

St. William Parish Community



Walled Lake, Michigan 48390

January 31, 2021

www.stwilliam.com



This week we are celebrating “Catholic Schools Week”, an annual event in our Archdiocese. I commented a bit about

Catholic schools in last week’s column, and I want to follow up with a few more thoughts this week, especially since this Saturday we are having our first ever VIRTUAL Open House. If someone wants to explore the possibility of sending their kids to our school but isn’t able to sign on for the open house, they can always give the school office a call: 248-669-4440.)

Although persons just now reading about the Virtual Open House in this column might have missed it (it’s this Saturday from 10:00 to noon), we will be scheduling *in-person* open houses on February 27 and March 20. I hope many parents (and grandparents) of potential new students—and, for that matter, ANY parishioners who just want to know more about the school will visit the school website, or even take advantage of our open houses to see what we have to offer. Also, I’m sure that many of our current school families would be happy to share their good experiences with you! Just call the school and we’ll put you in touch with someone who will return your call and answer your questions.

The Archbishop has made it abundantly clear that Catholic Schools are an essential component in our efforts to evangelize. He also states that “**Catholic Schools are an apostolate that is the responsibility of all parishes and all Christ’s faithful.**” We are entering into a new era for Catholic Schools. For many, many decades, the Church in this country has used Catholic Schools as

(Continued on page 3)



Parish Mission: *“To live the Good News so joyfully, that we can’t help but proclaim it!”*

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday 4:30 pm,
Sunday *10:00 am (*also Live-streamed)
and Sunday 12:30 pm
Tues., Wed. & Thur., 8:00 am

Office Hours

Monday through Thursday, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Many issues can be taken care of with a phone call, 248-624-1421.

Registration

For many reasons it is important to be formally registered as a parishioner. Contact the rectory for friendly help. Ext. 341

Baptism

To begin the preparation process for Baptism please call Deacon Bob Dreyer at 624-1421, ext. 345. Baptisms are normally scheduled the first and third Sundays of the month.

Marriage

To celebrate a valid marriage Catholics must have the help of a priest or deacon. Call at least six months in advance.

Funeral

Please contact the parish office to make arrangements.

Ministry To The Sick

We are happy to visit the sick and provide anointing. Please contact the Parish Office at 624-1421.

RECTORY

Email: Rectory1@stwilliam.com
531 Common Street (248) 624-1421

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|----------|
| Pastor | Rev. Michael G. Savickas | Ext. 346 |
| Deacons | Rev. Mr. Bob Dreyer Rev. Mr. John Liddle | Ext. 345 |
| Baptisms | Dcn. Bob Dreyer | Ext. 345 |
| Business Office | | Ext. 341 |
| Business Manager | Mrs. Deborah Diviny | Ext. 349 |
| Christian Service: | Mrs. Karen Sommers 248-624-8870 | Ext. 344 |
| Maintenance: Supervisor | (248) 669-5522 Mr. Dave Colby | Ext. 312 |

EDUCATION CENTER

135 O'Flaherty Street

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Office of Faith Formation | | (248) 624-1371 |
| Dir. of Rel. Ed. | Dcn. Michael McCrandall | Ext. 307 |
| Dir. Of Initiation | Mrs. Nancy Thomas | Ext. 306 |
| Youth Ministry | Mrs. Karen Trojniak | Ext. 308 |
| Music Ministry Dir. | Mr. Bill Richart | Ext. 310 |
| Administrative Asst. | Mrs. Lisa Geoffrey | Ext. 342 |
| School Office | | (248) 669-4440 |
| Principal | Mrs. Betsy Gabrish | Ext. 303 |
| Secretary | | Ext. 302 |

CYO Sports
Athletic Director

ad@saintwilliam.net

Since Sunday Masses have been reduced to the public, contributions have greatly declined.

If you are in a position to help, automatic giving can be easily arranged online. Go to Faithdirect.net, or follow the link from our website, www.stwilliam.com.



Offertory Report

(The fiscal year begins July 1)

| | Collected | Budgeted* | Over/(Under) |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------|-------------------|
| As of Dec., 2020 | *\$413,537 | \$499,998 | (\$86,461) |

*This does NOT represent *needed* income, but only the amount we expected would actually come in.

Note: For clarity and accuracy, this report now shows reconciled month-end balances.

The "One-Hour Challenge!"

To have a *happy, peaceful life*, it is important that we have our lives in order, with our grateful response to God for his gifts being our top priority. That is how a disciple responds in the areas of *prayer, family, finance, and service*.

If you need help to put balance in your life, take the "one-hour challenge": Each week, spend at least...

- One hour in prayer and worship.
- One hour, special, focused on your family or other important relationship.
- One hour's wage (if you have a job) for the Lord. No job? Then give what seems right for you.
- One hour in service. (Helping another, or working for some cause.)

It's important to be *specific* in what steps to take in order to ensure that each "hour" actually happens!

May God bless you!

(Continued from page 1)

a major resource for passing on the Faith to the next generation. In times past, most parishes had schools. Many were well-run and very effective. Costs were kept artificially low because of the gift of time and energy by the Sisters of various Religious Orders and Congregations, who were paid very low wages.

Much has changed, but the purpose has not. Today we have far fewer schools in this archdiocese, although virtually all the ones remaining are of superior quality. Unfortunately, some people live too far away from a Catholic School to be able to send their children. Other parents, assuming that tuitions must be very high, are dissuaded from even *inquiring* about Catholic School for their children. Many people may not be aware that there is some financial assistance available, awarded according to need, through both the Archdiocese and through our school. And then too, the increasing secularization of our society lures some Catholics into a confusion of values in which Catholic education—or even Church attendance—has, at best, a low priority.

But as our parish embraces the call to “Unleash the Gospel” and make disciples for the Lord, we must thank God that he has given our parish a great resource through our wonderful Catholic School Program. Regardless of whether you happen to have school age children, I want all parishioners to appreciate the gem of a school that we have.

Look carefully at what our School Mission Statement says. It states that we exist...

“...To provide a school environment in which

Christ is encountered, and

Discipleship is fostered

through the teaching and practice

of Catholic Tradition, values, and doctrine,

while challenging each student to academic excellence.”

Eucharistic Exposition

*Sunday
February 13th
12 to 3 pm*



Public education, while free, at most can only address the first and last lines in our statement.

A high-quality and affordable elementary education *combined* with a Catholic environment has a great value, particularly when given the difficulties of our contemporary society. If you happen to know of any family in the area with school-age children (Catholic or not), I urge you to share the good news about our school with them. Should they want to know more about our school, they can visit www.stwilliam-school.com.

In Jesus,
Fr. Michael



Legion of Mary

If you would like to enrich your spiritual life & would like to help others, we need you in Legion of Mary.

Meetings are every Tuesday evenings following the 6:30 pm rosary. Come join us and say the Rosary and see what we're all about.

Contact Sherri Szeptowski, 248-957-8244, if you have any questions.



Rosary Altar Society

Our general membership meeting will be Wednesday, February 3rd, at 6:30 pm in Lower Zepf Hall.

USCCB *Word of Life*

“Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us. ‘Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age’ (Matthew 28:20).”

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USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities
Respect Life Reflection: Be Not Afraid (respectlife.org/be-not-afraid)

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Question: I get annoyed with myself when I am distracted while I pray. Is it a sin? How can I be more attentive?

Answer:

The mind is a marvelous and complex thing, producing amazing thoughts, images, wisdom and inspiration. Yet at times it is like a two-year-old: it does not follow directions, does what it wants and loves to tell us “no!” This is probably the oldest and most common problem in the spiritual life—dealing with distraction. It comes in all forms: good intentions forgotten, wandering thoughts at Mass, daydreaming, etc. A little poem says it all: When the soul begins to pray, the brain always wants to pray!

There are many ways to handle distractions. If we are distracted by thoughts about our families or friends, we should pray for them. If we lose our focus, we need just “re-collect” ourselves. If some worry or concern just won’t leave our mind, then we deal with it and come back to prayer or make it part of our prayer. And when words just won’t come, the only prayer we might offer is our presence, our suffering, and our desire to be close to the Lord. Most importantly, we need to be patient with ourselves. These things are not sinful, but reminders of our human frailty. Our weaknesses and good efforts are all acceptable to God, who reads the love in our hearts and the good intentions of our minds.

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Embracing Change in Christ

It’s officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

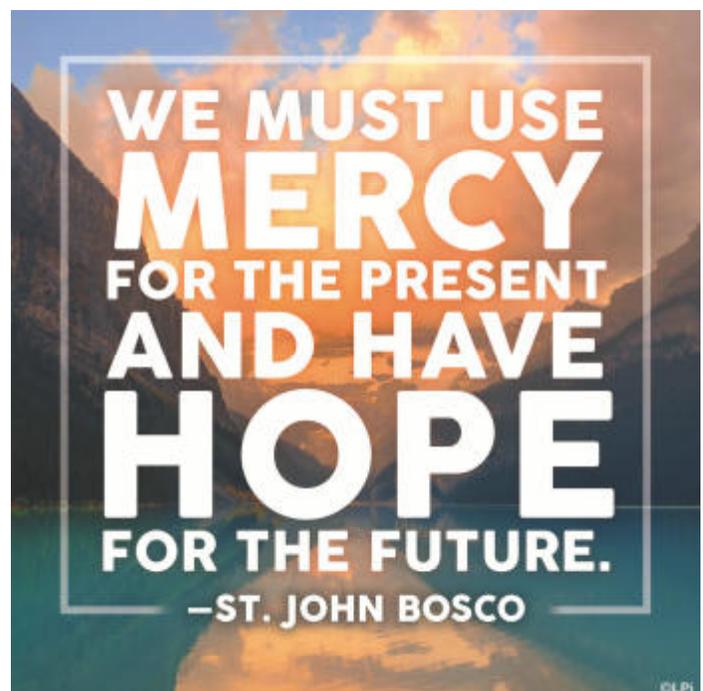
New years can be scary, can’t they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: “What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?”

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: “I know who you are!”

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ’s healing power into our lives. We won’t regret it — I’m sure the demoniac never did.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



February



St. Vincent de Paul Society Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Gospel today we read that because Jesus spoke with authority his reputation spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee. As his disciples, we can also speak with authority when we put our faith into actions by helping the poor and suffering.

Have you considered answering the call to serve the poor by joining the Society of St. Vincent de Paul?

| | |
|-----------|---|
| Tue 2 | Rosary, 6:30 PM followed by Legion of Mary Meeting |
| Wed 3 | Rosary Alter Society Meeting, 6:30 PM Lower Zepf Hall |
| Thu 4 | AA Meeting, 7:30 PM Lower Zepf Hall |
| Tue 9 | Rosary, 6:30 PM followed by Legion of Mary Meeting |
| Thu 11 | AA Meeting, 7:30 PM Lower Zepf Hall |
| Sat 13 | Eucharistic Adoration, 12-3 PM Church |

Virtual Dine and Discuss Focuses on Story of Boy Growing up in the Gaza Strip

Weber Retreat and Conference Center brings back its popular Dine and Discuss, but in a virtual format. Join others in reading *The Words of My Father: Love and Pain in Palestine*, the compelling story Yousef Bashir's experience as a young boy growing up in the Gaza Strip – and the sudden challenges of finding his home occupied by soldiers.

Tune in from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. EST Wednesday, February 24, 2021, to view a group discussion and a presentation by Linda Tomala, a member of the Detroit hub of the Meta Peace Team. She practiced non-violence and bystander intervention during several trips to the Middle East, including at the Israeli-Palestinian border.

Books may be purchased through the Weber Shop for \$10 plus postage, if applicable. Contact the Weber Shop at 517-266-4035 or webershop@adriandominicans.org.

The program is free, but registration is required to receive the live stream link, which includes the ability to submit questions. Registration is available at www.webercenter.org; click on "programs." Registration is also available by calling 517-266-4000 or emailing webercenter@adriandominicans.org.

A Family Perspective

by Bud Ozar

Today's gospel reminds us "unclean spirits" still haunt our families. These "spirits" thrive inside our grudges, punishing silence, impatience and abruptness. Today Jesus offers you the "authority" to cast out these spirits from your life and your family.

Art Class Brings out the Creative You

Chase out the winter blues and discover the creative you. Weber Retreat and Conference Center offers a virtual art class, *Finding the Artist in You: Acrylic Painting, Mixed Media, and Water Color*. Sessions are via Zoom from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. EST on Thursdays, January 28, 2021, and February 4, 11, and 18, 2021.

No prior art class is necessary. The instructor, Brenda Singleton, MFA, Director of the Art Factory in Adrian, says of her students, "I want them to hear their own voice that is original and true."

The \$50 fee does not include materials. Registration is required and is available at www.webercenter.org; click on "programs." Registration may also be made by calling 517-266-4000 or emailing webercenter@adriandominicans.org. Limited scholarships are available.

For information on the class, call 517-266-4090 to leave a message, or email Sister Suzanne Schreiber, OP, sschreiber@adriandominicans.org.

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4. Find your parish by name or zip
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Marriage Coaching – Help for Your Marriage

Are you struggling in your marriage or in need of a marriage refresher and not sure where to turn for help?

The Marriage Support Office of the Archdiocese of Detroit is pleased to offer the Marriage Coaching program – a couple-to-couple mentoring opportunity designed to assist couples live out God's plan for their marriage.

When differences begin dividing, hurt is hardening the heart, "growing pains" are becoming "regular pains", and the passion and affection is lacking, then your marriage needs help. Like our vehicles that need preventative care, tune-ups or repairs to prevent major damage, so do our marriages.

Trained Coaching Couples will give the support and practical tools needed to help couples restore and realize the fullness they desire for their Catholic marriage. The Marriage Coaching program consists of seven main coaching sessions that are strictly confidential and provided at no cost.

To learn more and get started with the help you need for your marriage call 313-237-4680 or email www.aod.org/marriagecoaching or go to familyministry@aod.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Whether you are wanting a marriage tune-up, feeling stalled, or experiencing a downward spiral, you need not settle for anything less than the fullness that God intends for your marriage relationship.

No need to delay, there is help for your marriage ...contact us today!

*Sponsored by the
Archdiocese of
Detroit, Office for
Marriage Support*



Intercessory Prayers

Intercessory prayer boxes have been placed in the tower entrances. Our Intercessory Prayer Teams will lift your intentions up in prayer for two weeks. You may also email your prayer requests by clicking the link on our website, www.StWilliam.com. All prayer requests are kept confidential.





OUR MISSION

“We exist to provide a school environment in which Christ is encountered and Discipleship is fostered through the teaching and practice of Catholic Tradition, values and doctrine, while challenging each student to academic excellence.”



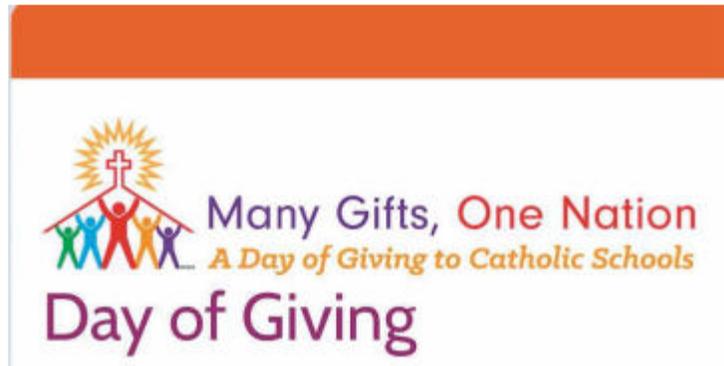
upcoming events

January

31 Catholic Schools Week begins

February

- 2 Virtual Science/Magic Show
- 3 Flag Raising Ceremony
- 3 Assemble Care Packages for Armed Forces



St. William Catholic School is excited to participate in **Day of Giving** that begins Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at noon and continues through noon on Wednesday, February 3. Our students are ready...are you? We'd love to have you participate!

Use the link below to participate:

<https://factsmgtdadmin.com/give/appeal/RtnUAfxtd>

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Kroger Community Rewards
Go to www.krogercommunityrewards.com
Choose St. William School
Our School ID is NS244

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Phone App
www.boxtops4education.com

Amazon Smile
Start each shopping session at
<http://smile.amazon.com>
Select St. William School as charity
We will receive 0.5% of all
eligible purchases

Mass Intentions:

Tuesday, Feb. 2

8:00 am

Livio Capicchioni (D) family; Edward McElmeel (D) family; Adair-Poling families (L&D)

Wednesday, Feb. 3

8:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

Thursday, Feb. 4

8:00 am

Rebecca Bonkoski (D)

Saturday, Feb. 6

4:30 pm

Josephine Capicchioni (D) family; Edward McElmeel (D) St. William Parish; Matthew Dolder (D) and Chris Moersch (D) Dolder family; Fr. Louis Madey (D) Linda Anderson; Henry & Peter Tata (D) family

Sunday, Feb. 7

10:00 am

Members of St. William Parish (L&D)

12:30 pm

Pham, Ngoc & Hoang families (D)

Readings for the week

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 [8]/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10 [8]/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

Pray for the Sick of Our Parish

All-powerful and ever-lasting God, your Son accepted our sufferings to teach us the virtue of patience in human illness. Hear the prayers we offer for our sick brothers and sisters. May all who suffer pain, illness, or disease realize that they have been chosen to be saints and know that they are joined to Christ in his suffering for the salvation of the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| ♦ Andrew Hailo | ♦ Mary Kay Dreyer |
| ♦ Betty Jo Weaver | ♦ Michael Martin, Jr. |
| ♦ Casey Michael | ♦ Nancy Elibri |
| ♦ Christine Danzer | ♦ Norma Kirk |
| ♦ Colleen Wolf | ♦ Pam Flanigan |
| ♦ Dan Lessard | ♦ Peg Thatcher |
| ♦ Dennis Ryan | ♦ Raymod Winters |
| ♦ Ellen Dawson | ♦ Sharon Ryan |
| ♦ Helen Anderson | ♦ Steven Geoffrey |
| ♦ Hillary Pearson | ♦ Trevor Monfette |
| ♦ Jack Moores | |
| ♦ Jeanie Kassa | Residents of: |
| ♦ Jennifer Alexander | ♦ Bloomfield Villa |
| ♦ Jim Thatcher | ♦ Brookdale |
| ♦ Joe Rotundo Family | ♦ First & Main |
| ♦ John Benedict | ♦ Henry Ford |
| ♦ Kelly Benedict | ♦ Maple Manor |
| ♦ Mack Barnes | ♦ Novi Lakes |
| ♦ Marian Clifton | ♦ Serenity |
| ♦ Marty Lada | ♦ Sunrise Senior Ctr. |
| ♦ Mary Beth Walsh | ♦ Waltonwood |



*Happy are those who have died in the Lord;
let them rest from their labors for their good
deeds go with them—Rev. 14:13*

Deacon Kevin Breen
Rebecca Bonkoski
Emily Burnhardt
Gloria Raddant



Pray the Rosary

Our Legion of Mary members invite you to join them Tuesday evenings at 6:30 pm to pray the Rosary.

All are welcome to stay after and attend their brief meeting.

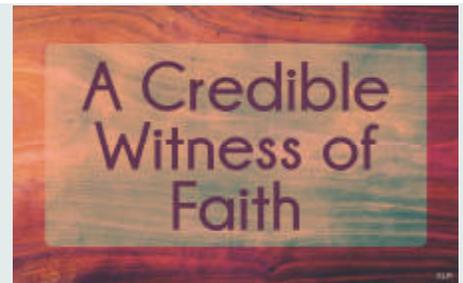
Gospel Meditation

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's

special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must



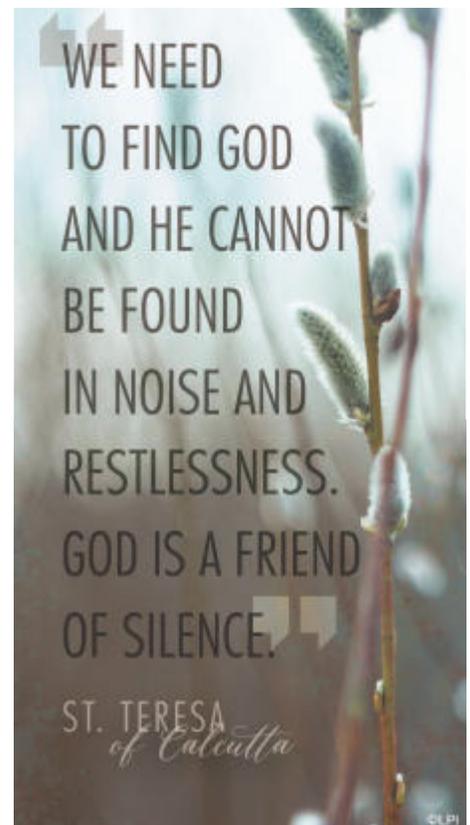
have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

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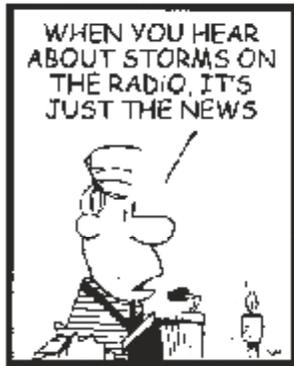
Live the Liturgy

Most of us are not trail blazers. Throughout history though, there have been many folks who tirelessly and persistently pursued the promptings of their hearts without giving any care to what others thought or trends dictated. Jesus is one of them. St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Francis of Assisi are examples of others. The rest of us are people who take a more measured look at things, want to test the waters, and take our time choosing what path or person to follow. We need credible witnesses of faith. We need the Moses people in our lives to show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose-driven life looks like. They are the pointers to truth, who even though they struggle themselves, seem to embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and caught the attention of the greatest of skeptics. They were astonished. Even though we need our human prophets we can also be somewhat prophetic ourselves by putting integrity and conviction behind our embrace of the Gospel. Perhaps much to our surprise, we all have the power to be a credible witness. Are you willing to give it a try?

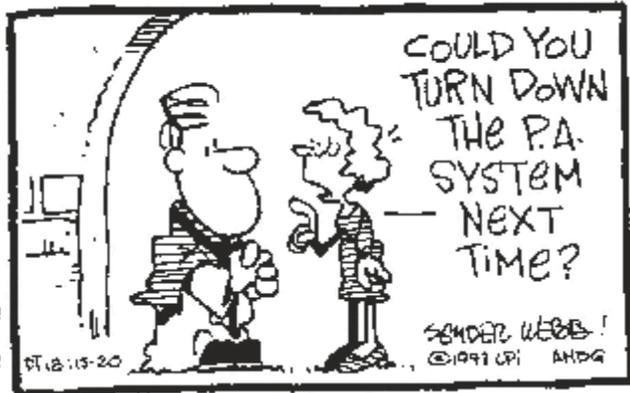
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4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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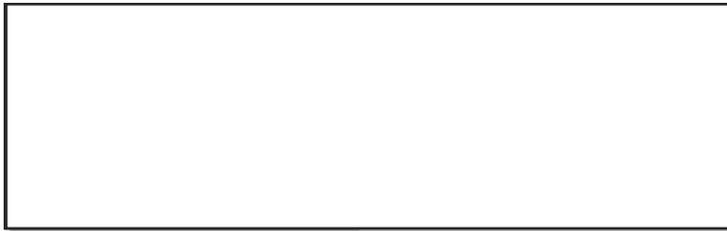
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