

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JULY 7, 2024 † FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

As a leading Pharisee, Saul was not yet schooled in the sufficiency of grace. Highly educated and zealous in the rubrics of the Jewish Law, Saul claimed his authority from the Law. The Law was his surety and defense against accusers in his capacity to justify himself through rigid obedience to its precepts. God was known only through obedience of the Law. The better a person knew and kept the Law, the better standing that person could claim before God. Saul held himself in the highest regard in this way.

Christ interrupted his zeal for self-justification by the power of Divine grace. Jesus used Saul's religious zeal for God, but in a new and more enlightened way. After the experience on the road, the blinding light, and a personal encounter with the living Christ, the life of Saul is turned upside down. This is reflected in the blindness Saul endured in the early days of his transformation. All previous boastings of Law keeping and self-justifying zeal vanished in meeting the crucified Jesus, who is now alive as Lord and Christ.

Saul, soon to become Paul, had to discover and embrace a new kind of authority; one not dependent on himself or his capacities, but on Christ in surrendered love. This is the context of the second reading today. St. Paul has learned not to boast of himself, but of the grace and the power of God given to him. Through his conversion, St. Paul was gifted with visions and ecstasies of supernatural grace. His former life would incline him to boast about such gifts, but now they would hinder his ability to effectively preach the gospel.

Moving away from sin to a life of grace in Christ will often lead to agitation and disruptions from the evil one. Paul pleads with the Lord three times to be relieved of this 'thorn in the flesh.' Though the exact issue is unknown, Paul himself calls it an angel of Satan. Nonetheless, the wisdom of Christ gives the response, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." What do these words mean and why did Jesus leave Paul in this distress?

On the human side of things, St. Paul remained as human and vulnerable as the rest of humanity. Paul knows this and readily admits his sinfulness which he surrenders to Christ and his saving Cross. Paul understands and admits the weakness of his human nature and surrenders all to the mercy of Jesus.

From Christ, in the wisdom of God, Jesus tells Paul, and all of us, to submit ourselves to the surpassing power of God's grace. Jesus tells us that the power of grace is stronger and more important than the tensions of sin and human weakness. What does this mean and how are we to understand it?

Weakness is universal to human nature. The tensions of sin are wide and varied. A temptation and weakness for one may be of no concern for another. Things that tempt or agitate one person may not be temptation at all for another. St. Paul was tempted to boast, to be better than, higher than, more zealous than others. Paul needed the tension of this temptation to make him realize his need and dependence on the grace of Christ. If Jesus had removed this 'thorn in the flesh' something else would take its place. If Paul were to remain boastful of his own accomplishments, how would he effectively preach the Cross of Jesus? The message would lose credibility.

Grace is God's personal communication of love to each of us in our particular and specific needs. Grace is God's love, favor, blessing, and forgiveness meted out to us in countless way. The question then comes, what is your sin teaching you? How is it leading you to trust and surrender your weakness to the grace of Christ? Is it not our sins that lead us to turn more closely to the mercy and forgiveness of Jesus? It is. In this sense, we need our sin to realize the power and redemption of the Cross of Jesus. Sin challenges us away from self-sufficiency to a surrendered humility before God. This is the wisdom of the Lord's words.

The gospel is an effective example. Blinded by their jealousy and judgement against who the town's people believe Jesus to be, they fail to realize him as the Christ, the one within whom the power of God resides. They are stuck in what they think they know, unopen to unmistakable evidence of the truth of God in Jesus. The consequence is a lack of faith, a resistance that blocks the grace Jesus wants to give them.

Bring your struggles to Jesus. Admit weakness with humble surrender to the wisdom and design of God for you. Love is greater than sin. Learn from your weaknesses. They are the place where God and his grace are richly present.

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

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

MASST INTENTIONS

MONDAY, July 8, 2024

8:00am Mass: Sherry Zajac† req. by Stan & Linda
Yolkiewicz

TUESDAY, July 9, 2024

8:00am Mass: Rorie Grant (for health) req. by
Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, July 10, 2024

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

THURSDAY, July 11, 2024

8:00am Mass: Mike Kapolka† (1st R.A.) req. by Family

SATURDAY, July 13, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Jim McCown† req. by Judy McCown
Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, July 14, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Living & Deceased Members & Families of Fr. Heary K
of C Council

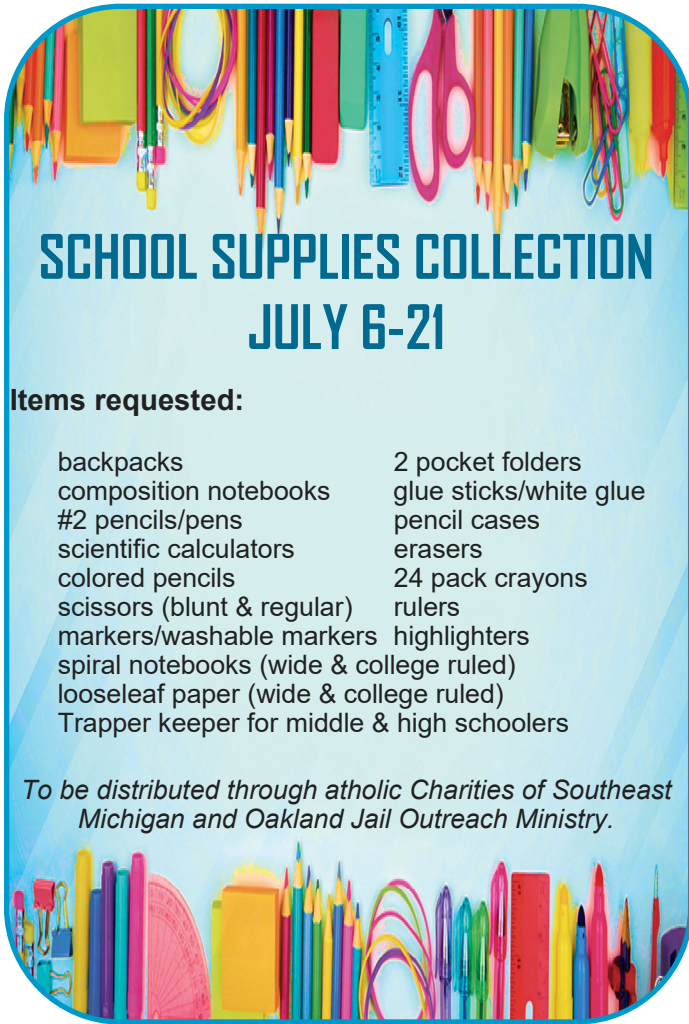
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Mary Keating† req. by Bernadette Gutowski
Diane LePage† req. by Martha Eggert



Readings for the Week

July 7, 2024

Sunday: Ez 2:2-5/Ps 123:1-2, 2, 3-4 (2cd)/2
Cor 12:7-10/Mk 6:1-6a
Monday: Hos 2:16, 17c-18, 21-22/Ps 145:2-3,
4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 9:18-26
Tuesday: Hos 8:4-7, 11-13/Ps 115:3-4, 5-6,
7ab-8, 9-10/Mt 9:32-38
Wednesday: Hos 10:1-3, 7-8, 12/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5,
6-7/Mt 10:1-7
Thursday: Hos 11:1-4, 8e-9/Ps 80:2ac and 3b, 15-
16/Mt 10:7-15
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 51:3-4, 8-9, 12-13,
14 and 17/Mt 10:16-23
Saturday: Is 6:1-8/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mt 10:24
-33
Next Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
(8)/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13



**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.



**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.



14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Recently I watched a bunch of YouTube videos on how to optimize willpower in the face of weakness. The message was: do not accept your weakness. Crush it. Dominate it. In one video, however, at the end of a rant by a willpower coach, the muscular stoic admitted, “You’ll never actually get what you want, no matter how hard you try.” Amazingly, he admitted that willpower alone is not sufficient for us weak-willed humans.

What does God want us to do with our weaknesses, if crushing them with willpower won’t work? For example, what should I do with my tendency to arrogance and self-isolation? Or my procrastination? Or my intellectual and physical limitations? Or my selfishness?

The counter-intuitive answer is clear in this week’s words from St Paul, **“I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses in order that the power of Christ may dwell in me (2 Cor. 12:9).”** Boast of our weaknesses? Paul isn’t promoting weak-mindedness or laziness. Rather, he perceives that Jesus loves us not despite our weaknesses but because of them. Boasting of our weakness means claiming human will is not all we have. It means turning to God whenever we feel weak, which—let’s face it—is almost all the time. When we do, we learn to love our weaknesses, because it’s there that we meet the strength of Christ. This week, I challenge us to find ways to boast not in willpower but in weakness

— Father John Muir ©LPi



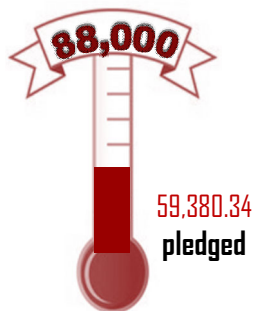
**Please help us reach
our goal of \$88,000.**

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 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.





Evangelical Charity

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY MEETING - JULY 9TH

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday, July 9th at 7:00pm in church. Anyone interested in joining this ministry is welcome.

CCSEM SENIOR MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION - July 13/14

Items requested:

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

Canned Foods including:

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable foods from:

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS SUNDAY, JULY 14

Next Sunday, Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality.

Prayer REQUESTS

...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

Healthy Body-Healthy Brain

Everybody's memory goes on the fritz from time to time. Where did I park? Where are my car keys? Why did I come into this room? I forgot what I was doing. Sound familiar? Many lapses can be blamed on normal, fleeting problems like inattention or a busy day. More concerning though are certain ongoing kinds of memory problems, which is why it's worth doing everything in our power to minimize the odds of this happening.

The health of our brain is closely related to the health of our body. As a result, practicing healthy habits and managing chronic conditions can go a long way in terms of protecting our brain. It's never too late to make lifestyle changes. Evidence shows the prioritizing life enriching activities and not using tobacco can help prevent or delay cognitive decline and dementia.

To help keep your brain healthy, we can:

- Take care of any medical problems. Diabetes, heart disease, and hypertension are all known to damage brain health. Review medications you are taking with your doctor.
- Get enough sleep and get help for existing sleep problems.
- Exercise regularly. The goal is 30 to 60 minutes per week.
- Follow a healthy diet, rich in fruit and vegetables, Avoid alcohol.
- Stay mentally active. The brain is like muscle-use it or lose it! Do crossword puzzles, sudoku, reading, playing cards, and jigsaw puzzles.
- Remain socially involved. Social interactions help ward off depression and stress. Stay connected to loved ones, friends, and others.
- Quit smoking!

The good news is that many of the healthy behaviors that help keep chronic conditions under control also prevent brain health issues like Alzheimer's and dementia. (www.hopkinsmedicine.org)

*Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse
Information from Ascension Health*

Observances for the Week

Sunday:	14 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday:	St. Augustine Zhao Rong, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Thursday:	St. Benedict, Abbot
Saturday:	St. Henry
Next Sunday:	15 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, JULY 13TH - 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.

**WHY DO WE DO THAT?
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

GOSPEL OF MARK

Question: In Year B, we hear primarily from the Gospel of Mark. Since each Evangelist has a unique perspective, what are the key issues that Mark addresses in his Gospel?

Answer: Gospels are a particular faith community's reflection on Jesus. Each Gospel's author reflected that community's faith in Jesus. Jesus' message is made relevant to the community's situation and context. Mark was the first Gospel to be written. When Matthew and Luke wrote theirs, they imitated and adapted Mark for their communities.

Mark's Gospel seems to be addressed to a faith community undergoing turmoil, rejection, and persecution—forces that threaten to overwhelm them. This provides the context around which Mark fashions the story of Jesus. He presents Jesus as the One sent by God to confront the forces of evil. That is the good news of Jesus.

Jesus' struggle with the demonic forces leads to confrontation, rejection, outright opposition, and a conspiracy to do away with him. Realizing this, Jesus is not deterred. Rather Jesus calls for total faith in God who helps us to overcome the forces of evil. Suffering and even death seem to be the consequences of this struggle. Yet, that is not the end. The one who suffers for the sake of others, the suffering servant, will be the one through whom redemption and salvation will come to all. For Mark, this is what discipleship demands and what true faith in God can and will accomplish. See if you can detect these themes as you read Mark's Gospel.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Ez 2:2-5

The Lord encourages Ezekiel to be courageous in his role as a prophet, regardless of the response of the Israelites. Can you think of a time when you had to be courageous in facing uncertainty?

Second Reading: 2 Cor 12:7-10

Paul learned a "thorn in his flesh" that was given to him to teach him that God's grace alone should be sufficient for his ministry. What are some obstacles in your life you have had to overcome?

Gospel: Mk 6:1-6a

We hear how the villagers of Nazareth were "offended" by Jesus and lacked faith in him. How do you support family or friends who have been hurt by others?

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Ministry Schedule

July 13/14, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	D Tourville
Reader #1	T Riley	J Kosnak
Reader #2	D Tourville	P Allen
EME	T Riley	R Grant
	M Simmons	D Gray
	R Pasiak	T Karolski
Greeters	L Collins	D Vu
	T Pasiak	S Bosetti
	R Bertolini	T Lane
	M Smith	R Juska-Svoba

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of July 13/14, 2024
Jane McKay

Prayer for Truth

Dear Lord,
Your prophets were those who spoke Your Truth.
Help me to be a speaker of truth as well, one who reminds of Your love, encourages the lowly, and points ever more deeply to You.
Amen.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who was the very first Pope to visit the Holy Land?

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Answer: It was Pope Paul VI in 1964.

EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



ST. MARY MAGDALEN DE' PAZZI |
MAY 25
 April 2, 1566 – May 25, 1607

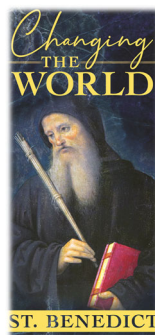
Born Caterina de' Pazzi, to a noble family in Florence, St. Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi, has been called the "ecstatic saint" or "The Passion Flower of the Eucharist," because of the trance-like state, or ecstasy, she entered for long periods after receiving Holy Communion. An ecstasy is when a person's internal and external senses are completely occupied by God, so much so that the individual is entirely unaware of anything other than God.

Caterina learned to meditate at age 9, and took her first communion at age 10, which was young for her time. She was so moved by the experience that she took a personal vow of virginity. She longed to be able to receive the blessed sacrament every day and so at 16, she entered the Carmelite convent of Santa Maria del' Angeli, which had a special dispensation to celebrate the Eucharist daily.

As a novice she took the name Mary Magdalen. In 1584, she became so ill that the sisters feared she would die and so she was allowed to profess her vows from a stretcher in the chapel. What followed was a miracle. For 40 days she would enter a state of ecstasy lasting several hours after receiving Holy Communion. She recovered from her illness and her sisters recorded the teachings she offered during the ecstasies, they are collected in "Revelations and Intelligences." Her years of ecstasies and visions, which she saw as witness of her sins rather than a reward for her holiness, were followed by five years of temptation, doubt, and suffering.

She led an exemplary life of service as mistress of novices and postulants, and eventually the superior. She died on May 25, 1607, after a long excruciatingly painful illness. She was beatified by Pope Urban VIII in 1626 and canonized by Pope Clement IX in 1669. St. Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi, pray for us!

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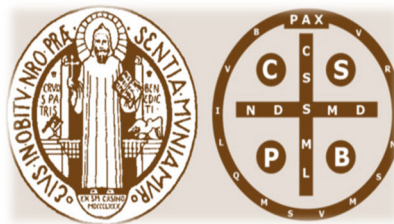


ST. BENEDICT OF NURSIA, ABBOT
JULY 11

ST. BENEDICT

Have you ever wanted to change the world? 5th century Europe was a dark place. The Roman Empire had fallen, and barbarian tribes were picking over the scraps of what remained. Faith hung on, but there was no consistent, coherent Christian culture in the world. Young Benedict began his life with education and privilege but became disillusioned by a life pursuing material success. He withdrew to a monastery and spent much time in solitude. He began attracting followers, whom he organized over time into 12 monasteries, with a 13th established to train young monks. He wrote a rule of life including basic principles for living as Christ. His monks took three vows: conversion to Christ, obedience to the local abbot, and stability to remain with the community. Benedictine monasteries became lights in the darkness, secure centers of Christian culture enlivening the faithful beyond their walls. When the world around us seems complicated and contrary to the Gospel, how will you be a light?

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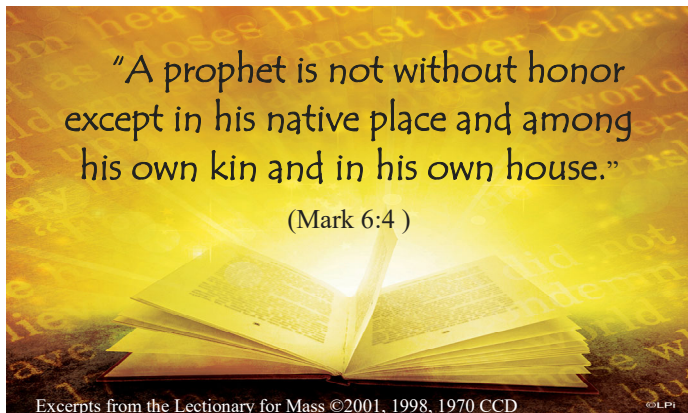
ST. BENEDICT MEDAL

This very detailed medal contains deep symbolism. Besides being a devotional object, as medals are, this medal also provides a spiritual armor against evil. The front of the medal has an image of St. Benedict holding a cross and the Holy Rule. The Holy Rule was a book of guidelines followed by the monks in the monasteries that St. Benedict established. The Latin words surrounding St. Benedict on the front of the medal can be translated as "May we be strengthened by his presence in the hour of our death".

The Latin words on the back of the medal's outer edge are translated as "Begone, Satan! Do not suggest to me thy vanities! Evil are the things thou profferest, drink thou thy own poison." The letters on the cross itself represent a Latin prayer which when translated is "May the holy cross be my light! May the dragon never be my guide" The remainder of the letters encapsulate a plea for deliverance from evil.

"For believers, the Saint Benedict Medal is not just a testament to the power of faith and prayer but also a daily reminder of the spiritual warfare that Christians are called to engage in. It encourages a life oriented towards goodness and fortified against the evils that lurk in spiritual complacency."

For more info visit: <https://ruggedrosaries.com/blogs/news/the-st-benedict-medal-and-exorcism-blessings?>



*Catholic Social Teaching:
Our call to further the Common Good*

Wednesday, July 24th at St. Vincent Ferrer
28353 Herbert St. Madison Heights 48071

12:30 Luncheon - 1:00 Presentation
Free-will offering

An RSVP for a luncheon count is appreciated: 248-542-8720

Presented by:



Fr. Dave Buersmeyer

Fr. Buersmeyer is a priest of the Detroit Archdiocese of Detroit, a teacher, and the Chaplain for Strangers No Longer. After retiring last year, the diocese asked him to serve temporarily at Nativity and St. Charles.

He will talk the basic themes of the Church's social teaching based on the life and dignity of the person, and discuss implications for our lives today.

The Queen of Canada,
Our Lady of the Cape
Visits Pontiac!

July 12-13
St. Joseph Chapel & Immaculate Heart of Mary
400 South Blvd.
West Pontiac, MI 48341



North America's greatest shrine to the Most Holy Rosary is at Three Rivers, Canada, where the miraculous statue of Our Lady of the Cape, the Queen of Canada, is venerated.

On July 12-13 the official National Our Lady of the Cape Pilgrim Statue, enthroned on the Ark of the Covenant and flanked by 2 Angels, will arrive from Canada and visit the United States for the first time in 70 years (since 1954) en route to the National Eucharistic Congress. Her first U.S. stop will be at her little local shrine, St. Joseph Chapel & the Immaculate Heart of Mary (400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48341). At the 1947 Marian Congress in Ottawa, the Blessed Mother asked St. Joseph's parish priest (through an inner locution) to build her a shrine in Pontiac "where people can come to learn about Mary and develop a relationship with her that will be a treasure for their whole lives." 77 years later she is coming to the shrine she asked for.

We open at 3:00 on Friday, July 12 with Mass at 7:30 pm and all-night adoration. Mass on Saturday, July 13 will be at 9:30 am. Come ask Our Lady for favors & graces and put your Prayer Intentions into the Ark. Call/text (313-727-9784) or email (abunaalex@yahoo.com) Fr. Alex Kratz, OFM, for more information.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JUNE 29/30

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	87		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,849.19	(335.81)	(335.81)
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	157.00	(315.00)	(315.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	50.00	(1623.00)	(1623.00)
Bequests	n/a			
AOD Collections: Peter's Pence	n/a	737.00		737.00
Holy Days:	n/a			
CSA 2024 Pledged 59,380.34				Paid 46,747.84

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