

# St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

JANUARY 22, 2023 † THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

Why is Jesus the light of the world? Jesus himself uses Light as an expression of self-identity and mission to the world; “I am the Light to the World.” Jn. 8:12, Mt. 5:14. Essential meanings of this identity includes Jesus’ relationship with his Father as the source of life and love. Jesus is the Light of Truth in all who seek the way of light in a world filled with darkness.

The image of light is used in both the first reading and the gospel to contrast the darkness of oppression, violence, war, and poverty against the light of God revealed in Jesus to liberate those imprisoned in the harsh realities of the world. From the earliest times of developed civilization, oppression and darkness have been undeniable realities in the world through dysfunctional human interaction. Sadly, these conditions remain painfully evident in the world today.

As the revelation of Jesus moves forward in his mission as Savior of the world, we see a continuity in the rhythm of God’s plan for universal salvation. Darkness, violence, and oppression are constants in the story. John is coming to the end of his time as Jesus comes to the fore. This is indicated by the arrest of John the Baptist that culminates in his beheading. The death of John prefigures the kind of death we will see in Jesus.

Jesus takes up the very words of John the Baptist to bring them to fulfillment. “Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand.” More than the moral conversion John called for, Jesus calls for a transformation of life from the inner self. The light of God in Jesus will be known in all who follow him. Jesus calls for a new way of being that will bring about a new social order of justice against the norm of violence and oppression. This is why Jesus moves from Nazareth to the seaside town of Capernaum. Not yet his hour of death, Jesus moves away from the violence of Herod to initiate the work of liberation in a geographical area of poverty, hopelessness, and despair. It is here his preaching begins, supported by works of healing the sick and rejected.

Immediately upon beginning his public ministry, Jesus calls others to join his mission. The call of Jesus is different from the norm. Those seeking a master to follow typically approached the teacher seeking to be accepted into the group. Most of these teachers held a certain theology, religious identity, political party, or philosophy of life. In the case of Jesus, with the first disciples, we are being called to his *person*. These first disciples knew Jesus and were

known to him. They likely heard his preaching and witnessed his healing works. Jesus would have seen them in the crowd and may have engaged them in conversation. At the seashore, Jesus calls them to *himself*. Their response of ‘at once,’ and ‘immediately’ indicates their readiness to follow him. It was not a first-time encounter.

When Jesus says to them, “Follow me,” he is saying: be with me, come to know and understand me; share my mind and learn my heart, become one with me. This is in anticipation of their maturing faith and willingness to share in obedience to fulfilling the Father’s will through Jesus. Call always leads to discipleship; coming to know and love the Master is to carry his identity and way to others.

What is the way of Jesus? The work and identity of Jesus is clearly one of love for the poor, the oppressed, the downtrodden, and the rejected. The tone is one of liberation for those in anxious, depressed, and hopeless lives of desperation through empathy, compassion, healing through persistent acceptance and forgiveness. One way or another, this description fits all humanity. We all need the liberation and freedom that can only be realized in love, acceptance, and merciful forgiveness.

Such freedom is grounded in our love for one another as modeled by Jesus. The love of Jesus is the revelation of his Light fulfilled in his death and Resurrection. Love is truth and Jesus is the Incarnation of Divine love. This is the foundation and unchanging, non-negotiable reality of Christianity. The mission and meaning of every human being is to love and to be loved. One precedes and follows the other.

Today is Word of God Sunday. Initiated by Pope Francis in recent years, the day reminds us to honor and reverence the richness of the Word of God. Jesus is the Word that unites us to the Father through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Our reflection on the gospel today is the gift and grace of the Word that informs and feeds our souls in the truth of God’s love for us.

The word of God is *always* relationship. It sows bonds of love between and among all believers. Jesus is the Vine that unites us to the Father who is the Vine grower. The fruit of the vine is love given in Jesus who is our Light. Listen for his call, great or small. One way or another, it will be a call to love, liberate, and be light for the world. You have what it takes. Practice makes perfect.

Father John Esper

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

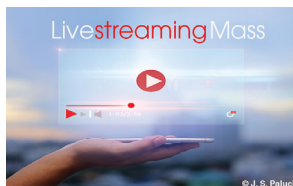
Sunday - 9:00am

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, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation  
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 23, 2023

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

### TUESDAY, January 24, 2023

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

### WEDNESDAY, January 25, 2023

8:00am Mass: Jerry Gutowski† req. by Tom & Kay Kuzyski

### THURSDAY, January 26, 2023

8:00am Mass: Sam Balistreri† req. by Mary Jane Guc

### SATURDAY, January 28, 2023,

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Peter Conway req. by Mom

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Darlene Czop† req. by Family

### SUNDAY, January 29, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Frank Bugaiski† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Sam Balistreri† req. by Mary Jane Guc

Jerry Gutowski† req. by Roseann Bowker

Tina Bergert† req. by Nieces

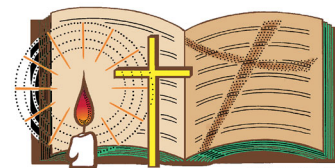
Walter Giszczak† req. by Giszczak Family

Maria Maiorana† req. by Virga Family



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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF January 22, 2023



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- Sunday: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14;  
1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 [12-17]
- Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30, *or any of a number of readings for the Day of Prayer*
- Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35
- Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
- Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 4:21-35
- Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
- Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41
- Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10; 1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

**THIS WEDNESDAY**  
**JANUARY 25, 2023**  
**AT 7:00PM**

**JOIN WITH OTHERS IN PRAYER**  
**AS FR. JOHN OFFERS AN**

*INTERGENERATIONAL*  
*HEALING MASS*


**TO PRAY FOR THE HEALING**  
**OF FAMILY GENERATIONS.**

**St. Vincent Ferrer Church**  
**28353 Herbert, Madison Hgts.**

**GOD’S LOVING CARE**

Two readings today refer to the northeast region of ancient Israel: “the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali.” Upon hearing these names, some of us might consult maps and determine exactly where these regions lie. Others might let the unfamiliar names drift by unnoticed. If no maps are handy—but we don’t want to ignore the references completely—consider this: we might not know the latitude and longitude of Zebulun and Naphtali, but God does. We praise God for watching over every inch of land and sea, caring perfectly for each creature on the planet. While Isaiah celebrates the depth of God’s care with “abundant joy and great rejoicing,” Saint Paul begs us to remember how the Lord shows this loving care: through the cross. In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow him. We follow too, confident that God accompanies us, wherever we are.

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**Anointing of the Sick**

**NEXT SATURDAY**

**HEALING MASS - January 28, 2023**  
**4:00pm**

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

**Boast in the Lord**

What are you most proud of? What do you like to boast about? Were you top of your class in college? Are your children the most well-behaved? Do you work harder than anyone in your office? Or are you the best at appearing to work hard, but hardly working? Everyone likes to have something they are the best at, or at least very good. But it really is kind of silly to base your own worth on what you accomplish. What truly makes us important is that we are loved by God. This love begins at our birth, long before we have accomplished anything. Our second reading tells how God uses the foolish, weak, or poorest people to shame those who are wise, strong, and wealthy. Why? Because God loves the poor, the weak, the disabled, the homeless just as much as God loves the important people. What’s more, the poor probably love God more than the powerful, rich people do.

And it’s not just the external qualities that are important. Some wealthy people have great love for the poor. Some of the best teachers only work with disabled children. My dentist is a very good doctor, but is happiest when he goes to help the poor in Latin America. Our Gospel on the Beatitudes today makes that clear if you listen carefully. Blessed are not just the poor, but the poor in spirit; not only the hungry, but those who hunger for righteousness. That’s what Saint Paul means when he says, “Whoever boasts, should boast in the Lord” (1 Corinthians 1:31). In other words, it is not so much what you do, as what God does through you. How much you know is less important than how well you know the Lord. It’s not so much where you live, as whether God is living in you. Those who claim to love the poor have nothing on those who are loved by God.

So how do we get to be “important” to God? Instead of asking God to make my projects a success, I can ask what God wants me to do. Instead of reading every magazine or blog to impress your co-workers with your worldly knowledge, take time to read the scriptures and to listen quietly to the Lord in prayer. Instead of complaining about the government or your parish, try volunteering your time. And for all the good that you do, remember to thank the Lord.

Tom Schmidt,

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- Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children; St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope
- Tuesday: St. Francis de Sales
- Wednesday: The Conversion of St. Paul; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends
- Thursday: Ss. Timothy and Titus
- Friday: St. Angela Merici
- Saturday: St. Thomas Aquinas





## EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

### FOOD PANTRY

If you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

### EYEGLASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

### THE PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY AND CARD DECORATING MINISTRY MEETING JANUARY 26 - 6 TO 9PM

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.

### SEASONAL AFFECTIVE DISORDER

Sometimes, we feel let down this time of year. Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD) is a commonly overlooked form of depression that can affect many of us. SAD increases the likelihood of negative thoughts and most significantly affects emotional health. SAD is more common in women than men and in younger adults than older adults. Symptoms of SAD typically occur in winter months disrupting our internal clock. Diminished exposure to sunlight causes a drop in serotonin and overproduction of melatonin leading to depression and sleepiness. Symptoms include sadness, loss of energy, anxiety, hopelessness, isolation, irritability, changes in appetite, loss of interest in activities, difficulty concentrating, sudden weight loss/gain, insomnia, or exhaustion. These symptoms can lead to social problems, substance abuse and suicide behavior.

Here is what can help.

- Increase exposure to natural light, open blinds, curtains, and sit near sunny windows.
  - Exercise regularly as it reduces stress, anxiety and improves your mood.
  - Spend time outside; take a walk or spend time at the park.
  - Eat well balanced meals and practice steady sleep habits.
  - Spend time relaxing. I always find prayer relaxing. I will confess I sometimes fall asleep during this exercise.
  - If you feel symptoms worsening, see your doctor.
- Remember, God will continue to shine the light and his goodness on us. He is one constant we can always rely on in all the ups and downs of life.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse



*...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*



**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@gmailcom

To register visit: <https://forms.gel/SeFGMaVek4HJUyccA>

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As we have continued the preparation for Confirmation, and talking about the Holy Spirit, I wanted to share the 12 fruits of the Holy Spirit with you. The 7 gifts that we highlighted last week are more well known than what the 12 fruits of the Spirit are. The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* defines the

Fruits of the Holy Spirit as, "the perfections that the Holy Spirit forms in us as the 'first fruits' of eternal glory." The fruits of the Spirit are: charity, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, modesty, self-control, and chastity. When one has the Holy Spirit active within him/herself, these fruits permeate from their being. The ability to love, be joyful, patient, etc. come out of the person without effort because, as St. Paul says, "it is no longer I who live, but Christ who is dwelling in me."

Matthew Zinser, DRE

**CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**

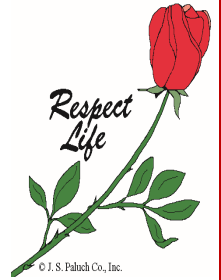
*Respect for Life Prayer*

O God, our eyes behold the beauty of your creation, and our ears catch the sounds of your power.

We hold our lives sacred because they are your gift.

Bring us to greater awareness of the sanctity of human life and to sorrow for the times we have ignored or offended it.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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**OUR FASCINATING FAITH**

**ORDINARY TIME**

Between the end of the Christmas season and the start of Lent, the liturgical year begins a period known as Ordinary Time. That season is interrupted by the seasons of Lent and Easter, and then resumes again after Pentecost. The English translation of the Latin name for this season has received much criticism because of our association of the word "ordinary" with something of lesser value, the opposite of something special. Critics point out that Sunday is the original feast day of the Church, that there is nothing at all "ordinary" about our weekly celebration of the Lord's dying and rising. Translators explain that in this context the English word "ordinary" retains the root meaning of "ordinal," something counted "in order," and that the Sundays throughout the year are in fact named by their numerical order.

It is helpful to understand how all five of the "special" seasons of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter) fit together to unfold the single mystery of Christ. As we continue the year now with Ordinary Time, we are mindful that what we celebrate is indeed as "extraordinary" an experience of God's grace as one could ever imagine.

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**Ministry Schedule**

January 28/29, 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	L Yolkiewicz	R Grant
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	L Yolkiewicz	A Goll
	M Kairis	M Waskowski
	J McCown	P Miles
Greeters	R Bertolini	D Vu
	L Collins	T Lane
	R Pasiak	D McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	M McLaughlin

**St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community**



extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of **Gaeton D'Arca**. Please remember him and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

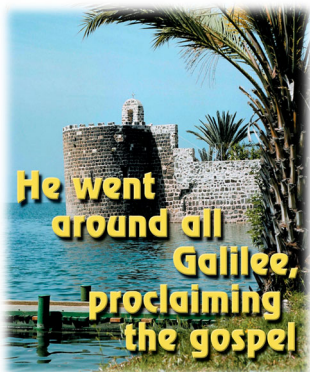
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saint snippets
January 23

*It would be my greatest delight to minister to the abandoned lepers.*

**St. Marianne Cope**  
German-born nun who cared for the lepers in Hawaii, including Fr. Damien of Molokai

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**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

To introduce the beginnings of Jesus' ministry in Matthew's Gospel today, the evangelist quotes from Isaiah 9, which is presented to us more fully in our first reading. Isaiah acknowledges the darkness of oppression from the conquest of the Galilee region by Assyria, but reminds his

people of the hope God offers them. Matthew, writing in the time of the Roman Empire centuries later, points to Jesus and his proclamation of the kingdom of heaven, to overturn all forms of oppression. Power structures like Assyria or Rome rely on fear, control, and distrust to sustain themselves. But God's reign is to be saturated with God's love, freedom, and mutual trust. Jesus began by gathering a group of disciples. When Jesus similarly gathers his community of disciples in our church today, our love of each other, and our care for all others, can make this reign of God visible to all.

**CALLED TO COMMUNITY**

Today's Gospel from Matthew sketches the initial movements of Jesus' public ministry. The arrest of John the Baptist signals that Jesus' time has come. His first actions include the call of his first disciples, and proclaiming the reign, or kingdom, of heaven. Jesus first gathers a community, which he can gradually form to become living evidence of this coming reign. His preaching, which begins just a few verses later in the Sermon on the Mount, is not just essential guidance for each individual life, but for life within a community of his followers.

It can be very challenging for most of us, who live in a highly individualized society, to hear this story of being summoned into community, committed to learning together and from each other. Our parishes and Christian communities need to be safe places so that we can open our hearts to each other, learning the Way of Jesus, and sharing this Way with others.

**UNITED IN CHRIST**

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul addresses many pastoral issues, and begins with questions of division over leadership. We hear of rival camps of loyalty for various leaders and preachers: Paul himself, Apollo, or Cephas. Paul fears that the community has lost the center of the faith, that is, Christ himself. The community is to be united in mind and purpose under Christ.

Many today experience in a very similar division. Some Christians will in effect say: "I belong to . . . (fill in the name of your favorite preacher, theologian, or leader), and those who don't are not to be trusted." Diversity of thought and background are essential to the vitality of Christian community, but here Paul describes a division that hides the message of Christ. It hides Christ's call to charity and forbearance toward all. This division hides the truth that we are all at the foot of the cross, a cross that reveals our own brokenness and our need for mercy.



**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

	
Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants	722
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	110
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 5,985.35
Loose Cash /Check Collection	127.00
Total	\$ 6112.35
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 411.00

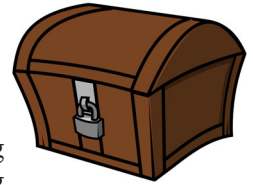


The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



The prayers surrounding baptism often speak of being "clothed in Christ," and clothes are an important consideration. In ancient times, adults were probably baptized without any clothes at all, and old texts survive asking people to leave fancy garb and jewelry behind as they enter the font. Baptism was typically in a private place, the community waited elsewhere, and the casting off of clothing was hardly a public moment, nor was it embarrassing in ancient cultures where privacy was largely unknown.

Nonetheless, what was left behind on one side of the font was replaced on the other as a white robe was wrapped around the newly baptized. It was a robe of honor, a dazzling sign of a new beginning for a society that valued clothing as a sign of personal identity. For the newly baptized, a whole week in white garments was the rule, through the second Sunday of Easter, called "Sunday in *Albis*," because of all the folks wearing their baptismal robes.

—Rev. James Field,  
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Jesus called out to fishermen to follow him. Draw lines to connect each fish with its twin.

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God's Word for Children

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

The Corinthian people were divided and could not agree. Some said they belonged to other teachers instead of Christ. Paul reminded them that Jesus was the one who was crucified for their sins—and they should belong only to him! Below are shapes that have been divided. Shade in their parts according to the fractions shown beneath.

$\frac{3}{4}$        $\frac{7}{9}$        $\frac{4}{6}$

$\frac{6}{8}$        $\frac{2}{2}$        $\frac{1}{3}$

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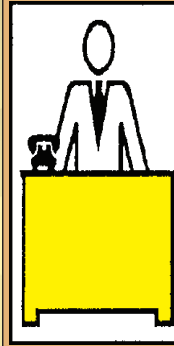
**Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.**

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