



**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

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Minister's Message

Peace and all good!

An unwed mother risking the scorn of her fiancé, family, and community. A devoted father helping to raise someone else's child. A family threatened with violence, and forced to flee their homeland as refugees. A widow who must face the challenges of parenthood alone. A loving mother compelled to witness the brutal murder of her child.

Is this litany an excerpt from the caseload of a social worker we might encounter in any big, modern American city?

No, although it certainly could be.

Instead, each of these scenarios describes a member or members of the Holy Family.

Look again: Mary was that unwed mother — but for an angelic intervention in Joseph's dreams, because thinking her unfaithful, he had "resolved to send her away quietly" (Mt. 1:19). Joseph was that devoted father, who helped to raise Jesus even though he didn't conceive Him. Mary, Joseph, and Jesus were that refugee family, fleeing the murderous rage of Herod. Mary was that widow bringing up Jesus alone; we hear nothing of Joseph after the finding of the 12-year-old Jesus in the Temple, which most scholars interpret as an indication Joseph died not long thereafter. And Mary was that loving mother who agonizingly watched Rome execute her Son on a cross.

The point is, the often challenging and even gritty conditions of the Holy Family were not always holy card pretty. And they still reflect family and social issues in our contemporary world — right here; right now; all around us.

It may or may not be comforting to ponder this. We may prefer our Holy Family — and our saints — to be untouched by such everyday messiness. To remain pristine, and somehow above it all.

But doesn't that shortchange the reality of their very real lives?

And doesn't — or can, or should — that impact how we might engage with those in the same situations today?

We are called to compassion, not snap judgements. We are asked to accompany, not ignore.

None of that is easy.

But when we try — and we must try — we might want to keep the Holy Family before our eyes, minds, and hearts.

Holding you all in prayer,

Kimberley



Organization

Tau Fraternity
P.O. Box 51
150 S. Sterling Blvd.
Sterling, VA 20167

Meetings every 1st Sunday at:
St. Joseph Catholic Church
750 Peachtree St., Room 205
Herndon, VA 20170

Pace e Bene

The Tau Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order was canonically established on June 21, 1992. The Fraternity is affiliated with the Third Order Regular of St. Francis, Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Tau Fraternity is in the St. Margaret of Cortona Region of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The Tau Fraternity Council currently includes the following officers:

- **Minister—Kimberley Heatherington, OFS**
- **Vice Minister—Josh Goldberg, OFS**
- **Formation Director—Walter Gawlak, OFS**
- **Secretary—Vera Stewart, OFS**
- **Treasurer—Cynthia Filan-Kim, OFS**



Elections News

Tau Council Offices: Minister

In the coming months, each current member of your Tau Council will briefly share with you their thoughts about the office they hold, while encouraging you to prayerfully consider if you might be called to the same.

The role of Minister seems to imply something clerical — which of course it is not, not in the ecclesial sense. Is it clerical in the administrative sense? Most definitely! The Minister produces and reviews lots of paperwork, actual and electronic — monthly Council agendas; Annual Reports; a monthly Minister's Message for the Tau newsletter; various correspondence, and so on. There are monthly Council meetings; an Annual Chapter of Ministers for the Region; and periodic visits from the Region. The Minister also arranges the logistics for events — Professions; Wake Services; the Annual Retreat. And of course coordinates with and supports each of the other Council members in their duties.

But these are just the mechanics. The heart of the role of Minister is service — to be a loving servant to every member of the fraternity. To be available to

impartially listen and respond to all ideas, concerns, or any misunderstandings, and to accompany members in their life journey, which may include illness or hardship. To continually grow in the spirit and knowledge of St. Francis, St. Clare, and our Franciscan heritage. And to pray, pray, pray. This is the spiritual and truly ministerial dynamic of the office, and the required presence.

In three words: Servanthood, accompaniment, and prayer.

Pax et bonum,

Kimberley

For additional information on the responsibilities of the Minister, see Article 51 of the *General Constitutions of the Secular Franciscan Order*. [2020 Dec-updated-Translation OFS-General-Constitutions-s1469.pdf](https://tauofs.org/2020/12/20/2020-Dec-updated-Translation-OFS-General-Constitutions-s1469.pdf) (secularfranciscansusa.org)

Recap of Last Gathering

January 2, 2022

OPENING PRAYER:

Offered by Joe Boyle, OFS

During this season of giving, let us remember the beautiful gift that we have received - being children of God! As God's children, it's in our DNA that we share and express our love for others as well. Tell your spouse, children, other family members and friends that you love them, every day! Also, pray for those people that are different than you, those that you may not like or those that go out of their way to annoy you. Your prayers may be the start of a new friendship.

Extract from Saint Timothy Catholic Church Bulletin
December 26, 2021

PRESENTATION:

Vera Stewart, OFS led a presentation entitled "Family & Fraternity". Highlights from the presentation are:

- The Rule starts off by saying that the Secular Franciscan Order is one of many families in the Church, and its charism is infused in all we do.
- The Rule tells us how to bring the Secular Franciscan spirit into our homes. The Constitutions state that this is the first place where we are to live our charism.
- One way to strengthen our families and meet family needs is to select a family patron saint. There are several ways to select one. If your family cannot agree on one, some suggestions are:

- | | |
|--|--|
| * St. Joseph | * St. Therese of Lisieux and her parents Saints Louis and Zelig Martin |
| * St. Anne | |
| * St. Francis of Assisi | |
| * St. Maximilian Kolbe | * St. Monica and her son St. Augustine. |
| * St. Eugene de Mazenod (for dysfunctional families) | |

ONGOING FORMATION:



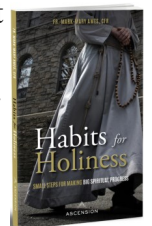
Walter Gawlak, OFS stated that the purpose of formation today was to discuss our direction going forward into the new year. Prior to the discussion, he shared a photo "We lost everything: Colorado wildfire destroys hundreds of houses." (See photo on the left.) Walter said that in the midst of his personal family trials, he found the power of prayer.

Walter proceeded to introduce books that he mentioned in an email previously sent to the members:

- *Sowing Franciscan Seeds* is a series of reflections on the Peace Prayer developed by the Franciscan Sisters of St Joseph.
- *Habits of Holiness – Small Steps for Making Big Spiritual Progress* by Father Mark-Mary Ames, CFR, is similar to *Sowing Seeds* in that it is direct, easily digestible and includes frequent questions. It is aimed at a general audience.
- *Finding Francis, Following Christ* by Michael Crosby, Capuchin, is an in depth look at Francis's mission in the world and blunt encouragement to take an active role in bringing his vision to life. This is a serious book that meets the formation goal of learning more about Francis and presents a Franciscan model for taking on modern challenges in the Church and the world. This is a book that might energize apostolates and JPIC.
- *In Love with Christ: The Secret of Saint Francis of Assisi*, by Father Raniero Cantalamessa is a short book in Kindle format that focuses on the importance of humility in Francis's life and how it could change ours, although not without some serious effort.

The fraternity then discussed other options to include other books as well as apostolic activities. The fraternity voted to read and discuss *Habits of Holiness* for ongoing formation.

Order a copy at [Habits for Holiness: Small Steps for Making Big Spiritual Progress – Ascension \(ascensionpress.com\)](https://ascensionpress.com) or [Habits for Holiness: Small Steps for Making Big Spiritual Progress: Fr. Mark-Mary Ames: 9781950784608: Amazon.com: Books](https://www.amazon.com/dp/B081950784608)



APOSTOLATES

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY HOSPICE COOKING APOSTOLATE

Thanks to our Brothers and Sisters who support the apostolate at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. The next food drop off will be on **February 19th**. If you would like to help or have questions, please contact Veronica O'Donnell, OFS or Joe Boyle, OFS.

Pace e bene!

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Help to feed the hungry. Cyndy Filan-Kim, OFS volunteered to shop and deliver food to the St. Vincent DePaul Society chapter at St. Timothy Catholic Church. Food donations may be dropped off prior to the Tau Gathering in the stairwell on the right at St. Joseph School. Tau Fraternity will continue to also give a monetary donation to the pantry. If you wish to make a monetary donation, please provide it to Cyndy.

Thank you!

For more, info, see [St. Vincent DePaul - St. Timothy Parish \(saint-timothy.org\)](http://St.VincentDePaul-St.TimothyParish.saint-timothy.org)

POOR Clares of New Jersey

Tau Fraternity supports the Monastery of St. Clare in Chesterfield, NJ with a biannual monetary donation. The monastery is home to Sister, Karen Stapleton, OSC, who began her Franciscan journey with Tau Fraternity. The main work of the Poor Clares of NJ is to provide altar bread to parishes in the diocese of Trenton.

For more information, or to submit a prayer intention to the Poor Clares, see [The Poor Clares of New Jersey — Joyfully Embracing the Gospel Way of Life .\(poorclaresnewjersey.com\)](http://ThePoorClaresofNewJersey—JoyfullyEmbracingtheGospelWayofLife.poorclaresnewjersey.com)

Franciscan Mission Service

Tau Fraternity provides a biannual monetary donation to Franciscan Mission Service. The organization prepares and supports lay Catholics for mission service opportunities around the globe.

For more information, see [Home | Franciscan Mission Service](http://Home|FranciscanMissionService)

FAITH without WORKS is dead

James 2:17

HELPING THE HUMAN FAMILY

Volunteer Opportunities and Resources

How Faith Based Communities can Help End Human Trafficking

January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services offers the following suggestions for faith based communities in helping to eradicate human trafficking:

- ⇒ Raise awareness about the National Human Trafficking Hotline
- ⇒ Learn to identify and respond to human trafficking
- ⇒ Support your local anti-trafficking task force or coalition
- ⇒ Enroll as a Trafficking Victim Assistance Program sub-grantee

To learn more about how to help, visit [Faith-Based and Community Organizations Can Help End Trafficking | The Administration for Children and Families \(hhs.gov\)](#) or [20 Ways You Can Help Fight Human Trafficking - United States Department of State](#).

REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Thank you for participating in the “Undie Sunday” apostolate led by the First Baptist Church of Herndon. All of the refugees at Fort Pickett in Blackstone, VA will be resettled by February 14th. Sally White, OFS and the Baptist Church are working to get the items delivered before then.

If you wish to continue helping the refugees, Catholic Charities has a wishlist for those who have been resettled. See [Amazon.com](#).

Pray, Learn, Act.

Pray for a heart that beats with compassion for refugees forced from their homes.

Pray Catholic Relief Services’ ten-minute digital retreat, [Holy Family, Refugee Family](#).

[This prayer](#) from the USCCB for National Migration Week asks that we open our hearts particularly to migrant children.

[A Moment for Grace](#)

[A Prayer for the Virtue of Hospitality](#)

Learn. It’s confusing! Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Arlington (CCDA) helps us sort out the differences among the [many terms used to refer to immigrants](#).

Read Pope Francis’ [Message for the 107th](#)

Act. [Explore Catholic Charities’ volunteer opportunities to help immigrants and refugees. Here are just a few possibilities. Visit CCDA’s site](#) to see how else you can help.

- Volunteer to teach English, citizenship, computer or other classes.
- Are you an attorney? Volunteer to help at a naturalization workshop.
- Give administrative help.
- Assist with interpretation and translation.

Provide leads for rental housing in Northern Virginia, especially in Alexandria, Fredericksburg, Sterling and Woodbridge.

Email Lourdes.Iglesias@ccda.net

Consider becoming a foster parent to a refugee youth. The USCCB [shows you how](#).

[Join](#) the Virginia Catholic Conferences Email Advocacy Network to receive alerts about immigration and other issues on which our bishops request our action.

Submitted by Bill Bouffard, OFS

COMMITTEES

If you are interested in participating actively in one of our Committees, take a moment to chat with the chair:

Hospitality Committee – Veronica O'Donnell, OFS
Interfaith/Ecumenical Committee – Kimberley Heatherington, OFS
Infirmarian Committee – Sharon Goldberg
Recruitment Committee – Vacant
Technology Committee – John Ata, OFS

18 January 2022

INTERFAITH & ECUMENICAL

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: Ecumenism, from the pandemic to the Synod



As the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins, Bishop Brian Farrell from the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity reflects on some of the aspects that may have had an effect on

Christian unity during this historic period.

By Francesca Merlo

Tuesday saw the opening of the annual week of prayer for Christian Unity, taking place from 18 to 25 January.

The theme for this year's observance is "We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him", recalling the experience of the Magi, who came from the East to Bethlehem to worship the Messiah King.

In his Angelus on Sunday, the Pope said that in a similar way, Christians of diverse backgrounds and traditions "are pilgrims on our way to full unity" who come closer to our goal when keeping our gaze fixed on Jesus.

This years' theme—The theme, according to Bishop Brian Farrell, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU), is really "an invitation to all Christians to return to our origins and our origins are in Christ". He explains that the theme tells the story of the Magi, the wise men from the East, coming to adore the infant Jesus. "This is very important for us, ecumenically, in the sense that we will never have the unity of Christians if we do not have the same faith and the same approach, the same acceptance of the salvation history that began in that moment of the birth of Jesus". Bishop Farrell explains that to summarise, the theme is simply "a call to centre our efforts on the person and mystery and the world of Jesus".

The Week of Prayer—The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is held annually, and is organised by the PCPCU which Bishop Farrell says, has as its task and mission the promotion of all the efforts of the Catholic Church to reconcile all Christians in the one Church that Christ prayed for "when he asked that we all be one, like he and the Father are one.

Ecumenism and papal journeys—In an interview with Vatican News, Bishop Farrell reflects on some of the aspects of Christian Unity that truly stand out at this moment. One of these is the impact some of the Holy Father's most recent journeys may have on ecumenism. Bishop Farrell notes that naturally, "the ecumenical journey is a long one", and that, despite the significance of the Pope's recent journeys, "we mustn't think that one journey or one year of journeys is the end of the road". He explained that each journey should be seen as a building block. "When the Pope comes to a country where he meets Christians of other Churches,

his understanding and sense of respect and mutual acceptance of them is a wonderful step forward in creating the conditions so that one day we can be reconciled". Bishop Farrell notes some of the Holy Father's trips this year: Iraq, Greece, Cyprus, Budapest and Slovakia, he noted, "all of these have been moments of intense friendship and relationship with Christians of the other churches", all of these, he adds, "building blocks along the way towards the end of the ecumenical journey".

Ecumenism and the pandemic—Another topic relevant to the ecumenical journey is the current Covid-19 pandemic, which Bishop Farrell notes, has had both a positive and a negative impact on Christian Unity. On the one hand, he begins, "cooperations between Christians of different churches have been supported by the fact we are all suffering the same pandemic". Bishop Farrell explains that "Churches are working to help their people, and to help society in general to face the consequences of this pandemic". On the other hand, he continues, building contact and working towards ecumenical dialogue has become more difficult. He explains that meetings on the internet are fine, but that they "do not permit the kind of trust-building and building of understanding that is necessary in theological dialogue". So although of course, there has been "lots of ecumenical progress on the level of real-life response to the pandemic", there have also been some difficulties "in carrying forward our programme of theological dialogue between the leaders of the churches".

Ecumenism and synodality—Bishop Farrell then goes on to speak of the relationship between the PCPCU and the upcoming Synod of bishops on Synodality. He explained that the Council has been "very quick" to invite all the bishops' conferences of the world "to ensure that when the dioceses and local communities organise their consultations in preparation for the eventual synod, they invite members of the other churches with whom they have contact to also express their thoughts". He explains that this is essential because "what we are actually doing in the synodal process is to listen to the Church and above all to listen to what the spirit is saying to all of those who belong in some way to the Church". This, he adds, is an opportunity for every diocese and for every local community to open their doors to "a new and deeper ecumenical relation in their area". This, concludes, Bishop Farrell is essential in showing the determination of the Catholic Church to carry forward the process of restoring Christian unity.

Finally Bishop Farrell stresses the importance of this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and invites everyone to take part, "so that we do the first important thing that will eventually bring about full communion among Christians - and that is: to pray".

PRAYER INTENTIONS

HEAR US, LORD!

Please keep the following intentions in your prayers:

For a job for Veronica O'Donnell's grandson Theo; for physical and spiritual healing of Walter Gawlak's daughter-in-law; Sylvia Capurso; Melissa, Ben, and Baby Levi; Valerye Milleson; Bill Brewster and his son Richard Lee; Cynthia Filan-Kim's sister; Sally White and her husband Gary; Richard & Carole Clarke and their grandsons Liam and Rory; Helen Broxmeyer and her daughter Susan; and Irene Naveau. For the patients and Sisters at the Missionaries of Charity Gift of Peace House. For the people affected by Coronavirus and their caregivers. For the Mother of Mercy Free Medical Clinic and its patients. For all peoples who suffer persecution. For the country of Myanmar and its citizens. For the victims of natural disasters. For refugees and migrant workers. For all those who are in need of our prayers who have been inadvertently omitted from this list.

Please send prayer requests to Kimberley Heatherington, OFS.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your request to God.

Philippians 4:6,7



REFLECTIONS

Stories and Prayer

THE HOLY FAMILY LA SAGRADA FAMILIA

In 2019, my wife and I were blessed with a trip to Spain to walk 75 miles on El Camino de Compostela and visit La Sagrada Familia (The Holy Family) Basilica in the downtown center of Barcelona. This large unfinished minor basilica had its groundbreaking on March 1882 and had an estimated completion date of 2026 for the 100-year anniversary of Gaudi's death; but due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the completion date has been delayed to post-2026. It has been said that once completed, La Sagrada Familia will be the largest Catholic Church in the world. Though a long way from being completed, La Sagrada Familia was designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. It received the designation mostly because of its unique architecture and Gaudi's ability to create something so innovative and artistic.

In 1883, Antoni Gaudi became the chief architect after the death of the first architect. Gaudi transformed the project with his architectural and engineering style, combining Gothic and curvilinear Art Nouveau forms. From a blog on the Sagrada Familia, there are five main reasons the Basilica is considered a must see and I agree: 1) It is an architectural icon; 2) It is the only great

Temple in the world that is still under construction; 3) It is the masterpiece of a genius; 4) It is the perfect combination of tradition and innovation; and 5) The inside is full of spirituality. Over 4 million tourists come annually to visit this beautiful yet complex building in the center of Barcelona.

Besides being awestruck with the exterior and the interior of this minor basilica, I saw on the exterior of the building the Holy Family etched in stone. Walking around the entire exterior of the Basilica, one can see major portions of Our Lord's life from birth, crucifixion, and resurrection. The interior was designed in a very futuristic manner. While I was beginning to exit the church, I saw something very special to us all - the Tau Cross (shown in the photograph below). As I looked up to the right of the altar at the Tau Cross, I smiled. Indeed, La Sagrada Familia has a special place in my heart for its focus on the Holy Family and the Tau Cross.

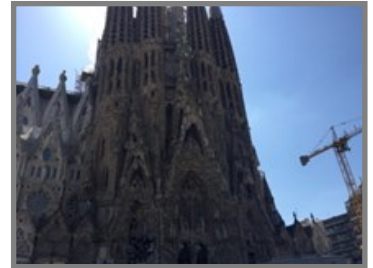
Submitted by Bob Calderon, OFS

Unity

Dear Lord God,
You created balance.
The night to follow the day.
The sea to touch the earth.
All the wonderful animals, fish and birds.
You are the great creator of variety and diversity.
Thank you that you made us all to be unique and reflect your love.
Come draw our family together in all its wonder and beauty.
Help us to love and respect each other.
Show us how to support and encourage one another.
Inspire us to work together to become a picture full of your perfect love.

<https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/family-prayers>

La Sagrada Familia



The Holy Family

The Tau Cross



CALENDAR

Upcoming Activities and Events

February is the Month of the Holy Family*

- Feb 2—World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
- Feb 3—Feast of the Martyrs of Japan
Feast of St. Blasé
- Feb 4—International Day of Human Fraternity
- Feb 6—Tau Gathering
- Feb 8—Profession of Vicki Shanholtz and Bill Brewster
- Feb 10—Bill Bouffard's birthday
- Feb 11—Apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, 1858
- Feb 17—Liz Welborn's birthday
- Feb 18—Feast of St. Bernadette of Soubirous
- Feb 19—Missionaries of Charity Hospice Apostolate Food Drop-off
- Feb 21—Feast of St. Margaret of Cortona (Some sources indicate that her feast day is Feb. 22, and some May 16)



* See the Franciscan Calendar for more dates: <http://www.roman-catholic-saints.com/traditional-franciscan-calendar.html>

FEBRUARY 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

MARCH 2022

Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

SFO PROFESSIONS

SAVE THE DATE!

When: April 29, 2022, 7pm

Where: St. Joseph Parish

[Annual Retreat]

SAVE THE DATE!

When: May 20—22, 2022

Where: Priestfield Pastoral Center, Kearneysville, WV

MORE INFO TO COME!

NEXT TAU GATHERING

February 6, 2022

SCHEDULE

- 1:30 pm – 1:32 pm Opening Prayer **TBD**
1:32 pm – 2:12 pm Presentation **Kimberley & Council—Outreach Ideas**
2:12 pm – 2:22 pm Break
2:22 pm – 3:02 pm Ongoing Formation
3:02 pm – 3:12 pm Break
3:12 pm – 3:22 pm Angelus & Liturgy of the Hours
3:22 pm – 3:32 pm Business Meeting
3:32 pm Closing Prayer

See emails for link
to virtual meeting

ANNOUNCEMENT

The February 6, 2022 Tau Gathering will be virtual. Contact Kimberley Heatherington, OFS to volunteer for:

- ◆ Opening Prayer
- ◆ Liturgy of the Hours Readings

THE ANGELUS

During Ordinary Time, we will precede the Liturgy of the Hours with the Angelus

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary, full of grace,

The Lord is with Thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

And blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,

Pray for us sinners,

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

R. Be it done unto me according to thy word.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. And the Word was made Flesh.

R. And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary, etc.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Pour forth, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ Thy Son was made known by the message of an angel, may by His Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of His Resurrection. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

INITIAL FORMATION:

Senior Candidates - Chapters 26 and 33 in *The Franciscan Journey*

Candidates - Chapter 13 in *The Franciscan Journey*

ONGOING FORMATION:

Let us all read the Introduction and first chapter of Father Mark-Mary Ames' *Habits of Holiness*. Consider taking Father's advice to mark up the book or, better yet, Gil's advice to journal.

Let's also review the 2022 *Time to Examine Our Love and Commitment* document from the National Formation Team. I think you'll agree that it also contains invaluable guidance in developing or deepening our Franciscan habits of holiness. Why don't we all select a section that might be most in need of our attention for discussion at the next gathering? Again, consider developing a journaling habit.

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hymn: #182 – O God, Our Help in Ages Past: pg. 1704 or O Blest Creator of the Light from the Divine Office podcast.

Canticle of Mary Antiphon and Prayer: Evening Prayer II: pg. 249

Everything else: Sunday, Week I, Evening Prayer II: pg. 712

Readers: **TBD****