

# **St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community**

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

NOVEMBER 26, 2023 † OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

#### From The Pastor

Jesus is not a small Savior. Those who create war and violence, suffering and oppression for the sake of power must think Jesus is small and impotent. Rulers and the power mongers of this world have no idea what death might mean for them. Clearly there is an image of worldly power and control over others that is addictively enticing to those who seek its apparent riches. Where does it all go? What is gained that is of any lasting value?

History proves this point. It is revealed in the first reading relayed by God through the Prophet Ezekiel. Israel has had some great leaders through the ages. They have also had, in biblical times and beyond, many who lived only for the sake of their own power, fame, and comforts of life. This has always meant poverty, oppression, and suffering for those under their authority.

As early as this Old Testament reading, God has promised to personally shepherd his people. The golden age of Israel was in the time of King David who for forty years led the people in an unprecedented time of prosperity and peace. After King David, the people begged God for a just and righteous Messiah to rescue them from their captors and disordered kings. Only God himself could fill the role. 'I myself will look after and tend my sheep...I will rescue them from every place where they are scattered...I myself will give them rest says the Lord God.'

This is the true meaning of Shepherd-King. A just and righteous leader given for the good of those they are called to serve. David is the prefigurement of the coming Christ who would be the universal righteous Savior for all who seek the Kingdom of God. These words of prophecy are as true today as in any age.

Where does the war, violence, poverty, and oppression so evident in the world today end? Only in Christ alone will these evils find any solution. Evil and hate can only fight to the end of its own destruction. This is the power and the truth of today's feast; Jesus, Our Lord, is Christ and King of the universe.

Jesus may seem like too small a Savior who came and went while war, hate, and poverty kept right on going. This is not the truth. The Kingdom of God is realized not in the ability to conquer and kill all enemies, but to forgive and reconcile with them. This would appear small, unattainable, or even laughable. Still, this is the Christ and Lord we profess.

Resisted and rejected as he was, Jesus made it very clear as to the kind of Messiah he would be. Jesus is a Messiah of truth and life, holiness and grace, justice, love, and peace. Jesus is the truth and the sovereignty of God. Jesus is love incarnate, sent to save the world from the lie of evil, sin, and death. This is the surpassing grace of the Divine God and the only way God can save the world. Many do not and will not accept this truth because they reject the vulnerability of surrendering to love and the challenges it presents. Power over others always appears to be a more effective and satisfying way.

The work of Jesus was not to defeat all his enemies by the power of the sword. It would never end. There will always be people who will seek power and control through violence and oppression over others. Jesus came to win the cosmic battle against the principality, powers, and dominations of the Evil one. This was the only way to reveal the true sovereignty and the power of Divine love.

Jesus defeats the evil and hate of the world by bringing it to the Cross in his own body. Freely and willingly, without bitterness or resentment Jesus hung on that Cross with pure love. That is our salvation. Small as that one man may seem, he is the man of eternal redemption, now risen from the dead as King of the Universe.

The image of the gospel is unique to St. Matthew. It is a powerful image of judgement day. It draws in the image of the Good Shepherd who will justly separate the sheep from the goats. What will separate the two? Works of charity and compassion on those who suffer in any human need. Jesus sees and treats each of us as himself, including every person of every nation on earth. Those who feed the hungry, clothe the naked, give drink to the thirsty, and visit the sick and imprisoned are doing so as if to Jesus himself. To fail to do these very same works for others is to fail to do them for Jesus.

It cannot be simpler or more obvious than that. The Kingship of Jesus is built on love alone, exercised in works of compassion, justice, and mercy. In the end, love wins. The ones who love the most will know most clearly oneness with God. Those who love selfishly or not at all will not be recognized by God because God is love. Those who do not know or become love for others will not recognize or know God. You have Christ. Christ claims you as his own. In love, do all you can to bring about the Kingdom of God. Jesus may seem small, but the smallest grain of yeast or the mustard seed will grow and reveal his Kingdom. Be a spreader of love.

Father John Esper

#### 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 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

#### 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, Friday 9-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** 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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

#### MONDAY, November 27, 2023

8:00am Mass: Deceased

Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer &

St. Dennis

# TUESDAY, November 28, 2023

8:00am Mass: José Cepeda† reg.

by Fr. John Esper

#### WEDNESDAY, November 29, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy(Special Intention) reg.

by Mom

### THURSDAY, November 30, 2023

8:00am Mass: Michael Richards† req. by Corrine

McCarthy

#### SATURDAY, December 2, 2023

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

Janine Kairis† req. by Family

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom Dolores Pietraszewski† reg. by Jean & Mike

Pietraszewski

# SUNDAY, December 3, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Mary Ann Machota† req. by Trish Gadowski Joseph & Maria Thuy† req. by Ryan Vu Family Barbara Merchelt reg. by Family

Noreen Kulpa (for health) reg. by Jessie Giszczak



#### November 27

Sunday: Ez 34:11-12, 15-17/Ps 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6

(1)/1 Cor 15:20-26, 28/Mt 25:31-46

Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/ Monday:

Lk 21:1-4

Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk Tuesday:

21:5-11

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn

3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19

Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt Thursday:

4:18-22

Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80,

81/Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86,

87/Lk 21:34-36

Next Sunday: Is 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7/Ps 80:2-3,

15-16, 18-19 (4)/1 Cor 1:3-9/Mk 13:33

-37



It will be a prayerful, peaceful, relaxing atmosphere in which you can escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season for a few hours. Join with friends to reflect upon Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, Jesus, the true reason for the season.

If you would like to host a table, or be a guest at someone's table, you will be able to sign up after Masses on November 11/12, 18/19 & 25/26 or you can call the Parish Office.

RSVP by THIS MONDAY November 27th.



Join us in celebrating
Fr. John's 40th Anniversary of Ordination
as a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Mass 4:00pm in church
Dinner 5:30pm in social hall

Menu: country baked chicken, breaded pork cutlets, mostaccioli, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls, veggies, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and beverages

Following dinner guests will be entertained by famed Catholic illusionist, Giancarlo Bernini, who appeared on Penn & Teller's "Fool Us". He has astounded international audiences with an incredible show experience and has appeared on multiple national television programs.

Tickets: \$35 per person No tickets available at the door.

Purchase tickets TODAY after Mass in back of church or at the Parish Office during the week.

# BAPTISM PREPARATION SESSION Saturday, December 2nd

Parents of infants and toddlers who are interested in having their child baptized are asked to contact Mary Ann in the parish office to register for the Baptism class.



Our giving tree has two options this year. You are invited to take a tag from the giving tree in church or you can go to our website to make online purchases. Gifts with tags must be returned UNWRAPPED WITH THE TAG and placed in the coordinated boxes in church by the end of Mass on Dec. 10th. Online purchases must be received in the Parish Office by Noon on Friday, Dec. 8th. Gift cards are to be put in an envelope with the charity's name on it and dropped in the collection basket by Dec. 10th or at the Parish Office by Noon on Dec. 8th. Gifts will be distributed on December 11th. The requested items are below:

# M G

#### **MARY'S CHILDREN FAMILY CENTER**

Green Christmas Tree Tags Requesting gift cards to Costco, Gordon Food Service, Kroger, Meijer



#### OAKLAND COUNTY JAIL OUTREACH MINISTRY

Yellow Star Tags

Requesting gift cards to Meijer



# **SANCTUM HOUSE**

Orange Mitten Tags

Requesting cases of toilet paper, Kleenex, paper towels, Large containers of regular ground coffee, Large containers of sugar, sweetener and powdered creamer, Laundry detergent and dryer sheets, Gift cards to Meijer, Walmart, Target, Kroger



Blue Snowman Tags
Requesting the following items for both men and

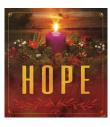
women: warm winter hats, skull caps, gloves, scarves, thick boot socks, white socks, hand warmers, foot warmers, also needed are men's thermal underwear sets only in sizes small, medium, 3XL, 4XL, women's thermal underwear sets in sizes small thru 2XL, men's sweat suit sets only in sizes small, medium and 4XL, women's sweat suit sets in sizes small thru 2XL, men's underwear only in sizes medium, large, 1XL. 2XL, 3 XL, women's underwear in sizes small thru 2XL

# First Sunday of Advent Lighting the Candle of Hope

Saturday, December 2, 2023 4:00pm Mass: Linda Collins & Ron Bertolini

Sunday, December 3, 2023

9:00am Mass: Duane & Marge McLaughlin



# St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

# Glenn Magill Paul Morello

Please remember them and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

# Pray for the Sick

**Pray for**...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful solution to world tensions.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, floods, 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

# EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINE



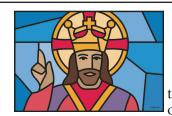
To have names of deceased loved ones included in the Christmas bulletin, memorial flower envelopes must be returned by Monday, Dec 11th.

# Hosts Needed for Traveling Vocations Chalice



Individuals and families are needed to host the Traveling Vocations Chalice for a one week commitment to pray for vocations to the priesthood.

Advent is just around the corner and Lent begins February 14. Sign up to pray with the chalice as part of these seasonal practices. Sign up sheets are at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert door entrance.



# Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

In May 2023, for the first time in almost three quarters of a century, a monarch was

crowned in England. A few days later a friend of mine scoffed, "What a waste of time and energy! What is the point of a king?"

I'm a proud American who wants neither theocracy nor monarchical restoration. I like our democratic republic. But the coronation of King Charles reminded me of something needed in every person and community: confidence in the future. The king's most basic role is to symbolize the unity of the nation. In England, the parliament members handle many of the practical duties of governance. But the king or queen can do what they cannot: embody in a single person the reality and future of a whole nation. To say, "this is our king" is to say, "we exist as a community, and we have a future." Kingship isn't primarily about the power of one person or family. It's about the enduring identity and unity of the whole.

To say Christ is our King is to say we exist as a people. We are *one in him*. We are, and we will be as long as he is. And since he will be our risen king forever, together we have a future filled with hope. Even the best countries will finally fall. But Christ and his Church will endure forever. What good news! It's not a waste of time to crown a king. We do it all the time. Let's be sure to crown the right one — the one whose kingdom never ends.

— Father John Muir

# A Thank You from SHMS Seminarians

Thanks to the generosity of the parishioners at St. Vincent Ferrer, our annual Halloween celebration was a huge success again this year! Our neighbors turned out faithfully to celebrate with us, with roughly 2,000 attending again this year! The atmosphere was filled with laughter and fun. Here is a link to some pictures:

https://flic.kr/s/aHBqiB1RYE

These pictures will hopefully give you and the St. Vincent Ferrer family a glimpse into the beautiful joy they brought to the hearts (and faces) of so many of our wonderful neighbors. I hope these pictures help to capture the apostolic work done during Halloween. Please share our gratitude and these photos with the rest of the parish staff.

Again, thank you so much for your generosity in making the day, week or even year of so many of our young neighbors, and for helping their parents and grandparents experience the joy of seeing them so excited! None of this could be possible without you and your kind support. Please keep us in prayer as we do you.

# WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

#### **PATRON SAINTS**

**Question:** Why are some saints honored as "patron saints"?

**Answer:** Each person is unique and each of us has different gifts, interests, talents, and, yes, even struggles and areas where we need to grow. This is no less true of those holy women, men, and children who have been canonized or beatified.

Because we believe that the saints and blesseds are both models of faith and intercessors. Christians have looked to certain holy people as role models and heavenly protectors for occupations, spiritual charisms, and even places. Although the Church sometimes names a person as a patron saint (e.g. Saint Philip Neri as the patron of Rome, Saint Clare of Assisi as the patroness of television, or Saint Aloysius Gonzaga as the patron of youth and young adults), more often it is popular devotion that inspires lay Christians to turn to a particular saint or blessed for heavenly help and support. This is how, for example, Saint Cecilia came to be honored as the patroness of musicians, Saint Toribio Romo as patron of migrants coming into the United States, and Saint Gertrude of Nivelles as patroness of cat lovers. Although there are official and unofficial lists of patron saints, we should always feel free to ask any and all the saints to give us their patronage and protection in whatever it is that we need.

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

**Question** What is the name used for a Mass where two priests celebrate together? ©LP:

Answer: A concelebrated Mass

# INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God is always closer to us than we suspect. He is in every need we encounter and every person we meet. Never stop seeking His face.

# Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, DEC. 2 - 9:00AM

# FAITH FORMATION OFFICE SVF School Bldg.

All women in our Family of Parishes are invited to join other women to pray and reflect on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required.

Ministry Schedule December 2/3, 2023		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	J McCown	D Gray
Reader #2	M Kairis	L Yolkiewicz
EME	J McCown	A Goll
	R Pasiak M Kairis	M Black M Waskowski
Greeters	L Collins	R Juska-Svaob
	R Pasiak T Pasiak	B Gutowski D Vu
	R Bertolini	T Lane
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of December 2/3 Kathy Bush		

# Kindness Week 3

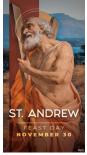
"Let us not grow weary in doing good" Galatian 6:9

In a previous article many ideas for kindness were given to spread positivity. The theme of World Kindness Day is to make kindness the norm. We need to continue to spread the word not only this month but forever. There are many ideas right here in our church community. These include, thanksgiving baskets, giving tree, donations, prayer blanket ministry and card ministry. Ideas for use that benefit you and your family is a challenge to give compliments to five friends today, leave a happy note for someone, or make holiday cards for a nursing home or shut ins.

Let's make the voices that lift others up shout louder than those voices who intend harm. As you spread the words and deeds of kindness remember you are helping build a happier community that can expand into a better world. When you make someone else feel good, you feel good too. If you haven't done so already, pick up a kindness card at the church entrance.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

### **GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...**



# SAINT ANDREW | NOVEMBER 30

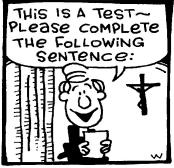
Saint Andrew was a fisherman in Galilee, along with his brother, Peter, when they were called by Jesus to leave their boat and become fishers of men. John's Gospel also places him as a follower of John the Baptist before he came to be one of Jesus' twelve Disciples. Beyond the scant references in the Gospels, not much is known of Saint Andrew's life.

According to Christian tradition Saint Andrew, like many of his fellow Disciples, went out into Greece and Turkey to preach the Good News. A fourth century account of the saint's life tells of his martyrdom by crucifixion in Patras. Medieval accounts describe the cross used as X-shaped because Andrew said he was not worthy to die on the same style of cross as Jesus.

Famously, Saint Andrew is the patron Saint of Scotland, the country's flag bearing the X-shaped cross associated with him. Legends claim that the saint either traveled to Scotland to spread the Gospel or that his relics were brought there by St. Regulus who had a vision telling him to take the bones to the end of the earth. Regulus set out and was shipwrecked on the coast of Scotland. Today relics of St. Andrew which had been held by the Vatican are now at a shrine in Patras.

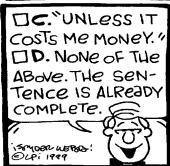


To be sure that Christmas donations are properly credited for Christmas, please do not submit them until after December 8th.









#### **SERVANT OF GOD DOROTHY DAY**

DOROTHY

Dorothy Day was born on November 8, 1897, in Brooklyn, New York and was raised in a secular household. As a young adult, she pursued a career in journalism and became involved in left-wing political activism. She wrote for several socialist and anarchist publications, including The Call and The Masses. In November 1917, she was arrested for her participation in a suffragist protest in front of the White House.

In 1926, following the birth and baptism of her daughter, Day's converted to Catholicism. She was inspired by the writings of Catholic thinkers such as Thomas Merton and Peter Maurin, who emphasized the importance of social justice and the role of the individual in effecting positive change. Six years later, in 1933, Day co-founded the Catholic Worker Movement with Maurin.

The Catholic Worker Movement was based on the principles of Catholic social teaching, which emphasized the dignity of the human person, the common good, and solidarity with the poor. The movement's aim was to provide direct aid to those in need, while also working to change the social structures that cause people's poverty and injustice in the first place. The Catholic Worker Movement established "houses of hospitality" where volunteers provided free food, shelter, and other forms of assistance to the homeless and unemployed.

Day was a tireless advocate for peace and nonviolence. She opposed war and nuclear weapons as well as supported conscientious objectors during World War II. She was also involved in the civil rights movement and supported the work of figures such as Martin Luther King, Jr. and Cesar Chavez. She was arrested several times for her activism, including during protests against New York's civil defense drills and against the Vietnam War.

During her life, Day remained deeply committed to her Catholic faith. She attended daily Mass and prayed the rosary regularly. She believed that her work with the poor and marginalized was a form of prayer and saw her vocation as one of service to God. She also had a deep reverence for the sacraments and encouraged others to embrace them as a means of encountering Christ.

Day's work had a profound impact on the Catholic Church. She received countless awards and was recognized widely as someone who made an incredible impact on the Church during the early and mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, contributing to establishing non-violence as a Catholic principal. In 1980, Dorothy Day died of a heart attack at the age of 83. Her cause for sainthood was opened by Pope John Paul II in March of 2000 and she is considered a "Servant of God."

#### **Prayer for Canonization**

Merciful God, You called your servant Dorothy Day to show us the face of Jesus in the poor and forsaken. By constant practice of the works of mercy, she embraced poverty and witnessed steadfastly to justice and peace. Count her among your saints and lead us all to become friends of the poor ones of the earth, and to recognize you in them. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, bringer of good news to the poor. Amen.

(Prayer Source: https://catholicworker.org/prayers-for-the-canonization-of-dorothy-day/)

### THERE IS MUCH TO BE DONE

Growing up Catholic means I must have heard a million times the passage in Matthew's Gospel about how doing things for the "least of these" means you have done them for Jesus. Okay, that is an exaggeration to make a point. But it has been a slogan for so many social justice activities, from clothing and canned food drives, to letter writing campaigns and peaceful protests.

Growing up I only knew how to help the least of these through the school and church activities of the time. Today, YouTube and GodTube are filled with videos of creative ways people reach out to one another. Have you seen the one about the pizza party for the homeless? How about the fake lottery ticket or the house bought from online donations for a poor man? There are even videos of people paying for the car behind them at the drive-through! The awesome thing about this is that it serves as a witness to others. It is not boasting but instead sharing the Good News. Giving and good stewardship can be contagious!

Our pastor has several times over the years handed out \$10 bills to confirmation candidates and asked them to "pay it forward." They can keep the money or use it to make a difference in someone else's life. One teen planted a garden for an elderly woman. One bought ingredients for brownies and sold them to give even more than \$10 to charity. The teens not only learned something about good stewardship in the process, but also served as great examples to the parish community.

As always, there is much to be done. The King is coming soon! Let's spread the news and some love at the same time!

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

# QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**First Reading:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17

Ezekiel offers a beautiful vision to the Israelites held captive in Babylon of God as a shepherd tending carefully to the sheep in his flock who are lost, injured, or sick. Who do you know needs to hear this message of hope?

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28

Paul teaches the Corinthians how believers are destined to share in resurrected life with our Lord Jesus Christ. What do you imagine resurrected life with Christ will look like?

**Gospel:** Mt 25, 31-46

The final Gospel reading of the Liturgical Year focuses on Judgement Day. All will be measured by how we treated those on the margins of society. What could you do this week to help the poor or the stranger or those in prison?



# MASS SCHEDULES

# National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY - 8:30am and 4:30pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY-7:30am, 9:30am (livestreamed), 11:30am

4:00pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00pm

WEEKDAYS (Monday - Friday) 6:30am (livestreamed), 8:30am

# St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J) 50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)

SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Justin SUNDAY - 9:00am & 11:00am - St. Mary Magdalen MON-WED & FRI- 9:00am - St. Justin

# St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067 SATURDAY - 4:30pm SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am



Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the

Universe

Thursday: St. Andrew, Apostle Next Sunday: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent

# Prayer for Christ the King



Dear Lord,
May your name be praised
and blessed forever, you who
are our shield and comfort!
May your kingdom come!

Amen.

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