

# St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

JANUARY 15, 2023 † SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

The rhythm of the liturgical year is a seamless bridge of revelation and fulfillment. Christmas reveals the incarnation of God in human flesh through the womb of the Virgin Mary. That God chooses to use a human being in the act of conception and childbirth should not go unnoticed. God uses our human nature as creatures to serve as agents of our own salvation. God became flesh through the womb of the Virgin Mary.

Epiphany reveals and celebrates the Divinity of the Child Jesus. The humanity and Divinity of Jesus is fulfilled through the life, death, and Resurrection of the innocent Child who becomes the adult Christ. The separation and division caused by sin has been reconciled through the perfect love of the human-Divine Son. Redemption is a singular act of God revealed in the dying and rising of Jesus. The Cross is a fully human act empowered by the Divine nature of the One who freely chooses suffering and death for our sake.

The Baptism of the Lord is the third act of revelation in the Christmas cycle. The Lord's Baptism is a further expression of the identity of Jesus as he begins the mission for which he was sent. The nature and intention of God is made known in the action of this Baptism. Washed in the waters of the Jordan River, Jesus is confirmed and sent forth in the power of the Holy Spirit. The essence of God as Father is revealed in the presence of the Spirit poured upon the Son.

What do we learn from the Lord's Baptism? Jesus is identified as the Beloved Son of the Father. He is a man fully realized in the Spirit. What we learn is not only the love of the Father for the Son, but that this same belovedness is given to us. The Baptism of Jesus becomes our Baptism. The love given to Jesus is fully shared and given to the world and every human being through the action of the Cross. This act of love reconciles sinful, wounded humanity to the unitive love of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

This is the grace and the identity of our Baptism. Our redemption is confirmed in the work of the Cross and Resurrection of Jesus. Now Baptized in Christ, we are empowered in his Spirit to work out our salvation through the course of our daily lives. In redemption, our identity is the same as Jesus: beloved one. Salvation moves forward in the deep realization and acceptance of our identity as the beloved of God.

The seamless movement of our worship in today's liturgy repeats the story of the Lord's Baptism according to St. John. Notice the reading again serves as an action of revelation. The bridge between the Old

Testament and the New is completed. John the Baptist comes to the fulfillment of his prophetic call.

John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world. He is the one of whom I said, 'A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me.'" This inspiration is given to John by God. Note we are being told who Jesus is: 'Lamb of God,' and "who takes away the sins of the world." This is the bridge which the crowd would understand the meaning of the words. It refers to the blood of a sacrificed lamb sprinkled on the door posts of the Israelites in protection just prior to their Exodus through the desert. In the new covenant, Jesus becomes the Blood of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. The plan of God is moving to fulfillment.

John testifies to the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus as the Beloved Son. God blesses John with this revelation as the fulfillment of his prophetic call. Now all shifts to Jesus and the work of human redemption begins even as we unfold the grace and gift of our Baptism.

More personally, we must each ask and answer the question for ourselves. Who do you say Jesus is? Is he merely the God of our Church religion? Or has the Holy Spirit moved you to profess Jesus as Lord and Christ of the world, as well as your personal Savior? If we profess the latter, do we allow and embrace his nature and identity as our own? In doing so, does Jesus become the power and the meaning of our daily lives as we seek our fulness in him?

This is the challenge and the call of our Baptism. Through faith, prayer, worship, and living the ways of the gospel it should become clear that Jesus is our way, our truth, and our life. This is going to look different for each of us. Though we share a common and unitive life in Christ, the gifts and the call of each of us will be personal and unique in our relationship with Jesus. We all play some role in the work of our common salvation as we work toward the final gift of redemption.

Spend some time thinking about your Baptism and what it means in your life today. You are holy and beloved. You have the Holy Spirit. God knows your name. Revel in your dignity before God. Be a revelation of this truth for many others.

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**



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### MONDAY, January 16, 2023

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

### TUESDAY, January 17, 2023

8:00am Mass: Sam Balistreri† req. by Mary Ann Simmons

### WEDNESDAY, January 18, 2023

8:00am Mass: Mike Higgins† req. by Family

### THURSDAY, January 19, 2023

8:00am Mass: Dolores Bail (Birthday Blessings) req. by Spitz Family

### SATURDAY, January 21, 2023,

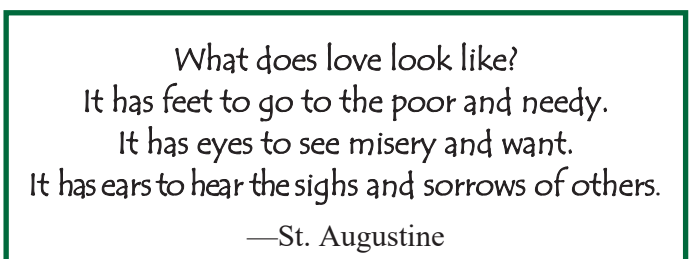
4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Sam Balistreri† req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

### SUNDAY, January 22, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Henry & Ann Kurczyk req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Tina Berger† req. by Nieces



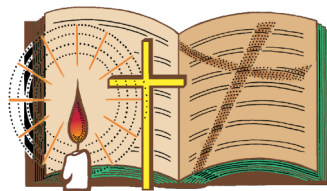
What does love look like?

It has feet to go to the poor and needy.

It has eyes to see misery and want.

It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of others.

—St. Augustine



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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 15, 2023

Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6; Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10; 1 Cor 1:1-3; Jn 1:29-34

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Mk 3:20-21

Sunday: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 [12-17]

## ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST FOR 2022

We **will not** do a parish wide mailing of contribution statements. If you would like a copy of your 2022 contributions for income tax purposes, please call the parish office at 248-542-8720 after January 3, 2023 when the office reopens.

**Please make request by January 16, 2023.**

### OUR STRATEGIC GOAL

As a Church, we now move into Ordinary Time. “Ordinary” comes from the Latin root for “order,” which is why we line the Sundays up on the calendar and count them—with “ordinal” numbers—one by one. The orderly way we proceed through the liturgical year reminds us that our faith offers a strategic goal for our lives: eternal happiness with God, who is love. Today’s readings share stories of believers who order their daily activities toward the goal of sharing God’s love. Isaiah embraces his role as God’s servant and works to bring glory not only to Israel, but to the entire world. In a similar way, Saint Paul identifies himself as Christ’s witness in the world and reminds the Corinthians of their life goal: “to be holy.” The Gospel shows us John the Baptist, servant and witness, attentive to God’s loving orders, the divine plan for salvation.

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### ATTENTION: EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS TO THE HOMEBOUND

What a privilege it is to bring the Eucharist to our homebound parishioners! Hear Jesus saying to Zacchaeus, “I want to come to your house today.” This sacrament brings Jesus’ Presence in a way that blesses and heals. This encounter is received with awe and reverence. Before receiving the Blessed Sacrament, the Word of God is proclaimed and appropriate prayers are offered. As we know, those who participate in this ministry set the tone for the visit, prayerful and reverent. If you are not a regular homebound minister, but need to bring the Eucharist to a sick friend or relative, please alert Father John before Mass begins as to whom you will be bringing the Sacrament, and receive a prayer leaflet that will help you. The Blessed Sacrament must be placed in a pyx as it is carried. The pyx should be carried in a burse. If you do not have a pyx or burse, let the sacristan know that you need to use one. If you need to bring someone the Eucharist over a longer period of time, please contact the Parish Office at 248-542-8720. May you be blest as you serve.



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### Behold the Lamb of God

I wonder if anyone understood John the Baptist when he called Jesus the Lamb of God. Did they associate that name with the paschal lamb whose blood protected the Israelites from the Angel of Death? After Jesus’ death and resurrection, the apostles began to understand that Jesus’ blood, shed on the cross, freed us all from sin and death. Yet here is the Baptizer already acting like a disciple before Jesus has gathered any disciples or even begun to preach. In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist gives us some hints about discipleship.

First, John trusts God with things he does not understand. He says twice that he did not know Jesus, yet he trusts God’s revelation that Jesus would “baptize with the Holy Spirit” (John 1:33). We also may not always understand where God is leading us. If you have lost a loved one, are looking for work when no one is hiring, or are dealing with serious illness, this is the time to trust that God still loves and cares for you.

John also knew that doing God’s work meant that God was working through him. Originally John baptized others as sign of repentance, but he soon came to see that his real work was to make Jesus “known to Israel” (John 1:31). When we try to do what God wants, it is good to remember that God is the one in control and who decides what the result will be. What looks like failure to us can be success in God’s eyes.

John’s third hint teaches us that a disciple shares his or her faith in God. So John testifies that Jesus is the Son of God. While that sounds obvious to us, it took courage to say that to people who would have thought it blasphemy. Even today, when Jesus is known throughout the world, we still need to share our faith experiences so those without faith may be attracted to it, and even those with faith can be encouraged by our sharing. You may be surprised to find that your own faith deepens the more you share it with others. As we point out the Lamb of God to those who don’t know him, we get to know him better ourselves.

Tom Schmidt,  
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**...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*

## CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

### PRAYER TO BEGIN THE DAY

Lord God, may everything we do begin with your inspiration and continue with your help, so that all of our work today will bring us closer you.

Guide us in our work today, that we may do it not for ourselves alone, but for the common good of all.

We ask this in your name. Amen.

—Used with permission of Villanova University.

## OUR STRATEGIC GOAL

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*All are invited to come and pray for the healing of their family generations at an*

## INTERGENERATIONAL HEALING MASS

**Wednesday, January 25, 2023 7:00pm**

**St. Vincent Ferrer Church**

28353 Herbert St.

Madison Heights, MI 48071

**Presider: Fr. John Esper**

### What is intergenerational healing?

We all understand the concept of material inheritance. After people die, they often leave money, property and possessions to family members.

We are also aware of a physical inheritance. Doctors always ask for the family medical history of a new patient. There is also a spiritual inheritance. We can thank God and family for the benefit from our virtuous ancestors going back a thousand generations (see Sirach 44:10-12). We are also adversely affected by the sins of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and by the sins of the ancestors, who adversely affected them, with consequences that may extend to what is inherited materially, emotionally and physically.

In his book entitled *Intergenerational Healing*, Fr. Robert De Grandis writes: “intergenerational healing is, for the Christian, an opportunity to recognize and bring healing to family influences from the past, with implications for the future. Intergenerational healing suggests the possibility that negative acts and deeds of our ancestors can somehow enter our “bloodstream” and take a toll on future generations. Transforming the connection with these troublesome roots is what intergenerational healing is all about. It’s an exciting, fascinating area of the healing ministry.”



## EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

**The Prayer Blanket Ministry and Card Decorating Ministry**

The Prayer Blanket Ministry and the Card Decorating for Shut-ins Ministry will meet again on Thursday, January 26th from 6 - 9 PM in the church social hall. You can choose to work on prayer blankets, cards or do a little of both. The card decorating group will be making Valentine's Day cards for our shut-ins. You can choose to stay the entire time or a portion of it. All are welcome; adults and children. Come join our wonderful group and meet new friends.

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We have resumed our religious education classes after our Christmas vacation. Thank you to all the parishioners who came to our Carlos & Catechism event on December 19th! We are continuing our work this year. We have 3 students preparing for Confirmation

who have just started learning about the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit. Do you know what the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit are? They are Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Fortitude, Knowledge, Piety, and Fear of the Lord. Do you see how the Holy Spirit helps you with these gifts? It is good to meditate on these gifts, what they mean, and how the Holy Spirit is helping you to direct your life as Catholics using these gifts. I invite you, as I did our Confirmation students to pray for the Holy Spirit - God's life and love in us - and ask the Lord to strengthen these gifts in you.

**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

Saturday, January 21, 2023 at 9am  
Faith Formation Office in School

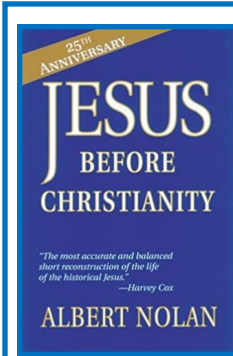


The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday at 9am in the Faith Formation Office of the school building. All men

**Ministry Schedule**

January 21/22, 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	P Miles	T Karolski
Reader #2	T Riley	A Goll
EME	P Miles	C McCarthy
	J McCown	M Black
	M Kairis	D Black
Greeters	R Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba
	L Proszkowski	S Bosetti
	K Heffner	B Gutowski
	T Pasiak	P Rarus



A new Wednesday morning book study at SVF begins January 11, 2023

To sign-up, call the Parish Office 248-542-8720.

"Nolan's portrait introduces readers to Jesus as He was before He became enshrined in doctrine, dogma, and ritual, a man deeply involved with the real problems of His time, which are the real problems of our time as well. In a new preface, Nolan reflects on recent work in Christology and how a book written in South Africa in 1976 still has a message for people today."

Amazon.com

**PURCHASE BOOKS ONLINE!**

**OUR FASCINATING FAITH**

**CALENDARS**

Perhaps you noticed that this year we didn't celebrate the Baptism of the Lord on the Sunday after Epiphany (today), but instead on last Monday, the day after Epiphany. Why the shift? It all has to do with regional calendars. Within certain general boundaries, every national conference of bishops is able to set its own liturgical calendar according to how it is felt to benefit the people in that region most. So, for example, the Epiphany of the Lord is celebrated January 6 on the Church's universal calendar. But the bishops of the United States decided that, for the benefit of the faithful, it would be better for Epiphany to be celebrated on a Sunday every year. So here in the States we see Epiphany's date vary from January 2 to January 8. The biggest problem this presents is that the Baptism of the Lord, which is normally celebrated on the Sunday after the Epiphany, would push back the whole liturgical calendar by a week on the years when the Sunday celebration of the Epiphany falls on January 7 or 8, putting the U.S. out of sync with the rest of the Catholic world at least until Lent. To avoid that scenario, the U. S. bishops decreed that in those years the Baptism of the Lord would fall on the Monday after Epiphany, leaving the rest of the calendar intact.

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saint snippets
January 17

**St. Anthony the Abbot**  
3rd-century wealthy man who gave everything he had to the poor so that he could live as a hermit in the deserts of Egypt

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## Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we the Church begin Ordinary Time, we reflect upon the Baptism of Jesus, and its significance in our own lives and communities. The Gospel of John does not narrate the Baptism like the other Gospels. Instead, John the Baptist gives testimony, emphasizing that Jesus has received the Holy Spirit. Jesus will go on to baptize with this same Spirit, as he did immediately after his resurrection (John 20). What might this mean for us, who share in this same Baptism? Today’s reading from Isaiah suggests that we are to be a “light to the nations,” a people proclaiming and sharing God’s love. Paul’s greeting to the church in Corinth reminds us that we are simultaneously God’s sanctified people and yet continually called to become holy. Baptism begins our journey, where we know the Spirit dwells within, and the same Spirit summons us to full maturity in Christ.

### LAMB OF GOD

In today’s Gospel, John the Baptist names Jesus as the “Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” This name “Lamb of God” is rich in meaning, and can be interpreted in various ways. From the Old Testament, it evokes the lamb of Passover, linked to God’s rescue of the Hebrew people from Egypt. It is also an image of God’s faithful servant, as in Isaiah 53 as a “lamb led to slaughter.”

We can notice that here Jesus is the Lamb “of God.” He is God’s own Lamb, belonging to God. Jesus is not a cultic sacrifice to God, or a demand from God. John is presenting a traditional image in a new way. The Lamb “takes away” our sin, both exposing the reality of our sin to us (which we often hide from ourselves), and also forgiving us our sin. This same Lamb is filled with the Holy Spirit, and shares this Spirit to heal our troubled hearts.

### LIGHT TO THE NATIONS

Today’s first reading is taken from the second of four “Servant Songs” in Isaiah. This Song was written around the time that the people of Israel were near release from their exile in Babylon. Israel, and also the author, had been traumatized by their separation from Jerusalem and their seeming abandonment by God.

At this time of great vulnerability and despair, God gives them consolation and affirmation. God gives the exiles a vote of confidence and an expansion of vision. God will heal their hearts, and give them new energy to be “a light to the nations.” Their purpose is not just survival, but to be the means by which God will bring the whole world into communion and harmony with God. For us today, when sometimes our parishes and communities face challenges of shrinkage and survival, perhaps God may similarly energize us, and remind us of the dignity and breadth of our mission.

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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 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

## Weekly Offering



Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants	721
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	60
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 2364.00
Loose Cash /Check Collection	461.00
Total	\$2825.00
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ .00

**Informational Presentation**  
**Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023**  
**2:00-3:00pm**  
**Fr. Heary Council #7239**  
 30191 Dequindre, Madison Heights, MI 48071



The Knights are a men's Catholic fraternal organization that actively supports the teachings and values of the Catholic Church. Please join us for an informational presentation at the Fr. Heary Council on the benefits of joining the Knights of Columbus. While the Knights are a men's organization, all are welcome to attend this presentation. Light refreshments will be served.

January 16



**Martin Luther King, Jr.**  
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"Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that.  
 Hate cannot drive out hate,  
 only love can do that."  
 Martin Luther King, Jr.  
*(Strength of Love 1963)*

**SURVIVING DIVORCE**

**Wednesdays February 8 to May 17**  
**7:00pm to 8:30pm**  
**Offered by National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica**  
**Hosted at St. Vincent Ferrer Church**  
 28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights 48071  
**Cost \$65** (assistance available)

Surviving Divorce was created to bring hope and healing to those who have experienced the pain and loneliness of a broken marriage. It is for the newly separated and divorced and those still struggling years later. Developed and hosted by Rose Sweet, Surviving Divorce features experts Dr. Ray Guarendi, Ph.D., Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C., Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J., and more.

**Come and See Open House: Wednesday, February 1, 2023 7:00 -8:30pm**  
 For more information call 248-541-4122 or email: [shrinedivorceministry@gmail.com](mailto:shrinedivorceministry@gmail.com)  
 To register visit: <https://forms.gel/SeFGMaVek4HJUyccA>

"To testify" means to declare that something is true. When he talked about Jesus, John the Baptist said, "Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34). Look inside the dove shape and use yellow to color the letters that spell TESTIFIED. Remember, when Jesus comes into our lives we can testify to his great love for us!



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**God's Word for Children**



**Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
 John the Baptist called Jesus the "Lamb of God."  
 Try to find this phrase and circle it seven times in the word jumble below.  
 Look forward, backward, up, down, and across.

L A M B O F L A  
 L A M B O F G O D D G O  
 A D G  
 L L A M B O F G O D O F O F L A M  
 B G O L D  
 B D O D G F O B M A L O G O D  
 L D O G F O B M A L A M B G  
 G O L F O G O D  
 F O D O G F O B M A L F O  
 D G B  
 L A M B O F G O D O M L  
 L G A  
 A D O F L A M B  
 L A M B O  
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 Utica 586-731-2411  
 Michael Kairis, Sherry Marshall  
 - Parishioners

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

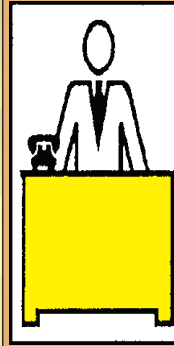
**Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.**

Individual and Small Business  
 Tax Returns

Home: **(248) 589-2077**  
 Cell: **(248) 808-4353**

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Dennis C. Swanson

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MADISON HEIGHTS

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