



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

MAY 5, 2024 † SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From The Pastor

The Easter season calls us to an exultant joy in the dying and rising of Jesus as Lord and Christ. What is this joy and how do we find it? Each liturgical season reveals its own truth of God in the coming of Christ. The journey of faith begins with the Advent-Christmas season in anticipation of the birth of Jesus.

The birth of Christ reveals a new light in the world. Jesus proclaims in the gospel of St. John, "I am the Light of the World." Without Christ, the world, humanity, and all creation would live in the squalor of the darkness of sin, the chaos of evil, and the sadness of death. The birth of Jesus brings the light of God's truth to the world through the human-Divine Son born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus is the Light that no darkness will overcome.

New life is the truth revealed in the Lent-Easter season. Through the dying and rising of Jesus, new life is realized in his rising from the dead. In the pure love of Jesus, through his freely chosen death on the Cross sin dies, evil is defeated, and all creation is given new life in the power of the Resurrection. Resurrection love is a spiritual truth that must be known in human hearts. Love alone gives new life. We will all die in the flesh. Through faith in Jesus, living in the Holy Spirit, we are given eternal life in the promise of heaven.

Pentecost is the third major liturgical season. The truth revealed at Pentecost is love. We live in the age of the Spirit, the final age until the coming of the Lord. The Spirit of God, the Spirit of Divine love, the Spirit of Jesus are one and the same. Formerly known as the 'Spirit of God' in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit is released in a new and more personal way after Jesus rises from the dead. The Holy Spirit is our identity in Christ whose nature we now share as we are called to make Christ present in the world. In the Holy Spirit, we bring Christ to others in love. This is the work and purpose of 'Ordinary Time.'

It struck me this past week at daily Mass how directly and frequently we are called to the joy of our redemption in the grace of the Easter season. It caused me to wonder, where is the joy of Jesus now risen that gives us redemption and new life with God? Consider these phrases from weekday Mass prayers this past week. '...in this time, we laud you yet more gloriously.' '...that we may rejoice in the full measure of your grace.' '...that we may merit to receive the joy of our redemption.' '...that we may find delight in the Paschal Mysteries.'

So where is this joy? Do you feel it? Is it within you in a known and felt way? I am afraid the words are

larger than the lived or felt experience. Easter is a day of great celebration and joy in the rising of Jesus, but I am afraid human nature too quickly leads us back to the complaining, stress, and irritations that surround us. How do we become attentively aware of the joyful hope given us in the faith we profess in the Lord Jesus? Resurrection is a way of life, not simply a day or a liturgical season.

To realize this promised joy, faith must be nourished by prayer and deep pondering on the love given us in Christ. It means allowing the words of scripture to become real, personal, and impactful within each believer. The truth of Christ as Light, Life, and Love must be realized as a living identity in us who believe.

The pain of sin, guilt, fear, and any perceived unworthiness, or separation from God reveals the need for redemption. In sin, we are not free, bound up, and hindered in the grace of love. The joy of redemption will not be realized until we experience the freedom of God's forgiving mercy, full acceptance, and active friendship. Love is personal and must be maturely desired and accepted to feel the grace of joy. "As the Father loves me, so also do I love you." This is the truth of Jesus given by the Father to set us free. The humanity of Jesus makes him our brother and friend who knows and understands us intimately with love. To know and accept this love awakens the joy of Easter in the risen Christ.

This is more than coming to know you are loved by God. Accepting this love leads to the freedom to love others. Loving self and others becomes the seedbed of joy that offers forgiveness and acceptance to others. The love and friendship of Jesus allows us to become agents of love and freedom for all. This is the fruit and the evidence of redemption that creates joy.

Life is difficult, yet the poorest of the poor in any frame of life cling to the possibility of finding love, acceptance, and the validation of mercy. Often, the poor are joyful in ways you would never expect. Our poverty of whatever kind, alerts us to our need for Christ, leading to surrender and acceptance of the redemption he offers.

When those who are bound or separated for any reason, are set free through love and acceptance of redemption, joy explodes. This is our nature and call in Christ. We all need the same grace, and we can all share love for others. In the joy of Christ, let's work toward that.

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 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 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 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, May 6, 2024

8:00am Mass: Linda Karolskit req. by Mary Jane Guc

TUESDAY, May 7, 2024

8:00am Mass: Marcus Maulding (9th R.A.) and Rimantas Labieka (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

WEDNESDAY, May 8, 2024

8:00am Mass: Tom Esper (8th R.A.) req. by Family

THURSDAY, May 9, 2024

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

SATURDAY, May 11, 2024

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

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

Leona Ingelsit req. by Angella Hamm

Bonnie Riley† req. by Peggy Jenkins

Dolores Eslava Binze (2nd R.A.) req. by Bene Anderson

Bonnie Riley† req. by Peggy Jenkins

SUNDAY, May 12, 2024

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

Dianne Karolsksit req. by Barbara Batchik

Barbara Merchel† req. by Family

Joseph Dong Kim Phamt req. by Family

Lorriane Kuczborskit req. by Family

Len & Fran Kwapisit req. by Sam & Meg Lamerato

Intentions of Members of Women's Sacred Journey



*"Even as You, true God and true Man,
gave Yourself entirely to us, so also You
left Yourself entirely for us, to be our
food, so that during our earthly
pilgrimage we would not faint with
weariness but would be strengthened by
You our celestial Bread."*

St. Catherine of Siena

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

May 5, 2024

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Sunday: | Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/1 Jn 4:7-10/Jn 15:9-17 |
| Monday: | Acts 16:11-15/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Jn 15:26—16:4a |
| Tuesday: | Acts 16:22-34/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Jn 16:5-11 |
| Wednesday: | Acts 17:15, 22—18:1/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Jn 16:12-15 |
| Thursday: | Acts 18:1-8/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 16:16-20 |
| Friday: | Acts 18:9-18/Ps 47:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Jn 16:20-23 |
| Saturday: | Acts 18:23-28/Ps 47:2-3, 8-9, 10/Jn 16:23b-28 |
| Next Sunday: | <i>Ascension:</i> Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 (6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Eph 4:1-13 or 4:1-7, 11-13/Mk 16:15-20 |

JOIN US IN CHURCH FOR



Praise & Worship

THIS WEDNESDAY
May 8th - 7:00pm
Followed by Fellowship & Afterglow

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION**First Reading:** Acts 10:25-26, 34-35, 44-48

The Jewish believers who accompanied Peter to the house of Cornelius were “astonished” that Gentiles who had faith in Jesus also received the gift of the Holy Spirit. Have you ever been surprised by what God has done in your life?

Second Reading: 1 Jn 4:7-10

John teaches us that the essence of God is love and we are called to love one another. Who might you work on loving this week?

Gospel: Jn 15: 9-17

Jesus taught his disciples that loving him and loving each other brings “complete joy.” What brings you joy in your life?
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**Following the 9:00am Mass**

Congratulations to our young people who were welcomed to the Eucharistic table for the first time on Sunday, April 28, 2024.

*Lillian Cox**Lillian Dauffenbach**Jalen Montenegro Espana**Anthony Hatfield**Giorgio Leong**Liam Moreno*

May God continue to bless them on their faith journeys.



“The Eucharist is the sacrament of love: it signifies love, it produces love.”

St. Thomas Aquinas

**PLEASE HELP REACH OUR GOAL: \$88,000.00**

Information on CSA Campaign 2024 has been mailed to all parishioners. Funds received by the Archdiocese of Detroit in excess of our assigned AOD target will be returned to our parish.

An anticipated increase in your generosity to CSA 2024 as a parish fundraiser will provide the \$50,000.00 excess needed for our parish budget as explained by Fr. John. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your contribution or pledge to help reach our goal of \$88,000.

To make a pledge or contribute by mail, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided. Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN. Donations can be made online at our website: www.stvincentferrer.net using the donations tab or see the other ways to give on the pledge card.

Pledge cards are available at the parish office for those who are not registered at SVF and would like to make a pledge or contribution to help us meet our goal.

As I Love You

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

This week my children were learning about energy. We set up an experiment with toy cars — one was placed in front of another, and a third was pushed into the two stationary ones.

The forward motion caused the front car to move, but not much. "Most of the energy goes into the car in the middle, not the car on the end," my daughter concluded.

I asked her why she seems to have so much energy, and I seem to have so little.

"Because you're old," she replied confidently.

Most days I feel like that first car, barreling at life with all my energy and love and good intentions, only to have it almost entirely absorbed by the proverbial middle car. It's so easy to be discouraged. The devil so badly wants us to feel discouraged.

But the law of love is not unlike the law of conservation of energy. Love is neither created nor destroyed. It is only transferred from one form to another. And yes, sometimes it certainly seems like it disappears. It appears to get lost between my hands and the plate of dinner that goes uneaten or evaporates off of my lips as words I fear are never heard. It is spat upon as a commandment the world would prefer I do not keep.

But we are not called to simply love one another — to love when it seems effective and productive and appreciated. We are called to love as Christ loved: recklessly, selflessly, and yes, even without logic. We are called to love with a love that doesn't give up and is never withdrawn. A love that doesn't fear death or the world's hatred. A love that stands willing to argue, to be reviled, to be dismissed.

We are called to be that first car, hurtling ourselves against a world that isn't ready to accept or understand us. And we trust that, even when we can't see how, the love that seems to disappear simply changes forms.

This is my commandment: love one another as I love you." - John 15:12

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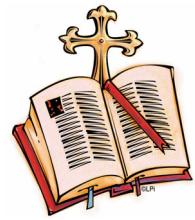
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Christ's love for us is radical — it changed the whole world. It will not be easy to love as Christ loved, but this is the mission for which we have been chosen by God. So let us love one another. Let us change the world.

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, May 11th at 9am
Faith Formation Office in School



The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome. No registration or fee required.



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions.

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



Evangelical Service Corner

CCSEM SENIOR MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

May 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, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable foods from:
Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

CATHOLIC FAITH

Question: My neighbor is just beginning to explore the Catholic faith but was raised agnostic. I grew up believing in God, praying, and attending Mass. How does one start from scratch as an adult to develop a relationship with God?

Answer: Start on a personal level! How did you and your neighbor become friends? How did you begin to discuss such a personal topic as faith? Communication, spending time together, and getting to know each other are essential to forming the bonds of a relationship. Personal prayer is essential to our relationship with God. We can't be close to someone we don't know! Invite your friend to explore the stories of Jesus in the Bible. Introduce them to the lives of the saints, especially ones you think they might be interested in.

Your neighbor might also have questions about the Catholic faith that you don't know how to answer. If your friend hasn't yet enrolled in OCIA classes, invite them to Mass at your parish. Introduce your friend to the faith formation director to make a connection. Personal support can be helpful as well, especially if few of your neighbor's current friends are practicing their faith. Connect your neighbor to other people in your parish living their faith well. The good examples of other faithful people could help your neighbor to feel welcomed and supported. Our Church is vibrant and alive!

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Ministry Schedule

May 11/12, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
Reader #1	P Miles	P Allen
Reader #2	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
EME	M Simmons	R Grant
	P Miles	D Tourville
	D Tourville	T Karolski
Greeters	L Collins	D Vu
	T Pasiak	S Bosetti
	P Miles	T Lane
	M Smith	B Turchin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of May 11/12, 2024
Bernadette Gutowski

INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES ARE NEEDED TO HOST THE TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE



Please commit to hosting the Traveling Vocations Chalice for one week.
Prayers come with the chalice.
Sign up sheets are at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert door entrance.

Balance

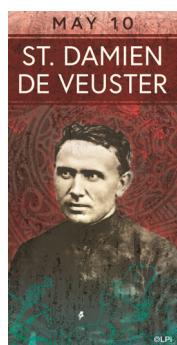
To have balance each part of the body works with one another to create and maintain stability. One out of four Americans ages 65 and older has a fall each year and more than three million end up in the emergency room with fall related injuries. Poor balance plays a role in many of these falls. Factors that contribute to balance problems can be related to vision, hearing, pain, mental changes, muscle weakness, stiffness, fear of falling, and certain medications. It's common to be less steady on your feet as you get older. That's why experts recommend that older adults include balance – boosting activities in their fitness routines several times a week. If you have significant balance issues talk with your health care provider or a physical therapist about which activities are right for you.

Here are some options to consider. Dual purpose exercise includes aerobic activity, strength, and balance training. Remember to warm up first by dancing to your favorite song or walking. Lower body and core work includes cycling, water aerobics, squats, and crunches. Activities that combine specific body movements or poses as in yoga exercises. Specific balance exercises take just a few minutes. Standing on one foot while raising the other leg. Repeat 3 times. Hold onto something if needed and you can do this anytime you're standing, and as you get better you won't need to hold on. A second idea is marching in place at a slow even pace for 30 seconds. A third idea is walking heel to toe, standing near a counter or wall for support. Put your right foot directly in front of your left with heel touching left toe, hold for 30 seconds then switch. Multipurpose exercise offers a way to improve balance and confidence. Balance is not something you find, it's something you create (Jana Kingsford).

I do have copies of a balance enhancing exercise program used in a study to improve balance confidence. If you are interested, you can reach me through the church office.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



St. Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i | May 10 (1840 – 1889)

People may be familiar with leprosy from Biblical times, but not so much in the 1800s. However, St. Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i would eventually shed a light on the effects of this devastating disease and allow people to see those afflicted with it with more compassion and love.

Born Joseph de Veuster in Tremelo, Belgium, he quit school at 13 so he could work on the family farm. Feeling called for more, however, he entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary six years later, where he took the name of a fourth-century physician and martyr. His brother, a priest from the same congregation, fell ill and was unable to go to his assigned location. Damien quickly volunteered in his place and found himself on the Hawaiian Islands in 1864. Two months after arriving, he was ordained a priest of Honolulu and assigned to the Island of Hawaii.

In 1873, he visited the Hawaiian government's leper colony on the island of Moloka'i, where he petitioned to stay permanently to care for their physical, medical, and spiritual needs. After years of working to improve their location and those who lived there, he contracted Hansen's disease and died of its complications. He found strength to endure isolation and disease in Eucharistic adoration and the celebration of the Mass. St. Damien was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on October 11, 2009. St. Damien de Veuster of Moloka'i, pray for us!

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[Today with early diagnosis, Hansen's disease is curable with a multi drug treatment in 6-12 months.]

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Sunday: | 6 th Sunday of Easter |
| Thursday: | The Ascension of the Lord |
| Friday: | St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Damien de Veuster, Priest |
| Next Sunday: | The Ascension of the Lord; World Communications Day; Mother's Day |

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A graphic titled 'MONTH OF MARY' featuring three sections: 1. Celebrate May Crowning, 2. Give someone a Marian Gift, and 3. Pray the rosary. It includes images of the Virgin Mary and a rosary.

May is the Month of Mary!
Here are 3 ideas of how to honor Mary this month:

1. Celebrate May Crowning:
May Crowning is celebrated by crowning a statue or image of Mary with a wreath of flowers to honor her as Queen of Heaven and the Mother of God.

2. Give someone a Marian Gift:
Great gift ideas to honor Mary include a Marian Medal or a Marian Scapular.

3. Pray the rosary:
Consider participating in a group rosary at your parish or with friends/family!

6TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

Once a man came to the Vatican and asked to see Pope John Paul II, claiming that they had been friends in Poland. When told of the man, the Pope said, "He is mistaken about our friendship. I don't recall ever having suffered with him." As it turned out, the man had never known the Pope. Now, I'm not sure if the story is totally factual. But doesn't the juxtaposition of *suffering* with *friendship* sound exactly like JPII? He understood that the deepest and most lasting friendships are forged in the fires of shared suffering. No suffering, no friendship. Amazing.

This week we hear Jesus say to the apostles and to us, "**You are my friends if you do what I command you**" (John 15:14). In Jesus' life, death, and resurrection, God entered the world of human suffering and transformed it into an avenue of friendship with Himself. Following His command — to love, to lay down our lives for others — will always entail suffering. But this suffering only deepens our friendship with Him. His suffering is ours; ours is His. We have become friends of God.

This week, how might you share your suffering with the Risen Jesus? How might he be sharing his suffering with you, in the lives of those around you? Be attentive to that, and you'll find that you are indeed a friend of God, because you've suffered together a great deal.

Father John Muir
© LPi



"Every Consecrated Host is made to burn Itself up with love in a human heart.

St. John Vianney

NORTHWEST REGION HOSTS REGIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS IN THE AOD

NEXT SATURDAY, MAY 11TH

Who are the congresses for?

This event is for all people who want to learn more about Jesus or the Eucharist. Whether you have known Jesus your whole life or haven't met him yet, you are welcome to come. We recommend you RSVP for the event to help us in our planning.

Why attend a regional congress?

Who is Jesus? Who am I to Jesus? What does this mean for my life? If you've ever asked yourself these questions or want to know more, join us.

What is the larger context for these congresses?

As the Archdiocese of Detroit joins the celebration of the National Eucharistic Revival, join us this day for an inspiring speaker (English or Spanish), dynamic music, prayer, and more.

Northwest Region

9:00am to 1:00pm on Saturday, May 11th

Hosted by Rochester Area Catholic Family of Parishes

St. Andrew Catholic Church

1400 Inglewood Ave, Rochester, MI 48307

English Keynote Speaker: Mari Pablo

Spanish Keynote Speaker: Socorro Truchan

Mass Celebrant: Bishop Gerard Battersby

To RSVP visit: <https://www.aod.org/love-outpoured>
(Choose Northwest Region)

National Eucharistic Congress

Indianapolis | July 17 - 21, 2024

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING APRIL 27/28

Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	22	93	
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 5,420.01	\$ 127.01	(8,824.22)
Energy	289.00	90.00	(199.00)	(1,997.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	95.00	(1,020.39)	(39,192.91)
Mass Intentions	n/a	130.00		5,315.00
Budget deficit donations	n/a	20.00		7,581.88



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
WED - 12:10pm

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Praying for the interests of others is referred to by what name?
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Answer: Intercession.



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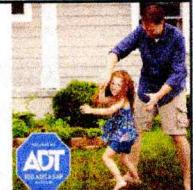
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