

# St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 † TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From the Pastor

Do you find images of opulent wealth appealing? We have images in the first reading and the gospel of those who are fully engaged in the riches and comforts afforded to the wealthy. If you could, would you choose this way of life? Most of us have dreamt of winning the lottery to be free of financial concern and living the high life. Is that appealing to us as we seek the way of Christ?

Beyond the reflection of last Sunday, Jesus now takes us deeper into what it means to seek the truth of God in the Christian way. Today we look beyond the basic question of personal wealth, property, and possessions. We are invited to look more deeply into not only what we have and how we use it, but who we are in communion with God and all other human beings.

A common response to the first reading and the gospel is disdain or disgust. How could anyone be so selfish and without compassion for the basic needs and dignity for another human being? The first reading is clearly an image of sin rooted in the injustice and complete disregard for the suffering of others.

The gospel points us more deeply into the awareness of human nature. This parable reveals inner truths common to all human beings. This is a typical design of Luke's gospel. Luke points out the inner divisions of human personality. This story parallels the stories of the Prodigal Son and Mary and Martha. In each of us there is a prodigal one and a self-justified righteous one. We all have a Mary and a Martha, an active side, and a quiet side.

The rich man and the poor man Lazarus are also an image of the same person. The rich side grows from the ego, need for control, to have power, and the ability to gain the things it seeks. In this side of ourselves we feel strong, defended, and justified in all we have and presume to deserve. It is the part in us that is blind to those around us in need who seek compassion, connection, or basic respect.

The poor man reflects those parts in us we reject, ignore, bury, and judge harshly. These parts in us are underdeveloped due to past rejection or shame creating fear of ridicule, judged as unworthy, and negative selfregard. In the story, Jesus is not only pointing out the gross injustice of the literal rejection of the poor and starving by the rich who could easily serve their needs. He is also pointing us to the love of self as the beloved of God that will lead us toward personal wholeness. In the awareness of self-love and acceptance we will realize our common oneness with all human beings. Our oneness as the beloved of God reveals and enriches our dependence on God and on one another. In the dignity of self-love and acceptance we are drawn to a natural compassion for the needs of others. We learn to see ourselves in others through our common suffering and vulnerabilities.

How does a person become like the rich man in the gospel? With all his wealth, comfort, and daily pleasures, do you suppose he was happy and at home to himself? I would suggest not. What hole is such a person trying to fill? What might be the meaning and the purpose of needing so much? Where is the love in such a person? I suggest it is buried under layers of pain, woundedness, and negative experiences characterized by a consistent absence of love. Human beings cannot live balanced, healthy lives without love. When this happens, people find ways to substitute the love they fail to attain through forms of self-comfort, isolation from the risk of rejection, and often a blind eye to those in need.

How did the poor man come to his state of despair? Too much rejection, too little love, and the absence of the necessities of life: food, shelter, security, affirmation, belonging, and a basic degree of autonomy that builds self-respect. To grow and mature in love and positive self-regard is a primary building block toward faith. Faith is built on trust and trust grows out of loving and being loved.

Could this be why Jesus so clearly stated that eternal life came through faith in the One whom God has sent. Eternal life is life in the love of God here and hereafter. We cannot get there on our own as much as we might prefer to avoid the messiness of the rest of humanity. The basic sin is, "I'II do it myself."

What is this great chasm Jesus refers too? Where did it come from and who put it there? It was not God. It is the chasm of fear and rejection between the rich man and Lazarus in us. It is the chasm caused by the resistance or fear of love we hold inside as a defense against all that is possible for us if we let more love in. What to do?

Let God love you just as you are. Build a legacy of love in yourself by accepting the love of Christ in his perfect mercy, forgiveness, and acceptance. Receiving the love of Christ, dump old memories of hurt, loss, rejection, or anything that blocks love. Any inner chasm will get smaller, and a new inner peace will begin to form. A newfound compassion will be born in yourself that will spill onto others in our common need to connect and be in relationship. In Christ, we are endlessly given the love we need to forgive, heal, and be for others. We are all one. If at the end, we are not all in, then it is not the end. You are loved. Believe it and share it with others. You will be happier, and the world will be a better place.

# 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 of Mass Monday thru Thursday 8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

One hour of Adoration on Tuesday following 8am Mass

## 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

# PARISH 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, Business Manager/Spiritual Direction

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 Hours: Monday thru Thursday 12-3pm or by appointment 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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



#### MONDAY, September 26, 2022

8:00am Mass: Paul Halkey† req. by Pat King **TUESDAY, September 27, 2022** 8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention)

req. by Mom WEDNESDAY, September 28, 2022 8:00am Mass: Jack King† req. by Pat & Family

THURSDAY, September 29, 2022 8:00am Mass: Michael Caun† reg. by Stan & Linda

Yolkiewicz

#### SATURDAY, October 1, 2022

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway req. by Mom Jean Lebioda† req. by Daughter, Jeanette & Tony Szeliga

Michael Brock† req. by Kathleen Heffner Marguerite Heffner† req. by Kathleen Heffner SUNDAY, October 2, 2022

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Precila Selga† req. by Leny Lechniak & Family Clarice Kovala† req. by Corrine McCarthy Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Sept. 25, 2022



Sunday:	Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-
	8; Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]
Monday:	Jb 1:6-22; Ps 17:1bcd-3, 6-7; Lk 9:46-50
Tuesday:	Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23; Ps 88:2-8;
-	Lk 9:51-56
Wednesday:	Jb 9:1-12, 14-16; Ps 88:10bc-15;
-	Lk 9:57-62
Thursday:	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12a;
•	Ps 138:1-5; Jn 1:47-51
Friday:	Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5; Ps 139:1-3, 7-
-	10, 13-14ab; Lk 10:13-16
Saturday:	Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17; Ps 119:66, 71,
-	75, 91, 125, 130; Lk 10:17-24
Sunday:	Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9;
2	2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14; Lk 17:5-10



# **Twenty-sixth Sunday** in **Ordinary** Time

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

#### **Reflection question:**

How has God shown mercy to me? Collect text from the English translation of The Roman Missal, © 2010, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Company, Inc.



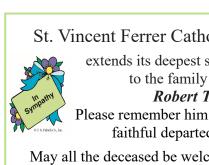
Pray for ....all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis. ...medical and humanitarian aid for

those suffering from economic hardship and from complications caused by catastrophic weather ...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually 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 these difficult times. 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



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of **Robert Tomlinson** Please remember him and the souls of all the

faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

# Coach Paul

Today's reading from First Timothy sounds almost like a coach getting his team ready for the big game. This coach has much higher goals than a home run or a touchdown. Instead of pursuing a league championship, he seeks faith, love, patience, and gentleness. How about us? Are we in the game or on the sidelines? Let's look at what Coach Paul is talking about.

We strive for faith when we see it as not just believing that God exists or that Jesus is God's Son. Faith is a relationship with the Lord in which we imitate Jesus' outlook on life, his teachings, his love of God. We struggle with his commands to love our enemies, to turn the other cheek, to forgive all wrongs, and to take up our cross each day. As Paul would say, we are "competing well for the faith."

We pursue love by listening to the Gospel, in which Jesus tells the parable of the rich man who was only concerned with his own comfort. Jesus says that if we truly understood the prophets, such as our first reading from Amos, we would not spend all our energy and wealth on ourselves. We may find that love for our family is much easier than love for strangers or the homeless, but Jesus never said that love would be easy.

As we learn to let go of our need to have everything go our way, we become more patient with people who disagree with us, or with frustrations and problems. We learn to see God in our setbacks as well as in our successes. Striving to see Jesus in everyone, we can become more patient with them. They will begin to see Jesus in us as our devotion to him grows. Experiencing the Lord is the championship we want.

Tom Schmidt. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co



Sunday:	Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday; Rosh HaShanah (Jewish New Year) begins at sunset
Monday:	Ss. Cosmas and Damian
Tuesday:	St. Vincent de Paul
Wednesday:	St. Lawrence Ruiz and Companions;
-	St. Wenceslaus
Thursday:	Ss. Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael,
-	Archangels
Friday:	St. Jerome
Saturday:	St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus;
-	First Saturday

Babu

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# Annual Parish Baby Shower NEXT WEEKEND - Oct. 1/2

#### **Items needed**

diapers (all sizes), baby wipes, diaper bags, wash clothes, burp pads, quilts, blankets, receiving blankets, pacifiers, nail clipper sets, brush and comb sets, light-weight sleepers, shampoo, body wash, outfits, rattles,

onesies, socks, booties, layettes, bibs, bottles

Return unwrapped gifts weekend of Oct. 1/2 or drop off at Parish Office during business hours.

# **MERCY IN ACTION** - Day of Service

Our parish is participating in a "day of service" that will be held throughout our Archdiocese on Saturday, October 1, 2022. Here at St. Vincent Ferrer, the time will be from 9:00 am to 12 noon. In our Family of Parishes, activities and times will vary. The goal of this event is to witness to the power of God's Mercy. As noted below in our description of activities in this parish bulletin, your participation will be essential to this effort. Sign-up sheets for activities and items needed are on the tables in the rear of church.

Also needed are donated items for "blessing bags" for the homeless shelters, adult incontinence supplies, pet supplies including open bags of dry foods, and more. Please see the items listed below. Items can be dropped off at the parish administration building drive through location between 9 am and 12 noon on Oct. 1, 2022.

We also are privileged to have Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church from 9 am to 12 noon on this morning. Your prayerful presence, for as long as you can stay, will be a blessing to all. Other activities for the whole family include decorating cards that will be sent out on behalf of our parish, praying the rosary outdoors and helping with curbside deliveries of donated items on that morning.

Please help with an activity by signing up on the sheets at the back of church. There is something for everyone to do!

MERCY IN ACTION DAY October 1st - drop in any time between 9am-12pm					
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Adoration	In church and online	ALL are welcome			
Rosary	Outside at Mary Statue 10am	ALL are welcome			
Card Decorating	School Gymnasium 10am to Noon	Children, parents, grandparents, everyone is invited to join us in decorating/coloring pop up cards for our homebound seniors. Materials will be provided.			
DRIVE UP	<b>DROP OFF</b>	COLLECTIONS			
Blessing Bag Items	Admin building	Travel size: deodorant, tooth brush, tooth paste, shampoo, conditioner, comb, brush, kleenex packet, hand/foot warmers, tube socks. No liquids.			
Pet Supplies	Admin building	Wet & dry cat/dog food, "Science Diet" food is requested ,cat/dog treats, toys, towels, blankets, trash bags			
Prescription Eye glasses & Hearing aids	Admin building	Prescription glasses, cases and hearing aids accepted.			
Incontinence Supplies	Admin building	Adult size large and X-large are requested			



In person classes Monday evenings 6:15 to 7:30pm beginning Oct 3rd

Register in the Faith Formation Office Monday thru Thursday 12-3pm or by appointment



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PASSING FAITH TO THE NEXT GENERATION?

Please consider volunteering in our religious education program!

We are looking for volunteers to serve as catechists (teachers), teacher aides, and hall monitors.

If you are interested in volunteering, Please call Matthew Zinser, our new Director at 248-398-1743 or email <u>ReligiousEducation@stvincentferrer.net</u>

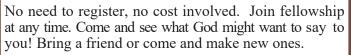
**Ministry Schedule** 

October 1/2					
Mass	Sat. 4 pm	Sun 9 am			
Sacristan	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz			
Reader #1	M Simmons	D Gray			
Reader #2	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz			
EME	T Riley	D Gray			
	M Simmons	A Goll			
	R Pasiak	C McCarthy			
Greeters	R Pasiak	B Turchin			
	T Pasiak	J Turchin			
	K Heffner	S Bosetti			
	R Juska-Svoba	B McEvoy			

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, Oct. 1 - 9am

# Faith Formation Office in School Building





# ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS

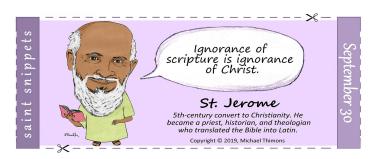
A new change has been made in the title of the process in which adults are prepared in the Catholic Church for Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist, and for reception into the Catholic Church for persons

already Baptized in another Christian tradition. Formerly known as "RCIA" or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process will now be referred to as "OCIA" or "Order of Christian Initiation of Adults." "Why the change?" you may ask. This is a change that focuses on the initiation process, recognizing the candidates for the sacraments of initiation are in a life-changing journey within the Catholic community. Upon participation in the "Rite of Acceptance" at which candidates express their free choice to pursue preparation for the Sacraments, they officially are welcomed into the Church's "Order of Catechumens" which affords them certain rights in the church.

The ongoing support of our local faith community is essential for this journey. So please pray for those who may be considering a call to Baptism within our parish. If you know an adult who is at this place in her/his life, encourage them to contact Mary Ann Przybysz, OCIA coordinator, at the parish office, (248)542-8720.



Parents who desire to have their infant or toddler baptized can contact Mary Ann in the Parish Office at 248-542-8720 to set up an appointment.





# CARE FOR EACH OTHER

Don't delude yourselves, Jesus says through the parable of the rich man and Lazarus. We really are supposed to care for others. It is not enough to go to Mass and occasionally serve at a parish or outreach function. We cannot remain complacent and consider ourselves followers of Jesus. No matter how much or how little material wealth we have, we always have something to give—our time and attention, care, and, when possible, our money. The way we treat and care for others, especially the poor and vulnerable, is the manner in which we show our love of God. As disciples, we must "pursue righteousness, devotion, faith, love, patience, and gentleness." Jesus calls us to see and respond to the least among us, because, as God's children, we are all part of one another. Copyright © J.S. Paluch Co.



#### Nothing Wrong With The Good Life

You know, there is nothing wrong with studying and working hard, and building up stability and wealth for your family. It is a good and positive thing to have money for retirement, vacations, or even to have a little nest egg in case of an emergency. But with those blessings comes more responsibility. This is where the rich

man in today's Gospel parable fails miserably. Wearing finery and having gourmet meals is not a sin, but he does nothing to reach out his hand to aid Lazarus or those in need around him.

From what we know, the Gospel doesn't say the rich man was rude to Lazarus, or that he scoffed at the poor man. His sin was one of omission. He simply put his blinders on and failed to see. He didn't send a meal out to him or have someone from his household check on the man. He just left him there to suffer.

#### LIVE RESPONSIBLY AND SHARE WHAT YOU HAVE

In heaven, Lazarus is raised and freed from his sufferings, while the rich man suffers greatly in the flames of hell. He implores God to send a messenger to his family, but God tells him that since they ignored the messages of Moses and the Prophets, nothing is going to change them, not even someone coming from the dead. Sadly, sometimes we fear and avoid street people because we suspect them of drug abuse, mental illness or, nowadays, carrying the Covid virus. Don't use that as an excuse to write them off. Write a check to your parish or favorite charity. Make a donation to the food pantry or, better yet, sign up for a shift to work in the food pantry as a family and make it a teachable moment. Pay it forward. Invite someone who is with you to join in your family meal. When you go in to grab a coffee pick up an extra and give it to the first person you see who needs it. Learn the lesson of the parable, and open your eyes and your heart to the needs of others around you. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.



## **OUR FAMILY - MASS SCHEDULES**

#### National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073 SATURDAY 8:30 am 4:30 pm (livestreamed) and 6:30 pm

SUNDAY 7:00 am, 9:00 am (livestreamed) 10:45 am, 12:30 pm,

4:00 pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00 pm

WEEKDAYS (Monday - Friday) 6:30 am (Livestreamed), 8:30 am

St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J) 50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM) SATURDAY - 4 pm - St. Justin SUNDAY - 9 am & 11 am - St. Mary Magdalen MON-WED, FRI- 9am - St. Justin No Mass on Thursday

#### St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067 SATURDAY - 4:30 pm SUNDAY - 9 am, 11 am MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30 am WED - 12:10 pm

Weekly Offering	
Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants Aug 6/7	727
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	105
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 4,408.88
Loose Cash /Check Collection	110.00
Total	\$ 4,518.88
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 135.00

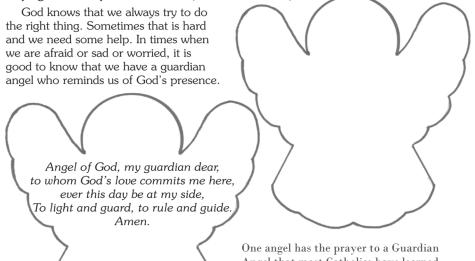
#### St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



**GUARDIAN ANGELS** 

"See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father." (Matthew 18:10)

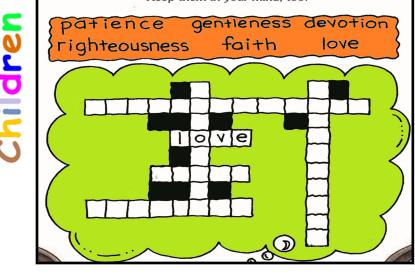
When not on a Sunday, October 2nd is celebrated as Feast of Guardian Angels. An angel is a messenger from God. This passage from the Gospel of Matthew reminds us that each of us has an angel who is sent from God to protect and guide us. St. Paul, in his letter to the Hebrews, writes that these angels are spirits who serve the special task of helping us on the path toward God (see Hebrews 1:14).



One angel has the prayer to a Guardian Angel that most Catholics have learned. You can learn it for your nighttime prayer or you can create your own prayer to your guardian angel.

# Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Paul wrote a letter to Timothy telling him the qualities he should pursue (1 Timothy 6:11–16). Fit the words in the box into the crossword inside the thought bubble. One is done for you to get you started. Keep them in your mind, too!



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## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION



When the Roman Empire turned a favorable eye toward the oncepersecuted Christians, among the effects was a population explosion in the baptismal font, as Christian sympathizers stepped from the shadows. With more and more people becoming Christians, laws were passed to protect Sunday as a work-free day. Soon, it became possible to celebrate Mass later in the morning, rather than the older custom of gathering before dawn to celebrate Eucharist. Amazingly, despite the increasing numbers of Christians. there was areat resistance to adding to the number of worship events; the Eucharist that began as a few friends around a table soon was transformed into a more formal event with throngs crowding a large hall. All the Christians in a city or town would gather around the bishop for the one Sunday Eucharist, and only when the crowds became unmanageable was there an impulse to divide the assembly by splitting off a new bishop and flock.

Now, sixteen hundred years later, many parishes see a need to trim or combine Mass schedules. This is often seen as tough surgery. Yet our forebears in the faith would see it as a gain: a filling up of the Eucharist with a large and vigorous assembly, a fullness of ministry, an opportunity to make the Church more fully visible and stronger for service.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

