



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JULY 9, 2023 † FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

Faith is most itself when it is tested. It is the challenges, the unexpected losses, and changes in life that can either draw us closer to the Lord or incline us to a loss of hope. The readings this week remind us again of the unending providence of God that calls us to persevere in faith with a lively hope.

‘Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion, shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem.’ This acclamation of hope comes from the prophet Zephaniah after the Israelites have returned from exile to their destroyed city. It was a time of rebuilding and establishing a working society centered around the Temple. It was a mighty task and the words of hope from Zephaniah were effective and appreciated. This is more than a pep talk of social patriotism to inspire loyalty. It is more than a worldly rah-rah to encourage tired workers on a difficult project. It comes as a Divine word from God who is fulfilling his plan to restore the people of Israel after infidelity and exile.

The theme is strengthened in the praise of Jesus to the Father for his goodness and love to those who seek him. “I give you praise, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned, you have revealed them to little ones.” What are ‘these things’ Jesus refers to? To the little ones, trusting faith is revealed to those dependent on God with confident hope that God will provide. This openness to faith and willing dependence on God by the vulnerable is contrasted by the learned and the wealthy who fail to realize that they too have equal need for God. The proud and the strong can be ignorant and blind to their need for God in the illusion of worldly power, wealth, or control. In the end, regardless of our state or stature in life, we are dependent on God for life and the promise of redemption.

Why is Jesus so pleased and inspired to offer this acclamation of praise to the goodness of our Divine Father? Through the Incarnation, Jesus entered a wounded and broken world. He did not come in a time of national peace, economic prosperity, or strong social justice. Quite the opposite. Divine providence brought Jesus to a small nation of little stature that was regularly battered and bruised by larger more powerful nations. Jesus was born into a nation racked with social and political unrest where the wealth and power was controlled by two or three percent of the people. The core religion of the Temple was the center of commerce that left people diminished by fees for sacrifice that rendered them sinners and unacceptable to God. It was a time of oppression and suffering for most people. The praise of Jesus reflects the hope and joy God gives to

those dependent on his provident care. Jesus reveals the truth of God as he invites simple believers weighed down with life to accept the yoke of faith that will give them rest. Jesus favors those in such need who place their trust in God. This does not mean all of life’s troubles are resolved, but that the heart and soul can find a sustaining peace in the confident hope of Divine providence.

What is the ground and foundation of this hope? It is our justification given by God in the dying and rising of Jesus. In the second reading, we continue with St. Paul’s teaching on justification by faith in the Lord Jesus. Last week, we learned of God’s initiative and mercy who came to us while we were lost in sin. While we were still enemies of God, wayward and unaware, God came to our aid.

How are we justified? It is by God’s gift. It is not our doing. It is God’s action in the coming of Christ to redeem humanity and all creation. St. Paul makes it clear that it is not something we do. It is God’s unsolicited gift. We cannot earn it and we cannot pay for it. That is why it is called justification. It is God doing for us what we could never do for ourselves. It is this reality that makes known the nature of the Divine as unlimited, unmerited, unconditional self-surrender.

What is surrendered? It is the love of God given in the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. You know the story. Jesus willingly becomes the worthy sacrifice that defeats the lie of evil and the disorder of sin. How? In the power of Divine love revealed through his fully human person, Jesus willingly dies on the Cross for us. In love, with free and willing surrender, the death of Jesus proves stronger than sin and death. Sin and evil are defeated by the surpassing power of Divine love confirmed in the Resurrection.

When we choose Christ with confident trust in this love we are justified by faith. We no longer live in the flesh, the ways of the world, now we live in the Spirit. The Spirit of Christ lives in us to transform us day by day from the old self of sin to the new self of Christ within. We could never do this alone. Only the power of the Son of God in his dying and rising, who now lives in us through the Holy Spirit can make this possible. This is what evokes the joyful praise of Jesus to the Father. It is the simple believer who surrenders to the dependence of God who finds hopeful peace. The proud and the wealthy holding power and influence take longer to realize this truth. A day will come when all will be made clear. Those who live with faith and confidence in God will come to know the fullness of his peace here and hereafter. Praise be God.

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



LIVESTREAMING

Live Streaming of Mass
Monday thru Thursday 8:00am
and Sunday 9:00am

Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45am to 10:00am

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

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 SUMMER HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm
Closed Friday, 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 Summer Office Hours:
by appointment 248-542-8720

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

**For information on Baptisms, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720**



MONDAY, July 10, 2023

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

TUESDAY, July 11, 2023

8:00am Mass: Mary Beth Hochstetler (Birthday Blessings)
req. by Mary Ann Simmons

WEDNESDAY, July 12, 2023

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Deanna req. by Mom

THURSDAY, July 13, 2023

8:00am Mass: Jim McCown† req. by Judy McCown

SATURDAY, July 15, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

John Nych† req. by Mary Jane Guc

Robert Bree(healing from surgery) req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

SUNDAY, July 16, 2023

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

Antonina Miceli req. by Virga Family

Mike Higgins† req. by Krystyna & Family



READINGS THIS WEEK

July 9, 2023

- Sunday: Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
(see 1)/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30
- Monday: Gn 28:10-22a/Ps 91:1-2, 3-4, 14-15ab/
Mt 9:18-26
- Tuesday: Gn 32:23-33/ Ps 17:1b, 2-3, 6-7ab, and
15/Mt 9:32-38
- Wednesday: Gn 41:55-57; 42:5-7a, 17-24a/Ps 33:2-
3, 10-11, 18-19/Mt 10:1-7
- Thursday: Gn 44:18-21, 23b-29; 45:1-5/Ps
105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 10:7-15
- Friday: Gn 46:1-7, 28-30/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-
28, 39-40/Mt 10:16-23
- Saturday: Gn 49:29-32; 50:15-26a/Ps 105:1-2, 3-
4, 6-7/Mt 10:24-33
- Next Sunday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 65:1, 11, 12-13, 14
(Luke 8:8)/Rom 8:18-23/Mt 13:1-23 or
13:1-9



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do you ever feel restless? I certainly do. Daily tasks and challenges, but also the more basic demand of simply existing — sooner or later, this can all feel crushing and tire us out.

Which is why Jesus' words are such stunningly good news: "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened and I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28). How vastly weird that this man speaks as though he is capable of giving us the deep repose we desire. Is his claim the height of absurd grandiosity? No, because next he immediately proclaims that he is "meek and humble of heart." We here touch a mystery: Jesus is capable of giving us rest because he is the one who forever reposes in the heart of God the Father. He is "yoked" to the Father in his divinity. But he is humbly "yoked" to us, sharing in our humanity.

The good news, my fellow tired-out friends: we don't have to despair in our burdens and exhaustion, no matter how heavy they feel. This week, join me in opening our hearts to hear him say to us, "Come! I will give you rest." We come to him in the Church, Eucharist, the Scriptures, prayer, in the poor. There he will give us rest. — *Father John Muir*

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ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION

THIS MONDAY, July 10 at 7pm
Administration Bldg. Patio

The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the second and fourth Mondays of June thru August, 2023.

If the weather is intolerable, we will not meet but ask all to pray the rosary in private. The Immaculata group prayers will be at 6:30 pm and the Rosary will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

Mental Health: Do I need Help?

PART 1 OF MENTAL HEALTH SERIES

This weekend my sister's 16-year-old grandson attempted to take his life. He was struggling with concentration, schoolwork, and changes in his life. His parents were newly divorced, and he just broke up with his girlfriend. Thankfully he is accepting the help he needs and is working through his mental health struggles. This is an example of what people go through on a regular basis and how mental health affects us all.

The National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) says 1 in 5 lives in the US lives with mental illness. The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention says on average, 130 people die to suicide every day. The NIMH defines mental health as emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, act, make choices, and relate to others.

You should seek professional help if you are experiencing symptoms that last two weeks or more. There are mild symptoms that include feeling a little down, feeling down but able to do your job, schoolwork, or house work, some trouble sleeping, feeling down but able to care for yourself and others. These are worth discussing with your primary care provider. The following symptoms are more severe and you **should not wait** to contact your primary care provider and include: difficult sleeping, appetite changes that result in unwanted weight changes, struggling to get out of bed in the morning because of your mood, difficulty concentrating, loss of interest in things you usually find enjoyable, inability to perform usual daily functions and responsibilities, and thoughts of death or self-harm.

If you or someone you know is struggling call or text 988, or chat@988lifeline.org. These services are confidential and free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you are having a life threatening emergency call 911.

Stay tuned for Part 2: Self Carer Activities

Angela Maynard Parish Nurse

Reviewed by Kristara McAlpine MSW and Regina Juska-Svoba MSW



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for...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. 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

A Ballad of Flesh and Spirit

by Colleen Jurkiewicz

“My yoke is easy and my burden is light,” says the man hanging from a cross. And if we only went on what we see with our eyes — flesh driven through by nails and sword, swollen from beating and inches from expiration — it would seem like a joke.

I’ll tell you something we all know: this life on earth is hard. It’s either too long or it’s too short. It’s frequently painful. It’s riddled with problems that seem to make no sense. It is, as Dickens wrote, “made of ever so many partings welded together.”

But it’s also shockingly, senselessly beautiful. It is full of physical experiences of love, joy, and peace that are so powerful they leave you breathless.

It is both these things — good and bad, hard and wonderful, just as we are both body and soul, spirit and flesh.

No one knows the Father except the Son, who entered into our bodily existence to free us from enslavement to it. No one knows the Son except the Father, and the means by which they know one another — the love passing between them, the Third Person himself — has been shared with us, has made its dwelling within us through baptism.

“Brothers and sisters, we are not debtors to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.”— Romans 8:12

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REAL PRESENCE

20. How can Jesus Christ be truly present in what still appears to be bread and wine? In the liturgical act known as the epiclesis, the bishop or priest, speaking in the person of Jesus Christ, calls upon the Father to send down his Holy Spirit to change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, and this change occurs through the institution narrative, by the power of the words of Christ pronounced by the celebrant. 25[See CCC 1353]

21. The reality that, in the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Christ without ceasing to appear as bread and wine to our five senses is one of the central mysteries of the Catholic faith. This faith is a doorway through which we, like the saints and mystics before us, may enter into a deeper perception of the mercy and love manifested in and through Christ’s sacramental presence in our midst. While one thing is seen with our bodily eyes, another reality is perceived through the eyes of faith. The real, true, and substantial presence of Christ in the Eucharist is the most profound reality of the sacrament.

Excerpt from The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Life of the Church, a document from the USCCB

Women’s Prayer/ Scripture Study



The Holy Spirit is alive and active in our parish community. In response to the Holy Spirit there are requests to begin a Women’s Prayer/Scripture study group within the parish. The study group will begin with a seven-week series on meditation and discerning God’s word.. Initially, we would like to meet on Saturday mornings at 9am beginning July 22nd. If you find you are being drawn into a deeper relationship with God through the Word, Please call the parish office to register. There is no cost.

Evangelical Service Corner

FOOD PANTRY

Our food Pantry has closed, but 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.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION JULY 15 THRU AUGUST 6

Items requested:

- backpacks
- 2 pocket folders
- glue sticks
- white glue
- #2 pencils
- pens
- pencil cases
- scientific calculators
- erasers
- colored pencils
- 24 pack crayons
- scissors (blunt & regular)
- rulers
- markers/washable markers
- highlighters
- composition notebooks
- spiral notebooks (wide & college ruled)
- looseleaf paper (wide & college ruled)
- Trapper keeper for middle & high schoolers



School supplies will be distributed through Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and Oakland Jail Outreach Ministry.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Zec 9:9-10

The prophet Zechariah saw the future king of Israel restoring both the land and the people, bringing peace and justice to all the nations. How might you help build toward this promised future?

Second Reading: Rom 8:9, 11-13

Paul speaks of the power of the Spirit living in those who believe in Jesus. When have you felt or experienced the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life?

Gospel: Mt 11:25-30

Jesus invites all who are burdened and laboring to find “rest” in him. What burdens do you or your family need lifted from your life?

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED


COMING BACK TO CHURCH

Question: I have been away from the Church for a few years and really want to get active again, not so much for me, but for my children. Is this a bad reason to come back to Church?

Answer:

If you are on your way to the supermarket, and you are forced to detour from your usual route because of road work, does the food you buy taste different? Is the meal less filling? Are the vegetables less tasty? Of course not. In our faith journey, there are many detours called sin. Some are greater than others, some are even a bit longer. But God's grace comes to us in ways we understand and recognize and need. Your children leading you back to the Church is not as important as the fact that you are back. This is an opportunity for you to renew, strengthen, and deepen your faith. Regardless of how we get to Church, or what draws us closer to God, the fact is we are there. Do what you need to do to get right with God and the Church. Go to confession, begin good family religious practices, and be involved in the ministries your parish offers. Be more than a lukewarm parishioner. Be the kind of Catholic you want your children to be.

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Order of Christian Initiation of Adults

The Order of Christian Initiation of Adults, OCIA, is a faith journey leading to initiation into the Roman Catholic Church. 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?

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

CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: According to scripture, what sea did Jesus walk on during the storm?

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Answer: The Sea of Galilee



Prayer for Rest

Dear Lord,
Please carry the concerns we hold with us today.
Help us to rest in your assurance that you will good things for your children. Amen.

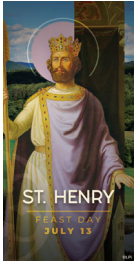
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Ministry Schedule

July 15/16, 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkievicz
Reader #1	P Miles	R Grant
Reader #2	R Pasiak	L Yolkievicz
EME	R Pasiak	R Grant
	P Miles	D Gray
	D Tourville	M Black
Greeters	P Miles	M Bessler
	L Proszkowski	R Juska-Svoba
	K Heffner	L Collins
	T Milko	R Bertolini

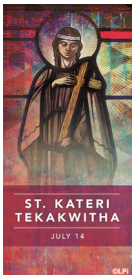
GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...

**St. Henry - July 13**

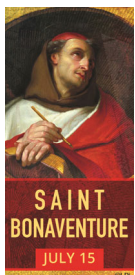
Saint Henry was born in 972 to Henry, Duke of Bavaria, Germany, and his wife Gisela of Burgundy. Saint Henry's early life was permeated with Christianity, among those who guided his education was Bishop Wolfgang of Ratisbon, who became a saint himself. In 995, Saint Henry succeeded his father as Duke of Bavaria, and in 1002, upon the death of his cousin, Otho III, he was elected emperor. In 1014, Saint Henry undertook the long journey from Germany to Rome to be crowned Holy Roman Emperor by Pope Benedict XIII.

In 1022 Saint Henry assisted Pope Benedict VIII in holding the Council of Pavia, which promoted clerical celibacy and sought to end simony (the buying and selling of ecclesiastical goods and offices). During his reign, Saint Henry used his wealth and position for the Church. He confirmed Benedict's authority over Rome, was a patron of churches and monasteries, supported the Cluniac Reforms, restored episcopal sees, and founded the Diocese of Bamberg where he built a cathedral. Saint Henry was married to Cunigunde of Luxembourg, to whom he was incredibly devoted. Although disputed by some historians, some stories of the couple's marriage report they took vows of chastity because their union was childless.

Saint Henry died in July of 1024 and was canonized in 1146 by Pope Eugene III

**St. Kateri Tekakwitha - July 14**

On July 14th, we celebrate the feast of the "Lily of the Mohawks." St. Kateri Tekakwitha is the first Native American woman to be canonized. Orphaned by a smallpox outbreak, Kateri survived with severe scarring and impaired eyesight. Despite tragedy, she was a devout girl at a young age, often building crosses from sticks in the woods. When she was 18, she began secret instruction in the Catholic faith with French missionaries. Her commitment to Christianity and vow of virginity was misunderstood and ridiculed by her fellow villagers. She escaped to a nearby mission, where she attended daily Mass, taught the children, and cared for the sick and the elderly. Sometimes the greatest misunderstandings can come from those closest to us. Like St. Kateri, God invites us to be faithful to our commitments of faith and to always respond in love.

**St. Bonaventure - July 15**

Do you ever get stuck with the tough jobs? It's well known that the Franciscan Order was incredibly influential throughout history. But one of the most challenging times for a new movement is surviving the death of the founder. Bonaventure joined the Franciscan Order almost two decades after the passing of St. Francis. Initially, the young man's theological insights earned him a prime faculty position at the University of Paris. More than his academic skill, however, he was known for his deep devotion to Christ. He was elected the General Minister of the Franciscan Order, right in the thick of controversies. Some friars had conflicting views of how to interpret St. Francis' poverty as the order grew. Others started a new heresy, saying that the Franciscan Order began a new era of the Holy Spirit, replacing the era of Jesus and the authority of the Church. St. Bonaventure weathered these crises with grace, restructuring the order when necessary and offering a more organized perspective on the insights of St. Francis.

**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, 9:30am (livestreamed), 11:30am

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

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Tuesday: St. Benedict, Abbot
 Thursday: St. Henry
 Friday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
 Saturday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Next Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi



COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



LPi BECAUSE VIBRANT CHURCHES MATTER

FAITH LIKE A CHILD

If you Google Search recommendations on how to raise generous children, almost every list of ideas begins with — or at least contains — the directive for adults to be good models of generosity themselves. Our children learn from our actions much more than from our words. Of course, when I think back over the years while my children were growing up, I think I may have learned as much from them as they learned from me. There is a time between early childhood and middle school where a child seems to be freer to give and share than at any other time in life. It is around the age of First Communion when the cries of “mine” turn to laughter and smiles, and the urge to be a part of something bigger than oneself leads to sharing. Before you know it, the child hits the pre-teen years, and once again, he or she becomes the center of the universe.

I believe that the previous paragraph is all true, however, the stages described seem to repeat themselves throughout adulthood. Don't you agree? Sometimes we fall into seeing ourselves as the center of the universe, or we become consumed by our state in life or with what we have acquired. Also, we at times are generous and loving people. It is sin that draws us back into ourselves and away from any meaningful life of stewardship and generosity. In order to be freed for love, we need role models to help us see what really matters. We need to reflect on the example of many of our brothers and sisters in Christ. And, yes, we need to look to children who may be at the point in their lives where sharing is fun, and love is something in abundance.

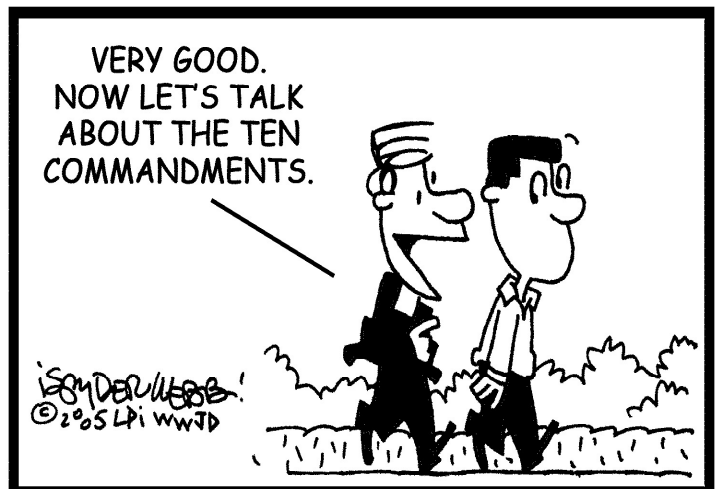
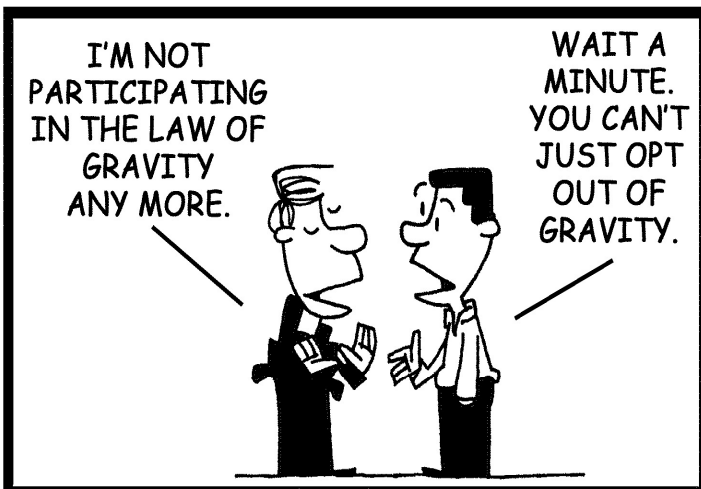
— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The Christian life does not require wisdom, charisma, or strength — no, quite the opposite. To be Christian, we must embrace our faults, our littleness, our shortcomings — gather them up, and lay them all at the feet of Jesus. There, they will be transformed.

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14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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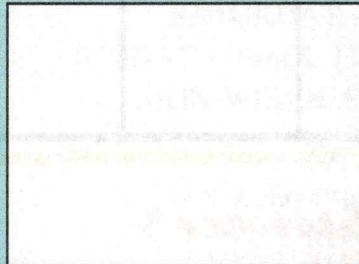
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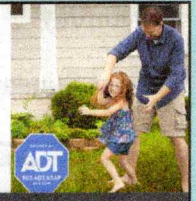
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