



# St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

OCTOBER 23, 2022 † THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Our Parish Mission begins this Sunday with Father Craig Marion.**

**Join us Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 pm for Praise and Worship and Father Craig's reflections on Hope and Encouragement in these challenging times.**

**Join us for fellowship and refreshments in the Parish Hall. Come and Bring your Friends.**

## From the Pastor

We are very pleased to have Father Craig Marion share his reflections with us on hope and encouragement in these uncertain times. Father Craig was ordained to the priesthood in the Archdiocese of Detroit five years ago. He is currently the pastor of St. Anne Parish in Ortonville, MI. As a parish, we supported Father Craig through his years in the Seminary. His parents still live in the neighborhood and are members of our community. Please join us in giving Father Craig a warm welcome as we look forward to his dynamic preaching. All are welcome. We look forward to having our Religious Formation kids and families with us on Monday evening. Please join us and bring a friend. All are welcome.

'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' This is the first and the greatest of all the Commandments. Do this and you will live. Any person who professes Jesus as the Christ, Savior of the world, now risen from the dead is familiar with this verse from Matthew's gospel. As a community of believers, are we consciously attentive to this essential identity with God? Is God sincerely the center of our lives through whom we direct the movements of our life?

I quoted from a recent survey that 14.9 million people have left Christianity. Why is that do you suppose? Evidence suggests the answers are many and varied. However, is it possible that in our success driven society people have experienced that Christianity simply does not work? We like what works and we want to see results when we commit ourselves to something. Do Christian communities, like a parish family, show enough evidence that Jesus is active and present among us? Do people feel the presence and the Spirit of the risen Christ among us through our love and concern for one another? It is something to ponder. The reality is the Church grew because the power and love of the Holy Spirit was alive and active in the early believers. Love attracts and draws people in. They want to be part of a group in which they feel loved and valued through a strong sense of belonging.

In the gospel today we are shown two images of how people approach and pray to God. The Pharisee is steeped in religion and its rules. He appears blinded by pride, arrogance, and self-justification. Less than a

prayer, he reports to himself the faithfulness of his religious practice. He is not really speaking to God. Further, he understands God or a least religion as a competition which allows him to stand over others in judgement. He thanks God, or himself that he is not like others who lie, cheat, and commit adultery. He feels good about himself and goes home in the same state in which he arrived; self-justified. He was only talking to himself.

The second image is that of a person hesitant to approach the Temple, not daring to raise his eyes to heaven. He feels the burden of his sin, owns it, and speaks honestly to God. He understands and accepts his unworthiness. But he believes. He loves God, or knows he is called to love God, and that he has failed. He trusts God is merciful. How do we know? By the prayer he humbly offers to God. 'O God, be merciful to me a sinner.' This is an expression of love with a sincere desire to be forgiven. This one goes home justified. He prayed from his heart, his soul, his mind, and with the strength of his faith. He allows grace to touch him.

Christians are a community of sinners who profess the mercy and grace of redemption in the Lord Jesus. We are both saints and sinners. Both tend to be disguised. Socially, we tend to point out the sinners, while the saints quietly go about their good works. Even saints are sinners, and in every sinner there is a saint. The Pharisee doesn't know what he is missing. He has never had the courage to speak to God from the truth of his person. Keeping the rules of religion gave him what he wanted; to be self-justified and above the judgements of others.

People will be drawn to Christianity and the Church when they feel the life and love of Jesus among those who gather there. When they feel the love, mercy, and forgiveness of God among believers, they will want what we have found. Or, if they are like the Pharisee, they won't come because they are their own measure of goodness. As mature believers, we are called to actively live in love for all because of our love for God. The most effective way to validate our love for God is to love our neighbor. Discover the saint in you. Admit the sinner and have a heart to heart with the good Lord Jesus. Experience Christianity at its best. Share the love of Jesus you profess.

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 24, 2022**

8:00am Mass: Carmen Mandarino† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

**TUESDAY, October 25, 2022**

8:00am Mass: Peter Stema† (25th R.A.) req. by Wife, Mary Lou & Sons

**WEDNESDAY, October 26, 2022**

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

**THURSDAY, October 27, 2022**

8:00am Mass: Cynthia Vertel† (5th R.A.) req. by Jerry and Bernadette Gutowski

**SATURDAY, October 29, 2022**

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway req. by Mom Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom Edward Lebioda† (56th R.A.) req. by Daughter, Jeanette & Tony Szeliga

**SUNDAY, October 30, 2022**

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Precila Selga† req. by Leny Lechniak & Family Hochstetler Family req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler Jerry Gutowski† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler Clarice Kovala† req. by Paula Moran Ken Podgorski† req. by Regis Welsh



**READINGS FOR  
THE WEEK OF  
October 23, 2022**



- 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
- Monday: Eph 4:32 — 5:8; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 13:10-17
- Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33 or 5:2a, 25-33; Ps 128:1-5; Lk 13:18-21
- Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9; Ps 145:10-14; Lk 13:22-30
- Thursday: Eph 6:10-20; Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10; Lk 13:31-35
- Friday: Eph 2:19-22; Ps 19:2-5; Lk 6:12-16
- Saturday: Phil 1:18b-26; Ps 42:2, 3, 5cdef; Lk 14:1, 7-11
- Sunday: Wis 11:22 — 12:2; Ps 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14; 2 Thes 1:11 — 2:2; Lk 19:1-10

# Join us Sunday, Monday & Tuesday Evening

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!*

## Reproductive Freedom for All Proposal 3 - Vote NO

"If passed, this proposal would turn Michigan into ground zero for abortions performed anywhere, at any time, by any person for any reason."

*Archbishop Allen Vigneron*

See his video message at [www.aod.org/prolife](http://www.aod.org/prolife)

### PROPOSAL 3 WOULD RESULT IN :

- \* Taxpayer funded abortions
- \* Legalized partial birth abortions
- \* Unregulated & unsafe abortion clinics
- \* Abortions performed by unqualified individuals
- \* No parental consent or informed consent

To learn more, Archbishop Allen Vigneron encourages visiting: [supportmiwomenandchildren.org](http://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.

## FRAUD ALERT

Please be aware that neither, Fr. John Esper, nor the priests in the archdiocese send emails to parishioners requesting money or gift cards.

These requests are scams.

Anointing of the Sick



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### NEXT SATURDAY

**HEALING MASS - October 29 - 4:00pm**

Fr John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass. Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.

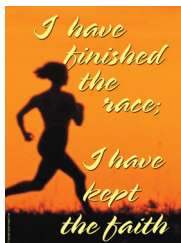


...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis. ...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from

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



### To Boast or Not To Boast

The Gospel makes it pretty clear that exalting yourself is not the way into the Kingdom. So it might sound strange to hear Paul saying he expects the winner's crown. So why is he any different from the Pharisee in the Gospel?

The Pharisee fasted and tithed, was not greedy or adulterous, but he misses the point. He thinks that being right with God comes from a person's accomplishments. He feels no need to ask for God's mercy. Yet if he relied on that mercy, he wouldn't boast about his good deeds. Instead, he would ask for God's mercy and then thank God by doing good or being generous. In other words, he thinks that God is waiting to be bribed with good deeds so that he can be justified. "After all," thinks the Pharisee, "what else are good deeds for if not to make me look good?"

St. Paul, on the other hand, looks at his life as a Pharisee and is amazed that God forgave his "good works" of keeping the law and persecuting Christians. His boasting is not about what he has done for God; it's more about what God has done through him.

Maybe you have examples of what God has done in your life: the people God sent to love you, the talents or abilities God gave you, the times God forgave your sins. Are you so grateful for what God has done that you want to do more for God? Or do you go to church, put your offering in the collection, and work a booth at the parish picnic so that God will be grateful to you? Remember that God loved St. Paul while he was still persecuting Christians, loved him enough not only to forgive him but to make him into a great apostle. Why waste your time trying to earn that love, when you could be doing whatever you can to thank God for it?

Tom Schmidt,  
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## EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

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 MEETING THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH AT 6:30PM IN THE PARISH HALL

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.

### HOLIDAY JAIL OUTREACH OCTOBER 29 TO NOVEMBER 13



Next weekend, we will begin collecting white socks, bars of soap and postage stamps for those incarcerated at Oakland County Jail. Collection baskets will be available in church or at the Parish Office during business hours. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

*Lord, I do not ask that I never be afflicted, but only that you never abandon me in affliction.*

—St. Bernadette Soubirous



- Sunday: Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Mission Sunday
- Monday: St. Anthony Mary Claret
- Friday: Ss. Simon and Jude
- Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

**Faith Formation News**



Our religious education classes for children are off to a great start. We have 22 students registered in the program from grades 1-8. (We are still accepting registrations if you know of anyone in grades 1-8 that should be in religious education classes, or teenagers that have not yet received the sacrament of Confirmation). On the first day, the children were reminded about the importance of praying to their guardian angels and were given a small token with the Guardian Angel Prayer, and encouraged to keep it in their pocket as a reminder that their guardian angel is always with them to help, guide, and protect them.



We have also started a class for children with special needs (autism, language delay, non-verbal, etc.) Sometimes, parents with children who have special needs don't send them to religion classes because they are afraid we won't be able to accommodate them, or because they don't want them to distract the other children in the class. It is, however, our mission as a parish community to announce the Gospel to all people, and we have established this class to help prepare children

with special needs for the sacraments. Perhaps you know of a parent with a child with special needs? Encourage them to sign their child up for our program, so that they can prepare for First Holy Communion. We are happy to have them in our program!

If you have any questions about the religious education program, please contact me at 248-398-1743, or [matthew@stvincentferrer.net](mailto:matthew@stvincentferrer.net). God bless you and your families, Matthew Zinser

**Ministry Schedule**  
October 29/30

Mass	Sat. 4 pm	Sun 9 am
Sacristan	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	M Simmons	D Gray
Reader #2	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz
EME	T Riley	D Gray
	M Simmons	M Waskowski
	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
Greeters	R Pasiak	D McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	M McLaughlin
	P Miles	P Rarus
	R Juska-Svoba	C Riddell

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK**

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**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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 would I change if my faith, hope, and charity were to increase? How would I behave differently?

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**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**  
**Saturday, Oct. 29 - 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.

Is there someone whom you believe that the Lord has placed in your path to bring to Him through the OCIA at this time? If so, be sure to pray for her/him as the Holy Spirit urges you. You may be the link between that person and the gift of the Grace of life in God for her/him. What greater gift can we share with another?



**OCIA**

*A Journey In Faith*

For more information, contact Mary Ann Przybysz in the Parish Office at 248-542-8720.

### Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In these waning weeks of the liturgical year, our readings present us with God's vision for the world, in which the prayer of the lowly pierces the clouds and the humble are exalted in God's sight. It is not always easy to follow Jesus, to stand for justice, share love, and bring peace when there is so much division, poverty, loneliness, and pain in our homes, workplaces, cities, and world. We do not stand alone, however. We who are disciples and servants are assured that the Lord will hear our petitions, stand by us, and give us strength as we strive to bear witness to the good news of salvation.

#### THE LORD HEARS THE CRY OF THE POOR

It is easy for those who do not face food insecurity or homelessness to turn a deaf ear to those who struggle for survival. We may regularly drive by the street corner and ignore the person who stands there each day asking for help. We might see the commercial on TV, hear the plea on the radio or in our churches, and yet not let the message in, ignoring not only the need, but the *people* whose needs are great. The prophet Sirach and the psalmist tell us that the Lord is not like us—God hears the cries of the oppressed, the orphan and widow, the vulnerable among us. As Christian disciples we are called to become more like our loving, compassionate God who hears the cry of the poor.

#### DO WE?

Jesus' parable in today's Gospel tells the story of two people. The Pharisee is puffed up with his own importance. His prayer is more a statement of self-justification in which he positions himself as being above the rest of humanity. So much so that he prays to himself, thanking God that he is so much better than everyone else! The tax collector on the other hand raises his eyes to God and acknowledges his sinfulness. He is the one Jesus says is justified, exalted in God's sight. What about us? Are we so puffed up with our own importance, so caught up in the stuff of our daily lives that we fail to recognize our failings or to see the needs of the people around us? This week, let us ask the Lord to pierce our hearts, help us to genuinely admit our failings, and truly live as followers of the one who gave his life so that all might live life to the fullest. God hears the cries of the weakest and relies on us to respond.

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**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 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

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



Christian liturgy has always contained an opportunity to make a choice for sharing. From the beginning, Christians pooled their resources, especially for the care of widows and orphans, at the weekly Eucharist. Over the years, the collection became detached from the liturgy and baskets or plates would be passed through the community while the Mass was going on at the altar, or contributions would be collected at the doors. In Milan's Ambrosian Rite, these gifts have always brought to the altar by lay people in procession. In German countries, the ancient custom was for the entire assembly to process with their gifts—first the men, then the women, then the priests and deacons—to offer their gifts at the altar. The old ceremony of canonization included a curious vestige of this procession: people would present the pope with two loaves of bread, two barrels of wine and water, five candles, and three cages containing pigeons or turtles.

-James Field,

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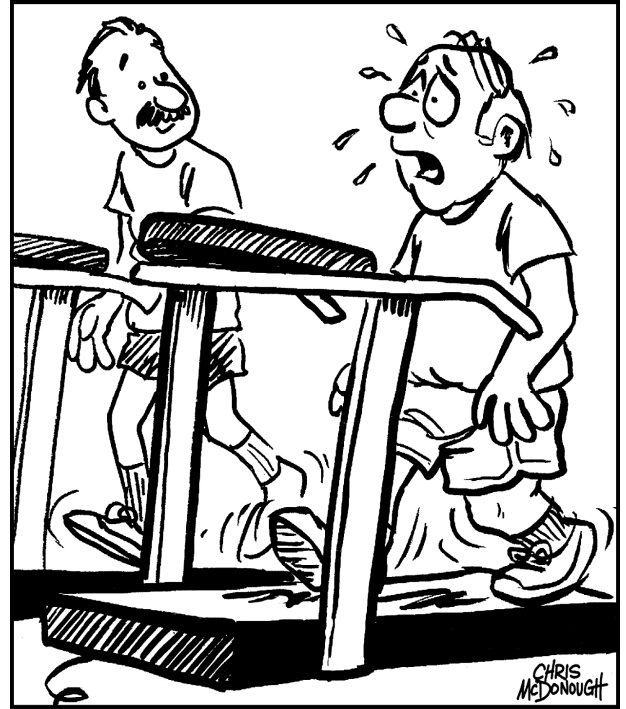
Weekly Offering	
Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants	726
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	121
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 4,476.04
Loose Cash /Check Collection	50.00
Total	\$ 4,526.04
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 67.00

## SYNOD ON SYNODALITY 2021 - 2023 UPDATE

In October of 2021, Pope Francis opened a 3 year synodal journey with three phases of consultation: diocesan, continental and universal. The diocesan phase was completed recently in the United States. It consisted of ten months of “intentional listening throughout the Church in the United States”, with participants freely and openly expressing negative and positive issues in the Catholic Church and hopes for the future. Over 700,000 people representing 178 Latin/Roman dioceses (Eastern Church submitted separately) and 112 organizations submitted 290 documents consisting of 22,000 reports. The summarizing document is called the *The National Synthesis of the People of God in the United States of America*.

In his letter preceding this synthesis, Bishop Daniel Flores stated “The Synthesis is, among other things, an expression of what we as a Church have heard each other say when asked about our deepest preoccupations and hopes for the Church.... The publication of this document is not a concluding moment, however; it is a reflective, forward-moving moment. It is an invitation to listen, to discuss together and to discern together as the Church, about how best to understand and act upon those matters that sit deeply in the hearts and minds of Catholics in the U.S.” The entire, easy to read, document can be found on the website of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops: [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

The second phase, the continental phase began in September and ends in March 2023. The final phase, universal phase, will culminate in October 2023 with the Assembly of Bishops in Rome.



"Sometimes I feel Jesus' biggest miracle was that he got around everywhere without using a car!"

Paul tells Timothy in a letter,  
 "I have finished the race; I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:7).  
 He wasn't talking about running with his legs, though!  
 Write the words on the stopwatches in correct number order  
 onto the finish line below. This is what Paul meant!

worked to 4      good news 6      lived for 2

He has 1      spread the 5

of salvation 7      Jesus and 3

1 2 3  
 4 5 6 7 !

**God's Word for Children**

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**Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Jesus told a parable about two people who prayed to God for forgiveness (Luke 18:9-14). One was proud, while the other was humble. The lesson of this story is below—but it needs changes. Replace each incorrect underlined word by writing the correct one (from the word bank) above it.

God wants most Christians to be proud when we lie.

If we are somewhat sorry, God is merciful and won't forgive our goodness.

(Word Bank)  
 truly  
 sins  
 will  
 all  
 humble  
 pray

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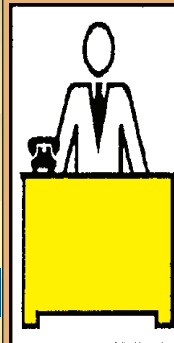
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[hopcroft1948@yahoo.com](mailto:hopcroft1948@yahoo.com)

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"We Care"

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SAT: 9AM-12 NOON

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