



Fifth
Sunday of Lent

St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net

MARCH 26, 2023 † FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

From The Pastor

Preparing for death is never an easy process. For most, it is largely ignored until a point comes and it cannot be ignored. In sudden or unexpected death, a person is not afforded the opportunity to prepare themself or others. Many others will have the time to ponder and prepare for the end of life in a meaningful way. The dignity of every life is worthy of an intentional preparation at the time of death.

The death of Lazarus is a miraculous story surrounded by the intentional activity of Jesus as he prepares for his death. The death of Lazarus could be a stand-alone episode. However, it is surrounded with details that serve a larger purpose in the anticipation of the Lord's death and the final legacy Jesus creates for those left behind.

The initial focal point is the illness of Lazarus and the concern of Martha and Mary for his wellbeing. The sisters sent word to Jesus that sets in motion a series of events that resulted in the resuscitation of Lazarus as well as the anticipation of the death of Jesus. Jesus knows his time is coming. Following the incident of cleansing the Temple, the intensifying conflict with the religious leaders, and now the act of raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus knows his end is near.

It becomes a tender and poignant scene. We are shown the very human side of Jesus in the sadness and distress of the death of his beloved friend. We see his patience and compassion for Martha and Mary. In the final scene, we see the power of the Divine nature of Jesus as he calls forth Lazarus from the tomb. In preparing for his death, Jesus is intent on creating a legacy of compassion, mercy, and Divine action that serves as a call to faith.

Jesus elicits a profession of faith from the grieved Martha. He reveals again his nature, identity, and purpose. Martha wishes Jesus had been there, but trusts God will fulfill any request of Jesus. Martha believes Lazarus will rise on the last day. Jesus reveals, "I am the resurrection and the life, whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me, will never die." This is a universal and timeless revelation. On the lips of Martha, Jesus elicits the response of all believers. "Do you believe this?" "Yes, Lord, I have come to believe you are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Through Martha, Jesus confirms a legacy of faith in his identity as Christ and Redeemer who rises from the dead.

Now the scene shifts to Mary and the human legacy of Jesus is shown. Mary is shown the love and compassion of Jesus who is deeply moved at the death of Lazarus. 'And Jesus wept.' Through Mary, Jesus creates the legacy of the felt experience of love and compassion. As the days of his passion approach, a similar scene is repeated at the Last Supper. This is a scene filled with healing, love, surrender, and complete self-giving; all in the context of a final meal and the institution of the Holy Eucharist that promises his constant presence.

Jesus is preparing to die well as he gives us a model to follow. Knowing his death is coming, Jesus does the inner work of acceptance and surrender with a peaceful spirit and a willing heart. He does not ignore or deny what he knows is coming. He has every intention to face his death with meaning and purpose. What he knows is coming, he intends to embrace with perfect love, willing desire, and full-hearted peace. This is the love that makes the death of Jesus not only meaningful, but redemptive. This is Divine love given through a perfectly human life of love free from resentment or bitterness.

Jesus teaches us how to die well. To die well is to hold deeply the power of the Lord's resurrection. To die well is to leave a legacy of healing, love, and forgiveness that frees beloved survivors of guilt, unfinished emotions, or a tormented absence. In truth, such a legacy is not often built in the last six months of life. To die well is a process of humility and surrender to love faithfully through the journey of daily life. As a manner of life, Jesus constantly offered his time, energy, and whole self to others in love. This is the legacy he invites for each of us.

The raising of Lazarus was a miracle. Notably, it was a resuscitation not a resurrection. A resuscitated person dies again at later time. Resurrection is permanent with a new glorified body. We can only ponder how Lazarus, Martha, and Mary lived their remaining years steeped in the lived experience of a realized faith. They came to know God and Jesus in a deep and powerful way. Their faith was alive, full of trust, and animated with love.

As we pass through the seasons of life, it is a worthy effort to ponder the life and death of Jesus. He is a profound model from beginning to end. With mature hope in life after death in the body, commit to living and dying well. Eternal life is ours in Christ risen from the dead.

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

Adoration on Tuesdays 8:45am to
12:30pm

Livestream of Rosary on Thursday
following Mass



LIVESTREAMING

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, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



MONDAY, March 27, 2023

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

TUESDAY, March 28, 2023

8:00am Mass: Sam Balistreri† req. by Anne Thousand

WEDNESDAY, March 29, 2023

8:00am Mass: Zyg Karolski† req. by Tom & Dianne
Karolski

THURSDAY, March 30, 2023

8:00am Mass: Precila Selga† (1st RA.) req. by Leny
Lechniak & Family

SATURDAY, April 1, 2023,

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Michael Dombrowski† req. by Mary Jane Guc
Marilyn May (for health) req. by Mary Jane Guc

SUNDAY, April 2, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Timmy Childers req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler
Jerry Gutowski† (Memorial Birthday) req. by Bernadette
& Family

Natale Tosto† req. by Virga Family

Matthew Machota† req. by Trish Gadowski

Marcus Maulding† (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina
Juska-Svoba

Jerome Esper† req. by Family

Matthew Machota† req. by Trish Gadowski

Jeanne Shepley (1st R.A.) req. by Linda Karolski

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF March 26, 2023



Sunday: Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21/Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn:51-59

Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/Jn 11:45-56

Next Sunday: Is 42:1-7/Ps 27:1, 2, 3, 13-14/Jn 12:1-11



**This
Wednesday
March 29th
7:00pm
individual absolution**

Offerings

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Offer it up. My grandmother used this phrase with her children, and my mother, in turn, used it with me. It's a kind of verbal heirloom, a gift of wisdom from a generation that knew suffering all too well.

We know it to be true that God will work through our suffering if we invite him to. We know it and we have seen it — we have only to look at Lazarus and his sisters Martha and Mary.

But, often, I invite God into my suffering only to tell Him where I want Him to stand. I make an offering of suffering but expect God to do something very specific with it. *Teach me this, please. Give me this specific grace. Show me this specific answer.*

The happy ending in today's Gospel is not the alleviation of the sorrow Martha and Mary feel because it isn't alleviated, Lazarus is still human, and death still awaits him. Someday, his sisters will have to mourn at his tomb. That loss and pain will not be avoided.

The happy ending is that he is resurrected *now*, and in doing so, brings so many to belief. The happy ending is that Martha and Mary do not abandon discipleship because things didn't work out exactly the way that they wanted. They run out to meet Christ, eyes dim with tears. They fling themselves into his company and onto his providence.

They made an offering of their suffering, and their happy ending is that their offering was accepted.

"You are not in the flesh, on the contrary, you are in the spirit." — Romans 8:9 ©LPI



**Easter Table
Goodies Raffle on Palm
Sunday**

Because Easter falls on the second Sunday of April, our monthly coffee & donut hospitality will be moved to the first Sunday, which is Palm Sunday, April 2nd. All are welcome!


Again this year, on Palm Sunday, we will be conducting an Easter table themed raffle. If you wish to donate a basket of goodies (such as cheese/crackers, small ham, bacon/eggs, confections or a Spring potted plant such as tulips, daffodils, hydrangea, etc.) we would be grateful.

If you plan to donate items or an entire basket for the raffle, please call the Parish Office by March 30th to let us know what you plan to bring. Non-perishable items or baskets filled with non-perishable items can be left at the Parish Office during business hours thru March 30th. If your basket will contain perishable food items, please let us know by Thursday, March 30th what your item is, and then bring it to the hall on the day of the raffle.

You can also support this activity by purchasing raffle tickets - One (1) ticket at \$2 or three (3) tickets at \$5.

The raffle ticket proceeds will be put toward the purchase of an Automated External Defibrillator (AED).

Pick up tickets today in back of church.



To have names of deceased loved ones included in the Easter bulletin, memorial flower envelopes MUST BE RETURNED BY THIS MONDAY, March 27, 2023.

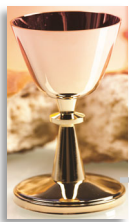


PRAYER REQUESTS

- ...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, earthquakes and disasters
- ...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.
- ...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, 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 especially during this crisis. 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



Sign-up to host the Traveling Vocations Chalice

Individuals and families are asked to host our Traveling Vocations Chalice and pray for vocations for a one week commitment. Prayers are included with the chalice.
Please sign-up at the table near the Herbert St. vestibule door.

Prevention

Our health survey indicated we want to know how to keep healthy. One way to do that is cancer screenings. March is colorectal cancer month. This is a reminder for people age 45 and older to get screened. Time to have a conversation with your doctor about the benefits and risks for you. It's important to know that colon cancer under the age of 50 is on the rise. It is the second most common cancer for men and women. Most people do not have any symptoms, so screening is important. There are many ways to screen such as stool for blood and DNA testing, but the gold standard is colonoscopy. The benefit of colonoscopy is that when they are in there, they can remove polyps that can be precancerous.

-The American Cancer Society recommends screening starting at age 45 with yearly stool tests and colonoscopy every 10 years or sooner depending on your results. You would continue regular screening through age 75. For people 76-85 talk with your health care provider if continued screening is right for you.

-If you have symptoms, there would be changes in bowel habits that last for days, blood in stool or from rectum, black stool, cramping or pain in abdomen, weakness, fatigue, and unintended weight loss.

-Risk factors include family history, history of polyps, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, hereditary cancer syndromes, and previous cancer treatments to abdomen and pelvis.

-Prevention includes healthy diet and exercise, not smoking, and screening.

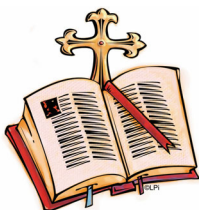
Health behavior is determined by your personal beliefs or perceptions about colorectal cancer. Education, listening, advocacy, prayer can improve this perception. If you need more information, I will have a poster out at the next donut and BP day April 2, 2023. Also, if you can't attend, I can be reached through the Parish Office. I believe you got this!

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, April 1, 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. No cost.



EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

JOM EASTER BASKET COLLECTION EXTENDED TO SUNDAY, APRIL 2ND

If you were not able to put together a basket yet, there is still time to support this outreach.

MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION April 1/2

Items requested:

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

Canned Foods including:
 Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, 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 APRIL 2

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

Ministry Schedule

April 1/2, 2023*

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville/T Riley	D Tourville/C McCarthy
Reader #1	D Tourville	T Karolski
Reader #2	T Riley	A Goll
EME	R Pasiak	A Goll
	M Simmons	M Waskowski
	D Tourville	T Karolski
Greeters	R Pasiak	D Vu
	T Pasiak	S Bosetti
	L Proszkowski	M Bessler
	K Heffner	T Lane
	L Collins	M McLaughlin
	R Bertolini	D McLaughlin

* Passion Readers - See schedule

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Question:

Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

Answer:

The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the "Via Dolorosa" ("The Way of Suffering") or the "Via Crucis" ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us. ©LPi

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Of all Jesus' miracles, the most unsettling might be when he made a dead person alive. We know of three times when he did so: a girl, a young man, and Lazarus. The miracle teaches us he has the power of life and death. He anticipates his resurrection. Sin hurts us. Some sin kills us, spiritually. The three miracles reveal to us that no matter our circumstances, Jesus can give life to us.

The three miracles are instructive of the three ways we feel dead. The little dead girl symbolizes sin before it has time to mature. She's in bed and, once alive, gets right back to her life. The young man is lying in his casket in a funeral procession. This is sin allowed to fester, to grow and become somewhat normalized. Once raised, he has a short walk back home. Lazarus, a full-grown dead man, lies wrapped in burial bands in the tomb. Once he is raised, much needs to be done. He'll need to remove those bands, find new clothes, and travel all the way back home. That is sin allowed to go all the way, unchecked for months or years. It's the most spectacular of the three and reveals Jesus' glory more than the others.

What hope that should give us, for us and those whom we love! Jesus knows our sin hurts us and can even kill us spiritually. No matter the extent of the damage, he is always ready for the miracle of making the dead fully alive. — Father John Muir ©LPi

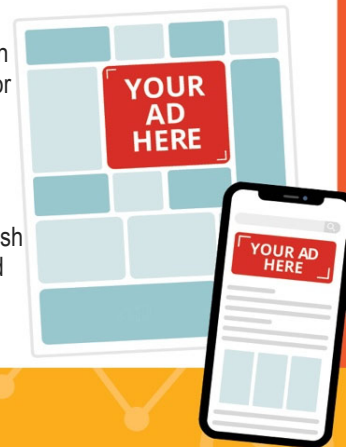
ATTENTION PARISHIONERS!!

We recently changed bulletin publishers to Lpi because J.S. Paluch closed its doors after 110 years. Lpi, like Paluch, publishes the bulletin free of charge to our parish. Advertisements in the bulletin cover the cost, and **we need advertisers.** Do you have a business or know of a business that could purchase an ad in our bulletin? Please contact Judee Nelson below.

AVAILABLE NOW! PRINT & DIGITAL AD SPACES

Build your business and help us grow a vibrant faith community!

Judee Nelson from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church the week of **04/10/23.** As a valuable member of the business community, we invite you to expand your reach and grow your business with a print ad in our parish bulletin and/or a digital ad featured on ParishesOnline.com.



LPi Judee Nelson
248-770-7645



Last Sunday at the 9:00am Mass a number of couples renewed their marital vows. In an age when the importance of marriage and family is being thwarted, we thank them for their faithfulness and witness to our community.

Some parishioners also attended the brunch and presentation by Dr. Patricia Cooney Hathaway after the Mass. We hope it was an inspiring morning.



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

When I am driving throughout the United States, I enjoy seeing the billboards that dot the highways speaking for God. A couple of my favorites: "Life is short. Eternity is not. --God"; and "Let's meet at my house this Sunday, before the game. --God." God must have a pretty big advertising budget because he has billboards in pretty much every state!

One billboard I saw read, "You asked God for a sign, and here it is!" After a chuckle, I realized that we are always looking for a sign. We say we believe, but sometimes, we act like we just want to be sure.

In the Gospels, Jesus performs miracles and healings so that people would believe. The healing of Lazarus was surely a profound moment for all who were there. Jesus was able to show that he has power over even death itself, a foreshadowing to his resurrection that will occur in the not too distant future. For all who doubt, be assured that Jesus is the giver of life. He has given living water to the woman at the well, sight to the blind, and now has raised a man from the grave.

As Easter draws ever closer, how many more signs do you need? What else can Jesus do to convince you that his call on your life comes from the source of all life? As the US Bishops' pastoral letter on stewardship lays out, we have been challenged, we are asked to choose, and then our lives will be transformed. May all the signs of God around us, even billboards on the side of the road, move us to choose a path of giving of ourselves like Jesus.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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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



REFLECTION QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

First Reading: Ez 37:12-14/

God revealed to the prophet Ezekiel his divine plan for the resurrection of the dead: "I (will) open your graves and make you come up out of them, my people!" As a person of faith, how does this promise give you hope?

Second Reading: Rom 8:8-11

Paul insists that for believers, the Spirit dwelling within us gives life to our mortal bodies, raising us from the dead as Christ was raised from the dead. How does this impact your thoughts about death itself?

Gospel: Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

In her grief and sadness at the death of her brother Lazarus, Martha professes her belief in Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. As the season of Lent draws to a close, in what ways have the last 40 days strengthened your faith in Jesus as our Lord and Savior?

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Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants	714
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	81
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 3,877.16
Loose Cash /Check Collection	150.00
Total	\$ 4,027.16
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 117.45
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 490.00

PUZZLE

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

GOD'S SON
SICKNESS
RISE

LAZARUS
MARY
MARTHA

BELIEVES
WEEPING
WRAPPED

S A O E T R H I E T Y
T W R A P P E D H O N
O E K R W Y A O Y U T
B E L I E V E S T S H
H P T S A O M Y N I E
T I H E U N A J H C S
U N S V M A R Y L K O
O G K H E I T D W N U
T P A Y N O H S Y E A
I S D L A Z A R U S H
G O D S S O N F E S R

MISSION

Write the words, "God can do anything" on a piece of paper. Read it every morning.



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Though weighed down by grief, Martha rushes out to meet Jesus. She may not understand why he was absent upon the death of her brother, but her faithfulness is undeterred. In the hour of her heartbreak, she knows her only solace is in the embrace of the Lord.

©LPI

MARCH 26

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent
Saturday: April Fools' Day
Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Holy Week begins

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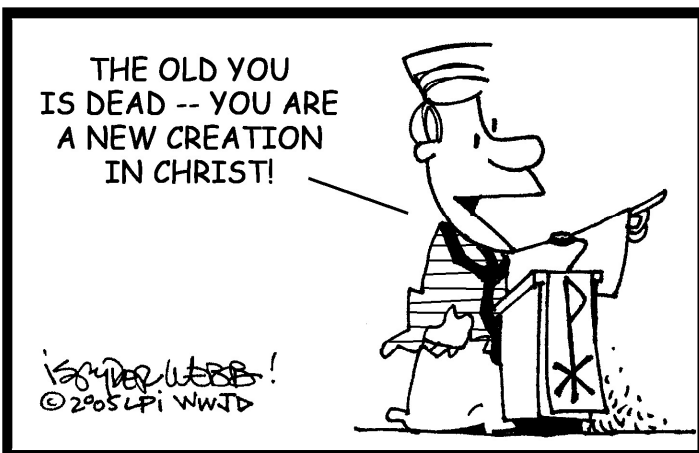
CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

Question: How many Stations of the Cross are there?

Answer: 14

©LPI

5TH SUNDAY IN LENT



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CONTACT ME
Larry Burgett

lburgett@4LPi.com
(800) 477-4574 x6268

Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.

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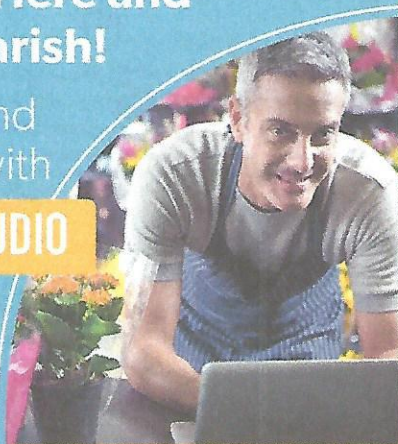


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