



# St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

JUNE 30, 2024 † THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

Gratitude is the heart of Christian prayer. Any believer in the awareness of the love of Christ in the gift of redemption will pray from a foundation of gratitude. Gratitude is realized through bonds of love that inspire the desire to give thanks. More than a simple thank you of appreciation, gratitude grows from a deeper place of inner goodness in the heart that comes from the soul. Gratitude is a response to the bonds of love that are given in countless expressions of unsolicited generosity without attachment or expected return.

God is the source and origin of this kind of love. God is the only source of love. Any love shared that inspires gratitude has its origin in God. The kind of love that inspires gratitude is love that builds faith and trust in God that reveals itself through human encounters. This kind of gratitude makes life beautiful as it opens a path to God with a trust in Christ that reveals the Holy Spirit.

This kind of spiritual awareness was common in the first century of the Church. Faith was commonly realized in the awareness of God through the love of Christ and his life saving Cross. Early on, faith was more heart centered. As the Church grew institutionally and a catechetical structure came to the fore, faith became more head centered. It became more a learning in the head than a formation of the heart. Jesus, and the life he lived, made it clear the heart was the spiritual center and core of the person. Head learning created an image of God that tended to cause fear, doubt, and rule-based obedience. Heart based faith awakens the awareness of love and gratitude. God is known and loved through personal encounters of love, rather than rules of right behavior that earn grace points.

Today's first reading is a beautiful expression that can stretch and awaken a new image of God and the meaning of grace in human life. It is a work of the heart. Sit with the words and listen to their meaning. 'God did not create death and does not rejoice in the destruction of the living.' If you feel God is a mean sin counter ready to punish every human wrongdoing, sit quietly with these words. You belong to God more than parent to child.

We often hear in the words from St. Paul that we are temples of the Holy Spirit, a dwelling place of God, that we are holy and beloved of God. These words could not be truer. If you struggle to believe

this, or you doubt your self-worth, or question your value to God, consider these words: 'God formed man (human beings) to be imperishable, in the image of his own nature he made him.' God created you and each of us in the image of his own liking, sowing in each of us the essence of his own nature.

God cannot deny the image of his own making despite the lie of evil and the frustration of sin that distorts the human condition. Why sin and death? Why the need for redemption? Because 'By the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and those who belong to his company experience it.' Sin hides gratitude in the fear of punishment that teaches distrust of God. This is the lie of perfection that the devil preaches, as if to say God is perfect and you cannot be perfect, so you have no place in God. The wiles of deception lead us to believe this. Love becomes obscured in the disruption of sin.

The power of God in Jesus proves otherwise. Jesus will not allow himself to be bound by the rubrics of religion or culture. The woman burdened with hemorrhaging was ritually unclean. That did not stop Jesus from touching her and showing deep compassion. He attends not only to her illness, but more importantly to her as a person exhausted and in pain. He sees faith in her and desires for her to realize her own goodness and beauty. It was her faith, her desire to trust God that brought her healing.

The synagogue official is clearly a man of love in concern for his daughter. Faith is evident and trust is strong. Other details are of little consequence. Even the news of her death leaves Jesus unfazed. God-Love has power over death. Jesus is Divine Love in action. He simply gives the command, "Talitha, kum," meaning, "Little girl arise!" Jesus performs an act of creation in giving new life through the power of love.

God's love lives in all of us. Faith gives it identity and expression. Death is natural to the body, but not to the soul. The soul is made to be imperishable, coming from God and returning to God. God's justice, which is mercy, which is love, is undying.

In a spirit of gratitude, ponder your faith this week. Despite all the trials of human existence, life is still beautiful. We are not meant for death, but imperishable in the image of God's making. In the end, only love will remain. Praise God for the gift of your life.

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 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, July 1, 2024**

8:00am Mass: Reverend Thomas Esper† req. by Family

**TUESDAY, July 2, 2024**

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

**WEDNESDAY, July 3, 2024**

8:00am Mass: Milford & Lillian Wiebelhaus† req. by Family

**THURSDAY, July 4, 2024 INDEPENDENCE DAY**

9:00am Mass: Parishioners in our Family of Parishes

**SATURDAY, July 6 2024**

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Leona Ingels† req. by Angella Hamm

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom  
Robert Lebioda† req. by Kim Magri & Family

**SUNDAY, July 7, 2024**

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Lorraine Kuczborski† req. by Family

John & Stella Gadowski† req. by Trish Gadowski  
Antonina Miceli† req. by Virga Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



**June 30, 2024**

- Sunday: Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24/Ps 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13 (2a)/2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15/ Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43
- Monday: Am 2:6-10, 13-16/Ps 50:16bc-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23/Mt 8:18-22
- Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8/Mt 8:23-27
- Wednesday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29
- Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 9:1-8
- Friday: Am 8:4-6, 9-12/Ps 119:2, 10, 20, 30, 40, 131/Mt 9:9-13
- Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mt 9:14-17
- Next Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 (2cd)/2 Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a

**ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION**

Admin. Bldg. Patio

**THIS MONDAY - JULY 1st**  
7:00pm



The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the first and third Mondays of July and August.

The Immaculata group prayers will begin 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.

**Independence Day Reflection**

On July 4th, throughout the United States, we celebrate our freedom. Our rights are protected and opportunities abound. We recognize that freedom has a cost, one we celebrate and honor on days such as this. It's good to honor those who fight for our country, who may well pay the ultimate price for the liberties we're afforded. As faithful Catholics, we recognize that there is more to freedom than simply being at liberty to make our lives what we want them to be. St. John Paul II reminds us: "Freedom is not just doing what we can, it is doing what we ought." We become freer within ourselves and within our relationships when we choose what is right and good. When we choose sin, we become trapped in egoism - less free, not more. This Independence Day, let's continue to pursue virtue and good character and encourage others to do this same.

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**SATURDAY**  
**July 13th**  
**1:30-3:00pm**

Parents seeking baptism for their infant/toddler must attend a baptismal preparation class for catechesis in the sacrament and procedures of the rite. Godparents are encouraged to attend also.

Classes are held quarterly. The next baptismal preparation class will be Saturday, July 13th at the Administration Building.

To register, please call the parish office at 248-542-8720.



**THURSDAY**  
**4th of JULY**  
**Mass 9:00am**

*Prayer of Thanksgiving for Freedom*

Freedom is enshrined in our US Constitution. The First Amendment of our constitution protects our freedom of speech. However, our speech may not infringe upon another's freedom. Freedom does have its limits. And we must protect everyone's freedoms, not just ours. On this 4th of July, let us remember from whom all our freedoms originate, our good and gracious God.

Let us pray...

*God, giver of all good gifts,  
Help us to be thankful for rest and food,  
and remember that, in all we do or say,  
you are with us, here this day.  
We are thankful for all you do  
and for everything you have given us.  
But above all we are thankful for our freedoms  
and the ability to protect others' freedom.  
We are free because of you.  
We ask for your continued blessing on all your creation.  
Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.*

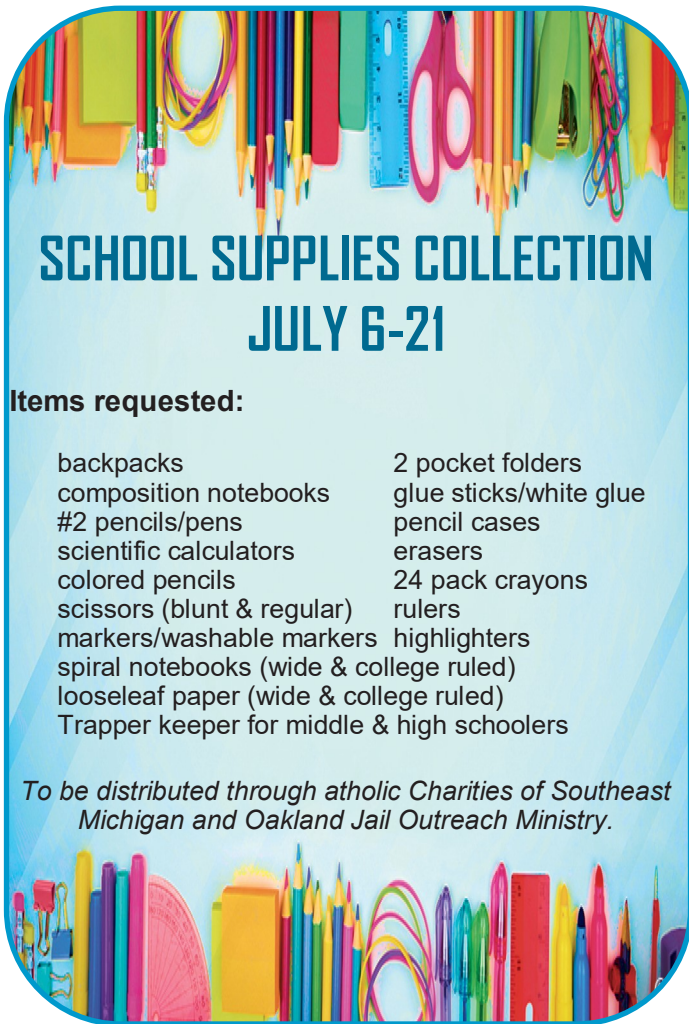
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**SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION**  
**JULY 6-21**

**Items requested:**

backpacks	2 pocket folders
composition notebooks	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
spiral notebooks (wide & college ruled)	
looseleaf paper (wide & college ruled)	
Trapper keeper for middle & high schoolers	

*To be distributed through Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and Oakland Jail Outreach Ministry.*

**13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



Sin isn't given its due these days. Downplaying sin is dangerous. But there is also another spiritual misstep in which we make way too big a deal out of sin. It happens, for example, when we persistently wonder if our confessed sins are "really" forgiven, or suspiciously ponder what God "really" thinks about us, behind His merciful face. Or when someone returns to Church, and we question whether his or her conversion was genuine. Or when we commit some sin and put on a sad face for days, thinking, "Maybe my sins are too great for God to deal with." God save us from that attitude!

Well, he does just that, this week, in the raising of Jairus' daughter. The dead twelve-year-old's house is filled with a spirit of excessive moaning and groaning, tumultuous weeping and wailing. They even laugh at Jesus in a mocking tone. It's shocking how easy it is for him to raise the dead child. It is equivalent to gently waking a kid from a light nap. And then he sends her off to get some lunch. No big whoop. The overactive drama is actually part of the problem, and removing it is a key part of the miracle.

Friends, sin can and does kill, but Jesus is *always* ready and able to raise us back to life, often without much hullabaloo. His ease of forgiving should never be a pretext for presumption, minimizing sin, or taking lightly the cost he pays for our sins on the cross. But for God's sake, we often need Jesus to put out the weepers and wailers. He's the Lord. And remember, the girl is not dead, she's just sleeping.

— Father John Muir ©LPI



*Pray For...*

*...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*



**CSA 2024**  
CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

**Please help us reach our goal of \$88,000.**

**88,000**

**53,290.34 pledged**

We are using CSA 2024 also as a fundraiser this year and are asking parishioners to prayerfully consider an increase in their 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](http://www.stvincentferrer.net) using the donations tab or see the other ways to give on the pledge card.

For those who are not registered parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer, but who would like to help us reach our goal, pledge card packets are available at the parish office or at the long table alongside the chapel wall near the Herbert Street vestibule door.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### FACE-TO-FACE CONFESSION

**Question:** In today’s digital world, do we really need to be face-to-face with a priest to confess our sins? Would Facetime or Zoom ever be allowed?

**Answer:** The question of whether or not Catholics can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation virtually (via social media, by phone, or in some other way) is a question that has actually been around for several years. The recent COVID-19 pandemic brought the question back in a new way, especially as many parishes were forced to introduce a sort of “social distanced” confession, with the sacrament being celebrated outdoors.

In reflecting on this question, however, there are a couple points that we want to keep in mind. First, as the Code of Canon Law observes in different places, the faithful have a right to the sacraments of the Church and the Church’s ministers have a responsibility to make them accessible. At the same time, however, we always have to be sure that we respect the nature of the sacraments themselves.

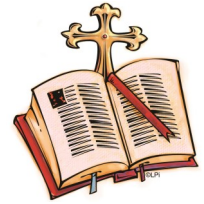
Although modern forms of technology and communication can help us in our work of evangelization catechesis, the Pontifical Council for Social Communication has reminded us that, “Virtual reality is no substitute for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the sacramental reality of the other sacraments, and shared worship in a flesh and blood human community. There are no sacraments on the internet” (The Church and the Internet, no. 9).

Although our encounters with others on the internet and via social media can be considered “real” in one sense, in the sacraments we encounter Christ in a personal and ecclesial way. It is never just a private experience but is always grounded in the life of the Church and this means that it must truly be personal, including the contact between the confessor and the penitent. While the convenience or ease of online celebrations might be appealing for many reasons, at heart, we always want to keep in mind the fullness of the Church’s tradition and the meaning of the sacraments.

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## MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, July 6th 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.

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**First Reading:** Wis 1:13-15; 2:23-24

Our wisdom writer teaches us that God did not create death, rather, death entered the world from the envy of the devil. How should a Christian think about death?

**Second Reading:** 2 Cor 8:7, 9, 13-15

Paul encourages the community of believers in Corinth to share with others out of their abundance as a means of establishing equality. What could you share with others among your family and friends this week?

**Gospel:** Mk 5:21-43 or 5:21-24, 35b-43

Mark presents us with independent healing stories of how faith in Jesus saves. What needs healing in your life?

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## Ministry Schedule

July 6/7, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	M Simmons	A Goll
Reader #2	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
EME	M Simmons	A Goll
	T Riley	M Black
	P Miles	D Tourville
Greeters	L Collins	T Oparka
	J Ballantine	N Oparka
	R Bertolini	B Gutowski
	M Smith	T Lane

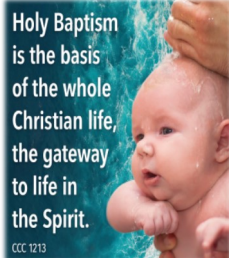
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of July 6/7, 2024  
Mary Jane Guc

On Sunday, June 23, 2024  
Reverend John Esper  
Administered the Sacrament of  
Baptism to

**George Timothy Washburn**

We welcome him into  
Christ’s family.  
May he grow strong in his faith.

May God bless our newly baptized and his family.







**GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS**



**VENERABLE ANTONIETTA MEO (1930-1937)**

Venerable Antonietta Meo, affectionately nicknamed Nennolina by her family, was a child born in Rome. Her family was deeply Catholic and sent her to a nursery school run by Catholic sisters. As a very young child, she had an unnaturally deep understanding of Christ's love.

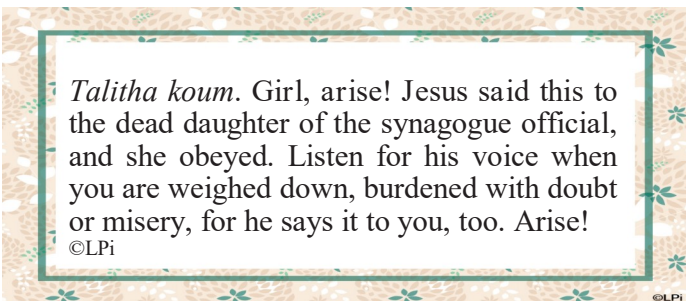
When Antonietta was 6, she had a leg amputated due to bone cancer. From this moment on, she experienced varying degrees of chronic pain. Shortly after the amputation, while she was still in the hospital, her father asked her if she was in pain. Antonietta replied, "Daddy, the pain is like fabric, the stronger it is, the more value it has." All those who overheard were astounded.

From this moment, Antonietta frequently offered her pain and suffering to Jesus. Even at such a young age, her profound understanding of prayer and suffering was inspiring to everyone who knew her. She was fitted with a prosthetic leg and of her experience of it she said, "May each step that I take be a little word of love."

Impressed by her maturity and spiritual knowledge, her family priest recommended she receive her First Communion earlier than most children. She was ecstatic at the opportunity and received her First Communion on Christmas night of 1936. Afterward, she spent an hour kneeling in prayer. She took Confirmation only a few months later, however the amputation had not stopped the spread of the cancer and her health went downhill swiftly following these sacraments.

During the entirety of her short life, Antonietta wrote hundreds of letters to Jesus and Mary. Pope Pius IX, who had heard of them from a friend, was impressed and sent an emissary to her house to ask her to pray for him. After her death, she was declared Venerable, and her writings persist to this day at the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem in Rome. Venerable Antonietta Meo, pray for us!

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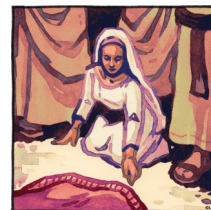
*Talitha koum. Girl, arise! Jesus said this to the dead daughter of the synagogue official, and she obeyed. Listen for his voice when you are weighed down, burdened with doubt or misery, for he says it to you, too. Arise!*

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**The Touch of Christ**

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

For a long time, I didn't understand why the virtual Masses of the pandemic were so wearisome to me. Theoretically, shouldn't it be a tired mother's dream, fulfilling her Sunday obligation from the couch, not having to worry how much noise the kids are making?



But it wasn't. Seeing Mass without experiencing it left me hungry. It left me starving.

Then a wise priest explained it to me. "Watching virtual Mass is like taking a virtual shower," he said.

Grace might not be something we can see with our eyes, but it is very much something that is transmitted physically. Jesus has a human body for a reason. He needs to touch people.

We see that nowhere more clearly than in this Gospel. The crowds are pressing on him, everyone trying to get close, everyone trying to share his space. The hemorrhaging woman claws her way through, desperate to make physical contact with him, any part of him, even his cloak. The synagogue official begs Jesus to come and "lay hands" on his daughter, knowing that this is the only way for her to survive. He doesn't ask for Jesus' good thoughts or approving gaze. He knows that isn't what he needs.

In the Gospels, Jesus saves people chiefly through his own touch because he wants to show us — you and me, sitting in the pews — something very important about how we are saved.

But where do you and I find the touch of Jesus Christ? Where do you and I find salvation?

It's in the water flowing over the infant's forehead. It's in the Host dissolving on our tongues. It's in the oil that is pressed to the skin of the confirmand, the dying man, and the brand-new priest. It's in the embrace of the newly married couple. It's in the extended hand of the priest as he says, "Your sins are forgiven."

It's still here, two thousand years later. It's still waiting for us to reach out and grasp it.

*"If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured."*

— Mark 5:28 ©LPi



- Sunday: 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: St. Junipero Serra, Priest
- Wednesday: St. Thomas, Apostle
- Thursday: Independence Day
- Friday: St. Anthony Zaccaria, Priest; St. Elizabeth of Portugal
- Saturday: St. Maria Goretti, Virgin and Martyr
- Next Sunday: 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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The Office of Family Ministry invites married and engaged couples to join us in celebrating Natural Family Planning Awareness Week with drinks, food, fellowship, and an opportunity to learn more about the benefits of Natural Family Planning.

Please RSVP here for this free event: [https://share.hsforms.com/1OENFz9\\_uTF6GHnOq9lilPA48776](https://share.hsforms.com/1OENFz9_uTF6GHnOq9lilPA48776)

For more information, please contact George Strimpel, Family Ministry Coordinator, at [stimpel.george@aod.org](mailto:stimpel.george@aod.org) or (313) 237-5840.

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** Name the two Sacraments of Service. ©LPi

**Answer:** Holy Orders and Marriage.

**TOUCHING THE CLOAK OF CHRIST**

Look to today’s Gospel and you’ll find one of the most arresting images in all of Scripture. Christ in a crowd, everyone clamoring for his attention, pressing against him. Several feet away, is a chronically ill woman, weak and desperate for help. She knows she doesn’t have a chance of getting his attention. She has no connections. She has no strength. All she can do is lift up her hand.

So that’s what she does. She reaches out.

There comes a time, or maybe several times, in each of our lives when we become this woman. We’re tired and we’re sick. Is it with sin? With fear? With anger? It doesn’t matter. Whatever it is, it’s made us weak, and we feel like we’ve run out of options. We’ve looked for help and come up empty. We’ve consulted friends and gotten nowhere. We’re lost in the crowd of life, unable to stick our heads above the pressing throng to wave for help.

And there is Christ, always passing by us. The hem of his cloak is never far from our grasp. We have no hope of a big miracle like the synagogue leader. We don’t even bother asking for that. But that cloak ... we can touch that cloak. That’s something we can do.

Do we do it, though? Do we have the confidence of that sick, beaten-down woman who knew so totally that healing was there for the taking? Or do we retreat back into the crowd, stumbling back home with our pain and our sinfulness? Reach out, friends. However, whatever, whenever — reach out. Christ will not fail you.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**Prayer for Our Government**  
*Dear Lord,  
 Guide and direct those who serve this country in positions of leadership and power. Give them Your wisdom and clarity as they make decisions for our nation. Amen.*  
 ©LPi

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JUNE 22/23**

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	98		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 5,336.01	43.01	2,435.37
Energy	289.00	160.00	(129.00)	(2,611.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	119.00	996.39	(41,351.03)
Mass Intentions	n/a	40.00		5,960.00
Budget deficit donations		208.00		6,967.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 53,290.34				Paid 40,607.84



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