

St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net

FEBRUARY 5, 2023 † FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

The spiritual images of salt and light are two of the most effective symbols used by Jesus. They are readily and universally known and recognized. In their common usage, one may argue which is of greater value or importance. As a preservative, salt is indispensable. Though much more subjective, as a flavor enhancer food would not be the same without salt. Who would eat popcorn with no salt. French fry consumption would tumble if they lacked the enticement of salt. Who would eat warm pretzels without salt? Many eat specific foods just because they are salty.

As a spiritual image, light has a wider expression of usage. Even practically, who wants to live in the dark? Houses are built and designed to offer the greatest amount of natural light. Light is an element that offers functional and emotional security. Light is an image of goodness, openness, and transparency. Light reveals things hidden either exposing the goodness of truth or the darkness of secrecy and deception.

Spiritually, the first reading relays an effective image of light through Isaiah the Prophet. 'Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own. Then, your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed.' The light of goodness heals the wounded soul and inspires surety of faith. As a Prophet, Isaiah makes clear that the light of justice will rise and defeat the darkness of oppression. This becomes the core mission and identity of Jesus.

Immediately following from the Beatitudes of last week, Jesus says directly to his disciples, "You are the salt of the earth... You are the light of the world..." This association is intentional and is the nature of all who choose to follow Jesus. Why is Jesus so clear about this?

In the case of salt, it is the opposite that makes the meaning clear. Un-salty salt is insipid, tasteless and without value. In Greek, insipid means "to become foolish, or unwise". Jesus uses the image as it relates to those who believe in him. One might say, the 'salt of faith' brings flavor to all who come into its company. Salt preserves faith as it flavors the creativity and commitment of the believer who then enhances the lives of others.

If the disciple loses his or her salt, it becomes

tasteless, ineffective and the believer has lost what was meant to be. If faith loses its salt, it is no longer able to accomplish its purpose with creativity or flavor. This is the cautionary message of Jesus to his followers. Have faith in such a way that you enhance and make the lives of those you encounter better.

Through Baptism, we are made children of the light. That is to say that we bear within ourselves the light of Christ. This light has many faces. It may be seen as the light of faith, goodness, virtue, or honesty. It may be revealed as the light of truth against oppression, deception, or sin. The light we bear is the light of Christ, with the purpose to make a difference in the world. When saved, preserved, or hidden, its value is lost. Each of us has the light of Christ in a uniquely given way that no other person has. If we hide our light, some good the world needs will go unrealized.

This is the image of the city set on a hill. It is an image of the Church that cannot be hidden. As Christians, the light of Christ in us must be seen, not for our good, but for the revelation of God's glory. The light of our goodness, in whatever expression it takes, makes God more evident and perceptible in the world. God must be seen in the world through those who believe in Jesus and make him present through the salt of their deeds and the light of their goodness.

The light of goodness hidden under a bushel is impotent, without effect, and tasteless. When placed so that it may be seen by all, God is made present and available to those who seek Him. Letting your light shine before others is not for the sake of your personal ego, but for the revelation of God's glory. "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father."

Check the salt and light of your faith. Does the salt of your faith enhance the lives of others in need or bring goodness to those around you? As a person of light, do your good works increase love in the world? Service done without love lacks salt and light. They become the bland works of duty that reveal little light.

In Christ, you are a light to the world. Let your goodness be known. The world will be better and God will be glorified.

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, February 6, 2023

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

TUESDAY, February 7, 2023

8:00am Mass: Larry Celmer (for health) req. by Linda & Stan Yolkiewicz

WEDNESDAY, February 8, 2023

8:00am Mass: Sam Balistreri† req. by Linda & Stan Yolkiewicz

THURSDAY, February 9, 2023

8:00am Mass: Gary Bertolini† req. by Linda & Stan Yolkiewicz

SATURDAY, February 11, 2023,

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

Mike Higgins† req. by Linda & Stan Yolkiewicz

SUNDAY, February 12, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Jerry Gutowski† req. by Karen & Ron Piskor

Sr. Dorothy Balabuch† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

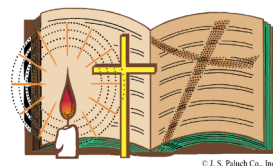
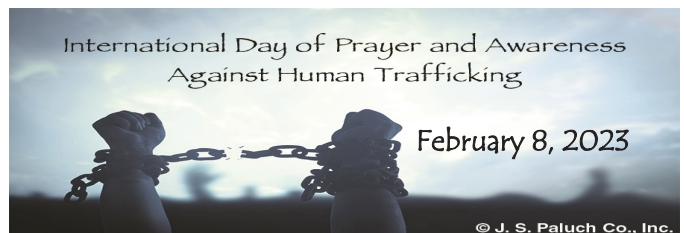
Sam Balistreri† req. by Linda Karolski

Tina Berger† req. by Nieces

Gaeton D'Arca† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

George La Porte† req. by Renee & Joe Hauzie

Mary Hauzie† req. by Renee & Joe Hauzie



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READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 5, 2023

Sunday: Is 58:7-10; Ps 112:4-9; 1 Cor 2:1-5; Mt 5:13-16

Monday: Gn 1:1-19; Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10, 12, 24, 35c; Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday: Gn 1:20 — 2:4a; Ps 8:4-9; Mk 7:1-13

Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17; Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30; Mk 7:14-23

Thursday: Gn 2:18-25; Ps 128:1-5; Mk 7:24-30

Friday: Gn 3:1-8; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 7:31-37

Saturday: Gn 3:9-24; Ps 90:2-6, 12-13; Mk 8:1-10

Sunday: Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]

PRAISE... & Paczki!

February 15, 2023

7:00 pm

St. Vincent Ferrer
Catholic Church

28353 Herbert St,
Madison Heights, MI 48071



A night of praise, food and fellowship!



Join us for a pre-Lenten celebration of the Lord's goodness! Special ministry led by Bill Richart and the Friends!. Join us afterward for paczki and refreshments!

EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

FOOD PANTRY UPDATE

The food pantry at St. Justin-St. Mary Magdalen closed in 2022. We no longer collect food for a food pantry.

If you wish to make general food donations, please take them directly to the food pantry at St. Mary in Royal Oak OR

you may donate only specific items requested for the CCSEM Senior Food Collection taken here at SVF the 2nd weekend of each month (except April - 1st weekend due to Easter)

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

EYEGASSES & 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.

MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION February 11/12

Items requested:

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

Canned Foods including:

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghetios, Fruit, Vegetables

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

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Our Parish Nurse, Angela will be checking blood pressures after the 9am Mass at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality.

A Low-Salt Faith

Jesus uses two different examples of a good disciple—salt of the earth and light of the world. While these images seem to have little in common, there are similarities, the most obvious being that a little of either goes a long way. Just a pinch of salt can change the taste of food. Similarly, when we wake up in a dark room, one light bulb can be blinding. So also, a little faith can make a big difference. The faith of little children can bring their parents back to the Church. The way we live our faith can speak even louder.

Isaiah gives us some hints in the first reading when he writes about feeding the hungry and giving shelter to the homeless and clothes to the poor. When someone has so much faith that it shows in their actions, as Isaiah puts it, "Your light shall break forth like the dawn." But we sometimes get things backwards. If we do the things Isaiah tells the people to do, we might think that the deeds will give us faith. But faith is the source of those actions, not the result. If we truly believe in God's love for us, and we believe that God lives in the people around us, especially the poor, then we will want to show our love by caring for each other.

When we do have faith, we don't have to worry about how people react to us. Like St. Paul in the second reading, we don't need to be dramatic or full of worldly wisdom. As he preached the wisdom of Christ who died on the cross and was raised from the dead by the power of the Spirit, he let people see that power in the lives of other believers as well as his own life.

But if we don't have faith, then we are like the salt that has lost its flavor. A low-salt diet may be good for us; but a low-salt faith, instead of making things better, would make them worse. Without faith in God's love for us, we would not respond with love of our own. We could still be a good person, but we would not be a very good disciple. We could not spread the faith if we didn't have it ourselves.

Tom Schmidt,

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UPCOMING HEALTH CARE SURVEY

What are some of the things about your health or that of your family that concern you? What types of subjects would you like to see to better meet your health needs? You can help us identify the healthcare educational needs of the parish. We can work together to nurture our mind, body and spirit. We will be distributing a health survey to find out what you are interested in learning about. This survey will help us focus on areas to enhance our health, be your advocate, and integrate health needs into parish activities. The surveys will be available February 11th and 12th at the church entrances and should be returned to basket at those entrances when completed by February 26th. In addition, we are looking for others interested in collaborating with the parish nurse on health care projects or activities related to your specialty such as writing articles for bulletins or educational events. If you are interested, you can leave your name and number on the Health Care survey. Is God telling you that you have much to offer? Listen to what He may be saying. Thank you for your willingness to respond.

Angela Maynard,

Parish Nurse

Heart Health Awareness

Blood pressure checks are available Sunday, February 12th after 9:00am Mass. Since February is National Heart Month, please stop by for a blood pressure check, check out the Women's heart health poster, and get some educational handouts about heart health. Red dress pins will be available. It would be fun if everyone wore red that day to promote heart health awareness.



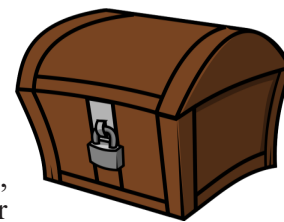
...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis. ...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship and from complications

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

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



As soon as Christmas ends, people begin planning for Easter! Originally, the source of our Paschal Triduum was but a single liturgy extending from Saturday sundown to sunrise on Easter Sunday. The two days leading up to the liturgy were days of fast, not only for the elect, but for the church preparing to baptize them. A fifth-century pope explained that the church imitated the apostles, who were in hiding with their grief from the arrest of Jesus, and therefore sacraments, even penance, were forbidden.

Inevitably, though, people wanted to come together, and so eventually a Liturgy of the Word developed for Good Friday. This was the first step toward today's shape of the Triduum, and gradually new ideas were embraced, including the veneration of the cross and a simple Communion service. Interestingly, the Word remained central, since we know that in those days the pope did not receive Communion at this liturgy, even though the faithful had that option. In the other churches of Rome, priests and people received Communion under both species. Although the custom of Communion on Good Friday took hold, it did not endure past the Middle Ages. The central liturgies of the year slowly unraveled and disappeared from parish life. Remember that there were no seminaries in those days, and books were a rare luxury. Most priests could only manage to celebrate a simple "low" Mass, and few parishes could afford the ritual books that would guide a priest through the complex forms. Holy Week remained important in private devotion, but for a time the liturgies virtually disappeared.

—Rev. James Field,
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- Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time; *Tu B'Shvat* (the Jewish new year of trees) begins at sunset
- Monday: St. Paul Miki and Companions
- Wednesday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita; International Day of Prayer and Awareness against Human Trafficking
- Friday: St. Scholastica
- Saturday: Our Lady of Lourdes; Blessed Virgin Mary; World Day of the Sick



SOUP TO SAVOR

As Lent seems to be just around the corner, once again we are preparing for our “Virtual Lenten Soup Suppers” to accompany our Wednesday Lenten Series. As was done over the last 2 years, we are asking parishioners to open up your original soup recipe folders and find one that you would like to share with St. Vincent Ferrer parishioners. We will again print your original recipe in our parish bulletin, as well as post it on our parish website. Do you have a variation on a standard recipe that your family enjoys? Chicken, vegetable, beef barley, sweet and sour, lentil, dill pickle, . . .? As you are willing to share, please leave a copy at the parish office in the next 2 or 3 weeks. Thank you!

CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER

PRAYER IN TIME OF ILLNESS

Lord Jesus,
 I believe that having passed through the gate of life
 in baptism,
 I will always have your protection and comfort.
 Yet today the pains of my illness threaten
 to overcome me and cause me to forget all the
 good things you have given me in this life.
 I pray in confidence that you would send forth your
 Spirit to refresh and revive me as you have
 always done in the past.
 May I continue to witness to your goodness in this
 life so that I may be with you at the heavenly
 banquet table in eternity. Amen. Alleluia

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Our Lady of Lourdes

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

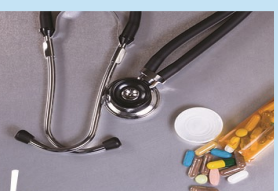
OUR LADY OF LOURDES (FEBRUARY 11)

On February 11, 1858, fourteen-year-old Bernadette Soubirous, the oldest of nine children in a poor family from Lourdes, France, saw Our Lady in the first of eighteen apparitions. At the grotto of Massabielle, Bernadette saw “a small lady in white” who invited her to return each day. During the visions the Lady communicated a message of penance, instructed Bernadette to dig so that a spring of water began to flow, requested that a chapel be built there at the grotto, and eventually identified herself by saying “I am the Immaculate Conception.” Throughout these apparitions, Our Lady addressed Bernadette in a formal way, treating the humble girl with dignity. In 1862 the authenticity of the apparitions was confirmed by Church authorities. The Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes was recognized worldwide in 1907. Lourdes became a place of pilgrimage for thousands of the faithful; their faith and the faith of many others was revitalized through the story of a simple young girl from rural France.

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Ministry Schedule		
February 11/12, 2023		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	R Pasiak	D Gray
Reader #2	M Simmons	P Miles
EME	M Simmons	P Miles
	R Pasiak	A Goll
	T Riley	T Karolski
Greeters	T Milko	L Collins
	J Ballantine	M Bessler
	K Heffner	T Oparka
	R Juska-Svoba	N Oparka

Saturday, February 11th



World Day
of the Sick

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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?



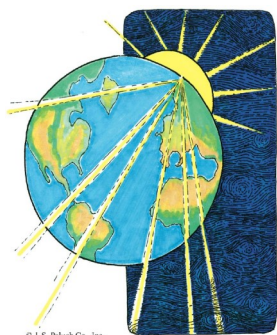
OCIA

A Journey In Faith

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

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings from Isaiah and Matthew evoke the powerful metaphor of light as an image of the community gathered by God. Jesus speaks of his followers as "light of the world": they are not the source of light, but a mirror reflecting the brightness of God. This light does not call attention to itself, but enables beauty to be revealed and celebrated, and sinfulness to be exposed and healed. The light of this community is not primarily for itself, but fulfills its purpose when it shines upon the world. The light that we the Church bring to our world can be hidden by "bushels" sometimes imposed by others and sometimes of our own making. Our lights may flicker and die under stress. What might sustain the brightness of our own small light? Our ongoing practices of community prayer, discernment, and action allow God to illumine our Church, day by day.



Your light must shine before others

LEARNING HOW TO BE CHURCH

Following last week's passage from Matthew with the Beatitudes, today we continue Jesus' Sermon on the Mount with his images of salt, light, and a city. Jesus moves from describing the core identity of the community he has gathered to considering its impact on the world. He wanted his community not just to claim its identity, but to live it out. He wanted his community to journey with him, to fully learn what this might mean.

For us, being salt for others may mean engaging and enriching the lives of our neighbors. Being light may mean illuminating and addressing the world's systems that sustain social sins of violence, racism, and vast inequalities of wealth and opportunity. Being a city set high may mean holding to high standards of transparency, respect, and care for each other. Like Jesus' first followers, we are invited to travel the difficult and joy-filled road of learning and re-learning how to be the Church.

CROSS-SHAPED MINISTRY

Saint Paul, in today's passage from First Corinthians, admits he is not a salesman. He did not come to Corinth with a sales pitch, with skilled rhetoric and worldly wisdom. Paul says that he simply came to speak of Christ crucified. For Paul, the cross is God's primary self-revelation, and the whole life of following Christ is marked by it. Paul describes this cross-shaped ministry by how he first preached it: with humility and fear. He was a messenger who looked weak by the standards of society, in order that the Spirit might break through to his listeners.

We may know or have read of those who spoke or lived with a cross-shaped presence. Perhaps a missionary who humbly served a community while preaching Christ. Or a group of protesters against injustice, who faced violent resistance with dignity and persistence. They open a space for the Spirit to transform hearts. Paul suggests that making ourselves vulnerable makes love possible.

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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

WED - 12:10 pm

	
Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants	721
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	140
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 5,947.14
Loose Cash /Check Collection	394.00
Total	\$ 6,341.14
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 243.00



CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY

Today's Gospel (Matthew 5:13-16) calls us "light of the world." Our light shines before others when we do the good deeds asked of us by God. In the first reading, the prophet Isaiah (58:7-10) gives us some suggestions. He tells us that God asks us to share our bread with the hungry, shelter the homeless, and clothe the naked. The Church gives us a similar list called the corporal works of mercy. The word "corporal" comes from the Latin word *corpus*, which means "body." These works help us take care of the needs of the body. Match the corporal work with an example of how you can practice it. Some examples have been included. Fill in the missing ones with your own ideas.

Feed the hungry.	_____
Give drink to the thirsty.	_____
Clothe the naked.	Contribute clothes to a clothing drive.
Shelter the homeless.	_____
Visit the sick.	_____
Visit those in prison.	Find an organization that writes letters to mothers in prison, or sends them books and recorders so they can share a story with their children.
Bury the dead.	Be ready to give comfort to someone you know who has lost a loved one. You can attend the wake and funeral.

Pick one work of mercy that your family will focus on this week. Continue with a different work each week. Let your light shine!



Pregnant and parenting moms in need are in our parishes and our neighborhoods. As Pope Francis reminds us, our parishes need to be "islands of mercy in the midst of the sea of indifference." In order to assess, expand, and better communicate resources to local pregnant moms and families in need, St. Mary Parish is joining a nationwide effort entitled: "Walking with Moms in Need." We invite all parishioners in our family to join us as we embark on this effort to serve mothers in need in our community.

For more information, and to ensure you receive news and updates, please contact: Mary Jiovani, St. Mary Parish Engagement Support, mjiovani@st-mary.org

Letters from Heaven

Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left or diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus said to his disciples: "You are the salt of the earth. But if salt loses its taste, it is no longer ..."

	D	F	G
R	O	O	N
A	O	G	I
N	Y	T	H

G _____ " _____"

Answer: *anything good for anything*

The Little Ones Jim Burrows

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Scripture from the New American Standard Bible (NASB) © by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

If you give yourself to the hungry
 And satisfy the desire of the afflicted,
 Then your light will rise in darkness
 And your gloom will become like midday. Is 58:10

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 Utica 586-731-2411
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 - Parishioners

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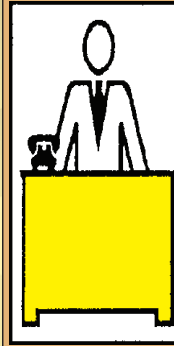
Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.

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