

St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net FEBRUARY 12, 2023 † SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### From The Pastor

In the gospel of St. Matthew, Jesus is presented as the new Moses. Jesus is the Great Teacher of the new covenant with God. In the Old Testament, Moses was the great Prophet of God who led the enslaved Israelites out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. Moses was the mediator between God and the people. It was to Moses that God dictated the Ten Commandments for the formation and right order of those who desired to follow the Divine way.

For three weeks now, we have been reading from the Sermon on the Mount as Jesus teaches both the disciples and a large crowd. First, we heard the Beatitudes followed by the teaching on salt and light. Today, Jesus widens the understanding and meaning of the Ten Commandments. As a Jew, Jesus honors the meaning and intention of the Jewish law. Jesus makes it clear that he will not abolish the Law but will bring it to fulfillment. Law alone is not the way of God.

The first reading gives us good insight into the intention of Divine law, as well as the wisdom of free will in making mature decisions from the heart. Human beings need laws and boundaries to find meaningful and righteous direction in life. Consider the value and necessity of raising children. Good parenting not only provides children a secure home with appropriate food, shelter, clothing, and consistent love, but also moral values, manners, and a foundation of faith in God and the gift of Christ. Without such formation, children can feel less secure as they seek to form an identity and move into a turbulent and amoral society.

In 586 BC., Babylon destroyed the Jewish Temple in Jerusalem and led the people into exile. The Jewish exiles had to wrestle with how to remain faithful to their covenant with God with no Temple or ritual sacrifices. Many fell away and adopted the practices and gods of Babylon. Others clung to and studied the remains of the Torah. This is the setting of the first reading. The people are forced to make a decision. Will they choose the ways of God or choose their own way. One leads to life, the other to spiritual death.

The wisdom of God is the gift of free will. Each of us must make a choice. Will we choose to follow the commands of God or forge our own path in life? In the absence of a Temple and the loss of ritual sacrifice, those who chose God and studied the Torah came to realize God in their hearts. From within, they came to know and honor God with love. They were able to speak of God from their hearts and not only from the practice of ritual sacrifice and religious obedience of laws.

Consider the wisdom of free will. God knows free

will is the only way to love. God has no desire to force our love through fearful obedience or shameful punishment. To know and to love God must be an action and decision of the heart. Jesus was not a sinbased person. He was not looking for sinners and lawbreakers to force obedience to his message. Nor was Jesus indifferent about sin. He knew the separation and disorder it caused. Jesus was most interested in persons who needed love, healing, forgiveness, and acceptance. Hearts open and able to interact with love will seek God in the desire of righteous living.

The fulfilment of the Law is only realized in the love of the Holy Spirit. Law alone will never make it in heaven. The most faithful law keepers may be found wanting in the ways of love. This was the great tension for the Scribes and Pharisees. They used the Law for their personal justification as well as power and control over others. Love in the heart did not seem to fit into the picture.

Is it enough to say, 'I've never killed anyone,' if the heart is filled with anger, hatred, or resentment? The heart is bound by what it clings to. This is the point Jesus is making. If in anger we cast condemning judgement on another, are we not killing their good name or reputation through the darkness of our own heart? In such emotion, are we not 'breaking' the love we presume to have in own hearts? This dynamic is the same for each of the Commandments addressed today. What is the will and intention of the heart in relationship to God?

The example of the first reading is effective for us today. Many have drifted away from Christianity for one reason or another. Social, cultural, moral, and civil practices of society have changed. People prefer to determine their own truth according to the personal right of free will. The formation of moral conscience and the integrity of personal character is often surrendered to our increasingly secular culture. This does not bode well for personal happiness and maturity of society. Social peace and integrity can only grow from hearts close to God.

Faith is a relationship of trust in the love of God revealed in the Lord Jesus. Faith is also a discipline. It takes time, effort, and courage to choose the ways of God made visible in Jesus. God knows we are sinners. It is not a secret. We are weak. We fail and fall down. The faithful get up and keep going. Sin is forgivable. Love heals sin. Jesus is Divine love given for you. For those who choose to be their own highest truth, the road will be long and lonely.

## 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, 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 Hours: Monday thru Thursday Noon-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, February 13, 2023 8:00am Mass: Dorothy Peacock† req. by Bill & Mary **Beth Hochstetler** TUESDAY, February 14, 2023 8:00am Mass: Greg Bail (18th R.A.) req. by Spitz Family WEDNESDAY, February 15, 2023 8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) rea. by Mom THURSDAY, February 16, 2023 8:00am Mass: Deborah Strucienski† reg. by Linda & Stan Yolkiewicz SATURDAY, February 18, 2023, 4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway req. by Mom Dennis & Jeff Riley† req.by Jessie Giszczak Daniel Vincent Sanocki† req. by Family Gigi Coopert reg. by Linda & LeRoy Proszkowski SUNDAY, February 19, 2023 9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Bob Keyes† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler Joseph Dong Kim Pham<sup>+</sup> req. by Family Jerry Gutowski† reg. by Dan & Maureen Black Tina Berger† req. by Nieces Gary Bertolini† reg. by Bernadette Gutowski Bridigo Usita† reg. by Immaculata Rosary Group



February 12, 2023



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF February 12, 2023

Sunday:	Sir 15:15-20; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33 -34; 1 Cor 2:6-10; Mt 5:17-37 [20-
	22a, 27-28, 33-34a, 37]
Monday:	Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-
	21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4,
	3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Gn 8:6-13, 20-22; Ps 116:12-15, 18-
	19; Mk 8:22-26
Thursday:	Gn 9:1-13; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23;
	Mk 8:27-33
Friday:	Gn 11:1-9; Ps 33:10-15; Mk 8:34 - 9:1
Saturday:	Heb 11:1-7; Ps 145:2-5, 10-11; Mk 9:2
	-13
Sunday:	Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12
-	-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48



THIS WEDNESDAY February 15, 2023

**St. Vincent Ferrer Church** 28353 Herbert St, Madison Heights 48071 Join us for a pre-Lenten celebration of the Lord's goodness! Special ministry led by Bill Richart and the Friends!. Join us afterward for paczki and refreshments!

#### Please Respond To Our HEALTH CARE SURVEY

What are some of the things about your health or that of your family that concern you? What types of subjects would you like to see to better meet your health needs? You can help us identify the healthcare educational needs of the parish. We can work together to nurture our mind, body and spirit. We will be distributing a health survey to find out what you are interested in learning about. This survey will help us focus on areas to enhance our health, be your advocate, and integrate health needs into parish activities. The surveys are available THIS WEEKEND at the church entrances and should be returned to basket at those entrances when completed by February 26th. In addition, we are looking for others interested in collaborating with the parish nurse on health care projects or activities related to your specialty such as writing articles for bulletins or educational events. If you are interested, you can leave your name and number on the Health Care survey. Is God telling you that you have much to offer? Listen to what He may be saying. Thank you for your willingness to respond. Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

# SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

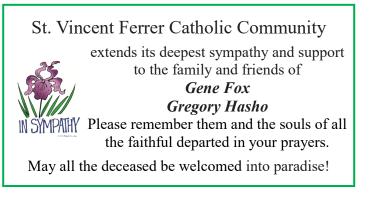
 Sunday: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; Abraham Lincoln's Birthday
Tuesday: Ss. Cyril and Methodius; Valentine's Day
Friday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary

#### **February National Heart Month**

Heart disease is a leading cause of death in the US for both men and women. In women it is the number one killer. However, you can do a lot to protect your heart and stay healthy. Each of the following are risk factors and the more factors you have the greater your risk of heart disease. Elevated blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, obesity, diabetes, smoking, lack of physical activity, family history, history of preeclampsia or elevated blood pressure during pregnancy, unhealthy eating habits, age 55 or older for women and age 45 or older for men. To help keep you healthy you need to manage your blood pressure, aim for a healthy weight, quit smoking, eat a heart smart diet, know your cholesterol, manage your diabetes or prediabetes, increase your activity and have an assessment by your health care professional.

In addition, your spiritual heart can be the path to a healthy and content life. It is important to pay close attention to what your heart is taking in on a regular basis. Your heart needs God's word and presence to help you create a healthy life. If your heart takes in fear, worry, and doubt, you will not be content. If you are not content, it is harder to maintain a healthy life style. So quiet those extra voices by finding quiet time, walking, listening to what God is whispering to you, and go deeper in your relationship with God. He is there for you.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse





#### FOOD PANTRY

If you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

#### **EYEGLASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION**

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

#### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING Tuesday, February 14, 2023

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:30pm in church. New members welcome.

#### SATURDAYS WITH THE CHOSEN BEGINNING FEBRUARY 25TH

Join us on Saturdays during Lent at 1:00pm in the SVF Admin Bldg. hall to watch and reflect together on episodes of *The Chosen.* Free will offering. **Call the parish office to register—248-542-8720.** 

*"The Chosen* is the first-ever multi-season show about the life of Jesus. Created outside of the Hollywood system, The Chosen allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew him.

The Chosen stays faithful to the Gospels and at the same time tells us a story that is in between the lines of scripture. This series brings to life those people that are mentioned in the Bible, using the historical context of life at the time of Jesus. The series does not contradict scripture, but instead puts life around it so that we as viewers can imagine, "What was life like with Jesus." It really could have been this way.

The Chosen has grown to become the largest crowdfunded TV series of all time."

https://catholic-link.org/the-chosen

#### ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR CHURCH IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

#### NEXT WEEKEND - FEB. 18/19

Through the generosity of parishioners to this USCCB annual collection, nearly 50 emergency aid grants, totaling more that half a million dollars, brought humanitarian aid to victims and refugees in Ukraine, Poland, Slovakia and Moldova between February and May 2022, the initial stage of this crisis.

We will take a collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe NEXT WEEKEND. Envelopes for this collection can be found at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.



#### SOUP TO SAVOR Recipes Needed!

As Lent seems to be just around the

corner, once again we are preparing for our "Virtual Lenten Soup Suppers" to accompany Fr. John's Wednesday Lenten Reflection Series: *Hope in Changing Times*. As was done over the last 2 years, we are asking parishioners to open up your original soup recipe folders and find one that you would like to share with St. Vincent Ferrer parishioners. We will again print your original recipe in our parish bulletin, as well as post it on our parish website. Do you have a variation on a standard recipe that your family enjoys? Chicken, vegetable, beef barley, sweet and sour, lentil, dill pickle, ...? As you are willing to share, please leave a copy at the parish office in the next 2 weeks. Thank you!

#### Please Sign Up TUESDAY ADORATION HOURS EXTENDED DURING LENT

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

We would like to extend Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 10am to 12:30pm on Tuesdays during Lent, but we need people to sign up to spend time with the Lord for the additional hours.



A sign up sheet is available near the Herbert St. church vestibule entrance.



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 and earthquakes ...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.

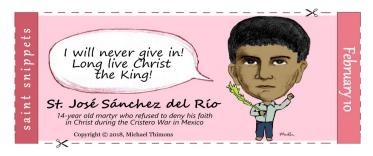
#### Lord Jesus,

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



# CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.



Ministry Schedule February 18/19, 2023					
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am			
Sacristan	T Riley	D Tourville			
Reader #1	P Miles	T Karolski			
Reader #2	T Riley	R Grant			
EME	P Miles	C McCarthy			
	J McCown M Kairis	M Black P Allen			
Greeters	R Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba			
	L Proszkowski	S Bosetti			
	K Heffner	B Gutowski			
	T Pasiak	P Rarus			

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 12, 2023

What eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love [God], this God has revealed to us through the Spirit.

— 1 Corinthians 2:9-10

# MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, February 18, 2023 at 9am Faith Formation Office in School



The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday at 9am in the Faith Formation Office of the school building. All men are welcome. No registration is required.

Is there someone whom you believe that the Lord has placed in your path to bring to Him through the OCIA at this time? If so, be sure to pray for her/him as the Holy Spirit urges you. You may be the link between that person and the gift of the Grace of life in God for



her/him. What greater gift can we share with another? For more information, contact Mary Ann Przybysz in the Parish Office at 248-542-8720.

## **OUR FASCINATING FAITH**

#### THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF THE SERVITE ORDER

On February 17 we honor the seven founding saints of the Order of the Servants of the Virgin Mary. Bonfilius, Alexis, Manettus, Amideus, Hugh, Sostene and Buonagiunta were a group of merchants of Florence who, upon experiencing an apparition of the Blessed Virgin in 1233, renounced their businesses, left what was necessary for their families, and distributed the rest among the poor. They then dedicated themselves entirely to the veneration of the Virgin Mary, going to live on an Italian mountain, each assuming the life of a hermit-prayer, extreme fasting and penance. Sometime later, at the request of the pope's delegate, all but one were ordained priests. Brother Alexis, considering himself unworthy of the priesthood, decided to remain as a brother. They were all canonized in 1888. Their feast day, originally February 11, now falls on the 17th, the date of the death of the last of the seven founders. Brother Alexis died at the age of 110.

## **License to Sin**

In the James Bond movies, 007 has a license to kill. He can shoot all the bad guys he wants without worrying about being charged with murder. God, however, does not issue a license to sin. The first reading from Sirach reminds us that any time we choose between life and death, good and evil, it is our free choice and our responsibility. God may allow us to make bad choices, but God never commands anyone to sin.

Jesus goes even deeper than Sirach. The people of Sirach's time had followed the laws and commandments that governed external actions. As long as they treated others fairly, did not kill anyone or steal from them, they could think whatever they wanted. But Jesus taught that thoughts and desires that lead to sin can also be freely chosen or rejected. In the Gospel he gives us some examples.

The first is about killing. Jesus says that anyone who gets angry enough to kill or who looks down on his neighbor as not deserving to live has committed murder in his heart. What prejudices or grudges am I holding in my heart? The longer I hold onto hurtful feelings, the more likely it becomes that they will lead to hurtful actions. Because the Eucharist is our sacrament of unity, we should take care to be reconciled with others before coming to the altar.

The next warning is about adultery, which also begins with interior feelings. Jesus exaggerates when he tells us to cut off a hand or tear out an eye, because he knew how easily we rationalize our feelings and pretend they are harmless. This leads to the next warning about divorce. Jesus takes marriage seriously and expects his disciples to do the same.

His final example concerns taking oaths. Apparently, people would swear upon almost anything in an effort to be believed. Jesus gets to the point and says that we wouldn't need oaths if we always told the truth and kept our promises. Our faith is based on the knowledge that God keeps promises. Shouldn't we do the same? Tom Schmidt, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## Hope After Suicide

## All affected by suicide are welcome.

This group meets at Shrine of the Little Flower with Fr. Joe Lang & Fr. Mark Livingston the third Saturday of the month.

The next meeting is on Saturday, February 18th 12-1:30pm

Please call the Shrine office if you plan to attend 248-541-4122



## **OUR FAMILY - MASS SCHEDULES**

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica 2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073 SATURDAY

8:30 am and 4:30 pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY 7:30 am, 9:30 am (livestreamed), 11:30 am 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

## 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	719
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	112
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 5,173.57
Loose Cash /Check Collection	203.00
Total	\$ 5,376.57
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 531.00

#### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

It's still months away, but parish ministers, especially if they are involved in the catechumenate, have their eyes on Lent and the Easter Triduum. Until fairly recent times, the last few days before Easter



were shaped by an awareness of the Passion, but the faithful were left to their own devices about how to engage with these mysteries. A thousand years ago, the Easter Vigil as a solemn and central moment of initiation had vanished. By the early 1950s it was a minor moment in parish life, celebrated on Holy Saturday morning, usually with only the priests and a handful of invited guests. Most people understood it as necessary only for blessing the paschal candle and preparing the Easter water. People who were children during World War II sometimes remember that the weekly noontime test of the air-raid sirens on Holy Saturday signaled the end of Lent.

Today, of course, we see Holy Saturday as entirely within the paschal fast, and hardly the time for children to be tearing through the plastic grass looking for jelly beans and chocolate eggs. These memories point to a total collapse of the once-central liturgies of the Christian year. This impoverishment of the liturgy was mostly an accident of history. The root cause was the loss of Lent as a time focused on the final formation of catechumens for the Easter sacraments. By 1880, scholars began to piece together a vision of what once had been, and slowly, at first in a handful of monasteries in Europe, pieces of the tradition were rediscovered and celebrated. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Of all the movements, sensations and feelings of the soul, love is the only one in which the creature can respond to the Creator and make some sort of similar return however unequal though it be...

St Bernard, abbot

