

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

FEBRUARY 23, 2025 + SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

The ways of God in the Old Testament and now in the Christian age are rarely mirrored in what is considered normative societal and cultural behavior. Human societies have always been burdened with social and economic competition, jealousy, and violence. The strong and powerful have long weighed heavy on the weak and the downtrodden. The weak and the vulnerable are often the scapegoats for those in power.

From the beginning, the ways of God have always taken the side of the vulnerable and the poor. Hospitality in the Old Testament was a matter of non-negotiable reception of the traveler, stranger, the widow, and the orphan. In harsh desert environments this was a matter of life and death. Today, we are blessed with or confronted by the stark realities of God most fully practiced and directed by the person of the Lord Jesus.

One cannot miss the righteousness of David against the murderous jealousy of King Saul. It is a gripping scene of violence and mercy. Saul is on a path to seek out David and kill him out of jealousy and fear of losing his Kingship. David comes upon Saul asleep in his camp. His first assistant wants to kill Saul with his own sword. David will not allow it. With reverence for God and respect for God's anointed one in King Saul, David will not harm his enemy. David knows and honors that God will not look kindly on violence against the vulnerable and the defenseless.

In righteous wisdom, David takes the spear and canteen of Saul as a sign of how close he was and how easily he could have taken Saul's life. He could have rightly done so as Saul was intent on killing David. David had a heart for God and honored the Divine way. The next day, David taunts Saul with the sword and canteen as evidence of his mercy when in fact he had power over Saul's life. Saul's heart softens and he repents his action against David and at least for a time accepts the friendship of David.

This reading is intentionally paired with today's gospel. Generations before the time of Christ, David is practicing the mercy and love of his enemies that Jesus preached and practices in his time. This is a universal message for all societies. Although some more than others, most societies are driven by competition that leads to injustice and oppression over others for the sake of a few. It is so common that it is accepted as normative social behavior. Everyone

knows it is wrong and things should not be that way, but few are willing to surrender any gained power, control, or security for the sake of making things right for others. In cultures of violence and power a stance of non-violence seems radical, even irrational.

Jesus lived in a violent and oppressive culture. Everyone knew his words and ways were right and true, but too radical and risky to make sense. For the powerful and the strong, those sitting on the top of the hill, the ways of God appear ignorant and foolish. Rightful or not, they are dismissed out of hand.

Outside the mind and the heart of Christ, who is the revelation of Divine love, no one is naturally drawn to love one's enemies and do good to those who have hurt them. On the other hand, who has not experienced the grace and freedom of forgiveness and reconciling with an enemy. Who has not felt the grace and goodness of righting a wrong or responding with peace in the face of hatred or rejection.

Jesus challenges us to trust more in our capacity to heal and reconcile than to conquer or 'kill' those against us. His words are simple and obvious, yet the most difficult to practice. To live and act in hate, fear, or in a stance of being against others only exposes and reveals to others what is in your own heart. The words of Jesus are prophetically true. "The measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." In good or in ill.

If you do not want to be judged, do not judge. If you do not want to be talked about, do not gossip about others. If you do not want to be condemned, hated, rejected, taken advantage of, harmed by another, or stolen from, then do not do it to others.

The pinchy part is that when these difficult things happen, and sadly they will, we are called to forgive and respond with some action of peace, wisdom, or righteous silence. This does not mean you must accept violence, abuse, or other active demeaning harm. You have the right to live in an environment of grace and peace. Plant those seeds and those will be the plants that grow.

If you want to be forgiven, forgive, If you want mercy, and one day you will need it, then you must show mercy. If you want to be loved, then you must love. God, give us the courage and faith to live the gospel we profess mindful that you have first loved us, forgiven us, and shown us every mercy.

Father John Esper



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Chapel



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
Thursdays 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,
Friday 9am to 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 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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



MONDAY, February 24, 2025

8:00am Mass: Amelia Matesic (for health) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

TUESDAY, February 25, 2025

8:00am Mass: Stefanija & Pranas Juska† req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

WEDNESDAY, February 26, 2025

8:00am Mass: Casey Pokoj† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

THURSDAY, February 27, 2025

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

SATURDAY, March 1, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Ken Kowalski† req. by Theresa Kowalski Michael Riley† (4th R.A.) req. by Terri & Tom Riley

SUNDAY, March 2, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Diane LePage† req. by Martha Eggert Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Janine Kairis† (12th R.A.) req. by Mike Kairis Family Dennis Zitney (for health) req. by Joe & Renee Hauzie




READINGS FOR THE WEEK

February 23, 2025

- Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38
- Monday: Sir 1:1-10/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Mk 9:14-29
- Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11/Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40/Mk 9:30-37
- Wednesday: Sir 4:11-19/Ps 119:165, 168, 171, 172, 174, 175/Mk 9:38-40
- Thursday: Sir 5:1-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Mk 9:41-50
- Friday: Sir 6:5-17/Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34, 35/Mk 10:1-12
- Saturday: Sir 17:1-15/Ps 103:13-14, 15-16, 17-18/Mk 10:13-16
- Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

EVANGELICAL CHARITY

PRAYER BLANKET & CARD MAKING MINISTRIES
 Thursday, February 27th - 6:00—9:00pm

The Prayer Blanket Ministry is in great need of decorated squares for prayer blankets and sewers to sew blankets squares together into a new prayer blanket.

If you can decorate squares, arrange squares, sew, or iron blankets we have a job for you. Please come and join us for all or part of the time.

Due to a Regional Staff Meeting, the Parish Office will be closed all day this Tuesday, February 25th.

REGISTER BY THIS MONDAY, Feb 24

Dementia Communication & Caregiving

Tuesday
March 4th
10am to Noon
Admin Bldg.

Communicating with a person having dementia can be stressful, but it doesn't have to be.

Marie Sankuer, Parishioner & Certified Dementia Practitioner will offer the following information in a two hour workshop

Easy to follow handout to the 3 E's of dementia care:

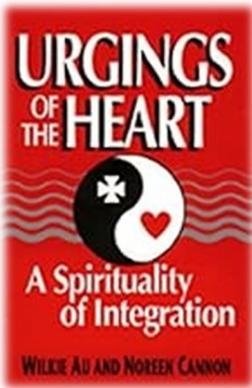
- ◆ *Environment* *Those with dementia deserve*
- ◆ *Emotions* *a quality of life & so do you!*
- ◆ *Energy*

Techniques in speaking with persons with dementia.
Practical solutions to enrich everyday communication & better relationships.
Tips for a calmer caregiving experience & a happier loved one.
Coping with memory losses & decline.
 Registration fee of \$10
 Register by Monday, Feb 24th at parish office 248.542.8720.
Helping...Coping...Communicating

URGINGS OF THE HEART

written by Wilkie Au & Noreen Cannon

A Breakfast Book Study
Wednesdays Beginning March 5
9:00am to 11:00am



“Using stories and images the authors blend the best of spirituality and psychology to help the reader live in peace with self, others and God.”

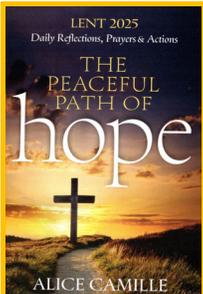
To register, please sign up in back of church or call the Parish Office during business hours.

Church in Central & Eastern Europe Collection

Next Weekend March 1/2

Due to the humanitarian catastrophe caused by the continuing war in Ukraine, funds from this collection are being used to offer shelter, food, medicine and necessities as well as spiritual support and comfort to displaced persons and other war victims.

Envelopes for this collection are at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.



LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLETS

will be available in back of church the weekend of February 22/23.

A donation of \$2.00 is asked to defray the cost.

UPCOMING EVENT

TUESDAY, MARCH 11TH
INTERGENERATIONAL HEALING MASS - 7:00PM
CELEBRANT:
FR. JOHN ESPER

ARCHDIOCESE OF DETROIT GETS NEW ARCHBISHOP



“Holy Father names Bishop Weisenburger the sixth Archbishop of Detroit, accepts resignation of Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron”

“Pope Francis has appointed Bishop Edward J. Weisenburger, currently Bishop of the Diocese of Tucson, as the sixth Archbishop of Detroit. The archbishop-elect

succeeds Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, who has served the archdiocese since 2009.

The new archbishop will be installed at a ceremony at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament at 2:00 p.m., on March 18. On March 17 at 5:30 p.m., Archbishop-elect Weisenburger will lead Vespers (evening prayer) at Sacred Heart Major Seminary. Additional details about the installation liturgy will be shared in the coming days. Following his installation, Archbishop Weisenburger will begin his assignment as chief shepherd of Michigan’s largest Catholic diocese, comprising more than 900,000 Catholics and 213 parishes.

As required by Church law, Archbishop Vigneron submitted his resignation to the Holy Father when he turned 75 on October 21, 2023. Pope Francis has named him to serve as apostolic administrator of Detroit until Archbishop-elect Weisenburger’s installation. Archbishop Vigneron will celebrate a farewell Mass on Sunday, March 9, at 11:00 a.m. at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament...

Archbishop-elect Weisenburger was ordained a priest on December 19, 1987. He served in various roles within the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, including Vice-Chancellor, Adjutant Judicial Vicar, and Vicar General, while also engaging in parish and prison ministries. He was named Bishop of Salina, Kansas, by Pope Benedict XVI in 2012 and later became Bishop of Tucson in 2017, appointed by Pope Francis.

Archbishop-elect Weisenburger has held leadership roles within the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators, and Catholic Rural Life, and he holds memberships in the Knights of Columbus and the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.”

For more visit aod.org

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



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

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

DEVOTIONS, *EXPLAINED!* CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

ICON WRITING, EXPLAINED

At first, the term “icon writing” may be confusing. Writing an icon? Shouldn’t it be drawing an icon, or painting an icon?

But although an icon depicts an image, it is so much more than just a religious picture. An icon is visual theology. Those who purchase icons for private devotion should have them blessed, as they are sacramentals. The Catechism tells us that “Christian iconography expresses in images the same Gospel message that Scripture communicates by words.”

In early Christianity, this was deeply controversial. Many so-called “iconoclasts” pointed to the Old Testament’s prohibition of idols and insisted that it was sinful to represent the face of God in an image. But defenders of iconography like St. John Damascene pointed to the incarnation as a turning point in our visual relationship with God. In Christ, God made himself visible, and thus continually invites us to contemplate and understand Him visually. ©LPI



...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.

...respect for life from conception to natural death

...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

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

ASH WEDNESDAY

Question: Is Ash Wednesday a holy day of obligation?

Answer: Despite the often packed churches, you may be surprised to hear that the answer is no! Holy days of obligation commemorate a particular event (such as the birth of Christ at Christmas) or celebrate particular people (such as Mary's Immaculate Conception or the feast of All Saints). Ash Wednesday is a day of penance, fasting, and abstinence to begin the season of Lent. In a sense, it focuses on a *concept* rather than something particular and concrete.

Of course, repentance ought to be reflected in particular, concrete ways! That's one of the reasons that attending Mass on Ash Wednesday is a very good idea. It marks the beginning of a solemn season of penance. Despite all its comparisons to the desert, Lent can be very fruitful for our spiritual growth! Beginning this season with the celebration of Mass and the reception of ashes is a sign of our commitment to God and to spiritual growth. ©LPi



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23

Question: King David exercised great restraint in sparing the life of Saul. Can you think of a time when you had to take the high road with a friend or co-worker?

2nd Reading 1 Cor 15:45-49

Question: Paul speaks of present-day believers as one day bearing the image of Christ (the "heavenly one"). How often do you think about your future life in heaven?

Gospel Lk 6:27-38

Question: Jesus presents his followers with some very challenging morals: love your enemy, do not retaliate, and always be willing to forgive. Does this high moral standard seem possible for you personally? ©LPi



Sunday: 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Thursday: St. Gregory of Narek, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Saturday, March 1st 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 fees or registration are required.



"Hope is born of love and based on the love springing from the pierced heart of Jesus upon the cross: "For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life: (Rom 5:19) That life becomes

manifest in our own life of faith which begins with Baptism, develops in openness to God's grace and is enlivened by a hope constantly renewed and confirmed by the working of the Holy Spirit.

By his perennial presence in the life of the pilgrim Church, the Holy Spirit illumines all believers with the light of hope. He keeps that light burning, like an ever-burning lamp, to sustain and invigorate our lives."

From Spes Non Confundit, the papal bull of St. Francis for the Jubilee Year 2025

Ministry Schedule

March 1/2, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Simmons	P Allen
Reader #2	P Miles	T Karolski
EME	M Simmons	M Waskowski
	R Pasiak	P Allen
	T Riley	R Grant
Greeters	P Miles	D Vu
	M Smith	M McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba
	R Pasiak	B Turchin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of March 1/2, 2025
Kathy Menard

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

BLESSED MARIA FRANZISKA SCHERVIER
1819-1876

Maria Franziska Schervier was born on January 3, 1819, in Aachen, Germany. Her father was a successful businessman, and her mother was a devout Catholic who instilled in her a strong love of the Lord.

As a young woman, Schervier felt called to serve God. Due to the death of her mother and two sisters of tuberculosis, though, her father objected to her desire to become a nun. He was devastated by the deaths and was determined to keep Schervier away from poverty and disease. Out of respect for the trauma her family endured and for her father's sake, Schervier, put aside her own desires.

After her father's death, when she was 25, Schervier felt free to finally join the Third Order of St. Francis, which allowed for her to live a religious life while still working in the secular world. She decided to honor her family's memory by focusing her life work on caring for the sick and, especially, for those who contracted tuberculosis.

After she took her vows, Schervier worked as a seamstress and as a nurse. In her spare time, she opened up her personal home in Aachen to provide care for the poor and the sick. She soon became known for her compassion and dedication to those in need, and in 1851, she and four other women founded the Congregation of the Poor Sisters of St. Francis Seraph of the Perpetual Adoration, also known as the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen.

Schervier and her fellow sisters followed the example of St. Francis of Assisi and lived a life of poverty, simplicity, and service. They cared for the sick and the elderly, prostitutes and women suffering from diseases like syphilis, visited prisoners, and helped those who were struggling financially. Schervier served as the first Superior General of the congregation, and she remained in that role until her death.

Within seven years of their founding, the congregation spread to include an American foundation. The sisters in the United States served German emigrants in Ohio, Kentucky, New Jersey, and New York. Schervier also oversaw the foundation of a number of hospitals in the United States and Europe. One of the hospitals she and her congregation founded was St. Mary Hospital in Hoboken, New Jersey, where they cared for soldiers wounded in the American Civil War.

One of the most significant moments in Schervier's life came in 1863, when she and her sisters were called to care for the victims of a cholera epidemic in Aachen. They worked tirelessly, risking their lives to care for those who were sick and dying. Their selflessness and dedication to those in need earned them the respect and admiration of the entire community, and they became known as the "Cholera Sisters."

Schervier died on December 14, 1876, at the age of 57. Her legacy lived on through the congregation she founded as it continued to grow throughout Europe and the Americas. In 1974, Schervier was beatified by Pope Paul VI and named Blessed. Today, the Franciscan Sisters of Aachen continue to serve the poor and the sick in many countries around the world.

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Judgment and Love

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

"Oh, well. I'm going to hell anyway, right?"

I have a few family members and friends who are not practicing Catholics who say this to me from time to time. It's always spoken in a teasing manner, with a wink and a shoulder shrug, usually to explain away some sort of minor misbehavior they feel guilty about.

It saddens me that Christians have somehow gained this reputation as a people who judge, who condemn. I think in part it stems from a misunderstanding on the part of unchurched people (and lots of churchd ones, too) regarding what constitutes "judging." It is absolutely not "judging" someone to disagree with a personal decision, whatever that decision may be, or to decline from participating in that decision. We all have functioning consciences; we are all supposed to discern the moral goodness of any action before we take it.

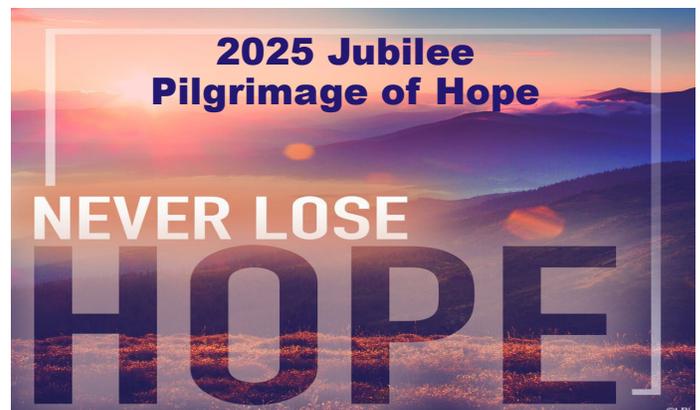
But it *is* judging someone if we allow their decisions to impact how we treat them.

Today's Gospel is an invitation for us to consider how we engage with people who disagree with us — or maybe even actively dislike us. Much is said these days of the "culture wars." I certainly don't disagree that it can often feel like you're fighting a war when you're trying to live as the Church teaches. The forces against you often seem overwhelming and nefarious. And guess what? They are.

But we need to remember who the enemy really is. The enemy is not other children of God, even if they are children of God who are actively promoting ideas that are wrong. Perhaps these people are misguided and mistaken. Perhaps they are misled by the devil. Have we not all been misled by him at some point?

We must interact lovingly with people who think differently and live differently from us. The Christian life absolutely demands it.

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Thanking God for Missing Spears

Imagine how Saul must have felt when he awoke from his sleep and saw his spear missing from its resting place. Now imagine how he felt when he realized that the person who had it was the same person seeking his life — and there he sat, safe and sound. Now there's a day you don't forget your morning prayers.

I think if we look, we can all find a “missing spear moment” in our lives, when it hits us right in the gut that God has kept us safe from an impending disaster. This can be physical disaster, sure — but more commonly, I think it is spiritual disaster. Often the salvation comes through the gift of a person, or people, through whom God reveals His mercy.

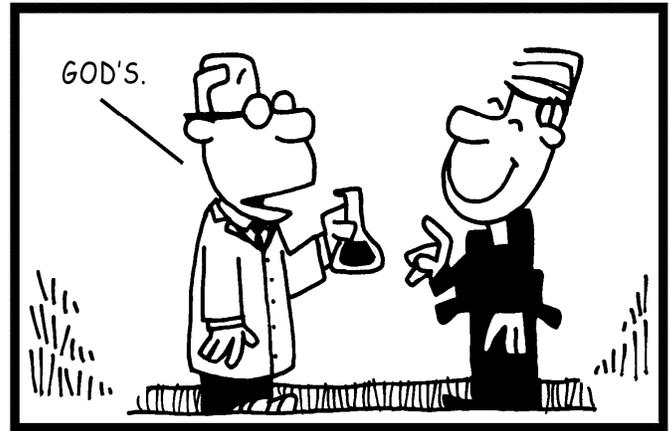
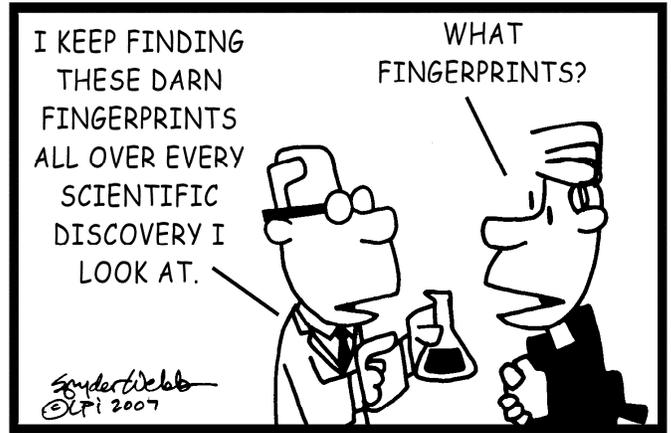
When I was in high school, I had a circle of friends who were really into their faith. We were all in youth ministry together, and the bond we shared taught me a lesson that changed me as a person: we become those with whom we associate. I can look back now, all these years later, and see that these people are evidence of God's hand in my life.

Take a look at your life. In whose love has God shown you comfort? By whose hand has God brought you closer to Him, or kept you away from harm? Through whose friendship has God shaped you into the person you are?

Let's strive to remember to thank God for these people — and to thank them, too.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus' message today is one of radical generosity and abundant mercy, and it scandalized the people of his time. It shook them to their core. It should do the same for us. Are we ready to live as Jesus lived? Are we ready to offer love in the face of hate?

©LPI

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING FEB 15/16, 2025

483.01 Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	97		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,158.01	(26.99)	11,062.74
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	245.00	(227.00)	(12.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	215.00	(1,458.00)	(12,269.71)
Bequests		141.00		2,617.00
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days: Easter		20.00		5,610.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 76,160.34				Paid 74,405.34

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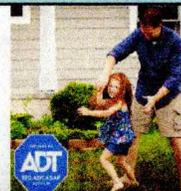
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