hand, pile into the car and drive even a short distance to Mass; some even divide the family to participate at different hours. For Jews, the leisurely walk marks a dividing line between hectic life commitments and a day of abundant joy and enrichment. Before we became an automobile culture, Catholics embraced a similar pace, and in most places walked to church. These lovely days of fall invite us to tap into an old and life-giving tradition. If you live within a mile of your church, walk next week. If you must drive, park at a good distance and walk the rest of the way. Talk about your life, greet strangers, notice the crunch of leaves under your shoes. You may be surprised at how different Sunday Mass feels when it is framed by leisure!

—James Field Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co



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SINCE 1906  
**Wm Sullivan & Son**  
 FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Royal Oak 248-541-7000  
 Utica 586-731-2411  
 Michael Kairis, Sherry Marshall  
 - Parishioners

[www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com)

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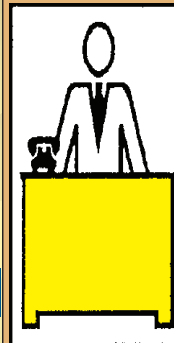
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 Madison Heights, MI 48071

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