

# St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

FEBRUARY 19, 2023 † SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

A picture will leave a very different impression depending on how it is framed. A dark frame surrounding the early morning light of a sunrise will create a different tone than a brighter frame. The same is true of how we hear things. Tone and context make a big difference. We have all heard the phrase, 'Its not what you say, but how you say it.'

How do you say or put a frame around, "...love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you?" In the frame and tone of our culture today the phrase is quickly dismissed as ridiculous and out of touch with social reality. If someone takes your jacket, how do you say to them; 'Here, take my sweater too.' Pretty much the same reaction, right? Easily dismissed as unreal.

Let's try a new frame that may more effectively reveal the wisdom of the words. Your life is framed by your profession of faith as a Christian. In the frame of faith, with a professed love for God and love of neighbor, God directs us in the first reading: "...Be holy, for I, the Lord your God, am holy." As people in the Spirit, this should have an impact on our spiritual sensibility. In the mind of our culture, the phrase would be ignored. However, the believer knows otherwise. We may not feel holy, but any half-conscious believer knows we are called to be holy because in Christ we share the Divine life of God.

St. Paul strengthens the frame further, saying: "Do you not know that you are a temple of God, and the Spirit of God dwells in you?" We have all heard these words and they should be a steady frame of how we see ourselves in God and God in us. I do not always actively feel this spiritual truth, but I hold it deeply as a personal identity. The call to holiness and the acceptance of ourselves as a dwelling place of God serves as an inner ownership of who we are as believers. It is the frame through which we see ourselves in the world, and how the world is to see us. If we do not hold ourselves in this frame of life, how is Christ to be known or seen in us?

If we are living in the Christian frame of holiness as a dwelling place of the Holy Spirit, the call to love our enemies is heard quite differently. It calls us to move beyond the frame of human wisdom, to a Divine one. Human wisdom is largely characterized by getting ahead, having more than the other guy, and staying ahead of an enemy. Divine wisdom is characterized by humility, surrender, and other centered self-giving. Completely different frames, right?

Jesus is calling us to practice the model of his own example. In the end, Jesus humbly surrendered his life

on the Cross out of self-giving love. It was the only way to prove that love is stronger than evil, sin, and death. In the Resurrection, love wins. Each of us is a beneficiary of this radical act of self-surrender. Perhaps the most radical aspect of the Cross is that it was offered to all, friends and enemies alike. Jesus fulfills the Divine wisdom in his willingness to heal and forgive, casting no one off as an enemy. The human way tends to operate from an ability to conquer and kill rather than to reconcile.

How do we get from here to there? How do we love our enemies and peacefully pray for our persecutors? We will only be able to love others to the degree that we love ourselves. We are all aware that self-love is not automatic. The human experience is a wounded one. The pain of our hurt causes us to create walls, defenses, and resistance against our vulnerabilities. This leads to moods of competition, division, and a we-they stance against the world. People are labeled as enemies or friends while those in the middle often become invisible.

Growing in self-love comes from a secure trust in the acceptance of God's love for us. Self-love matures into the freedom to be open to the needs and concerns of others out of empathy and compassion. Mature love by nature is other centered. Human love is never perfect this side of heaven. We are all sinners trying to live lovingly in a wounded sinful world. Tensions will inevitably arise. Love yields to compromise rather than competition. This is the meaning of the call to be perfect. Perfection is necessary in math, science, and medicine. There is no such thing as a perfect human being. Perfection in scripture means wholeness or completion. To be whole and complete is to persevere to the end with faith and love. Jesus was perfect in his mission and identity in the world as he brought to completion the Father's will in perfect surrender to death on the Cross.

It was hard to be Jesus. It is hard to imitate Jesus in the world today. Remember your frame. You are holy. You belong to God. You are in God and God is in you. You are a temple of God's dwelling in the world. That frame will never change. It may get smudged and gritty, but God will never hold you as an enemy. God's love for you is the ground and foundation of your self-love. This is the frame that teaches us to love our enemies and pray for those who hurt us. Practice makes perfect.

Father John Esper

**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**



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**MONDAY, February 20, 2023**

8:00am Mass: Gene Fox† req. by Mary Jane Guc

**TUESDAY, February 21, 2023**

8:00am Mass: Sam Balistreri† req. by Joe & Barb Miller

**ASH WEDNESDAY, February 22, 2023**

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

7:00PM Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

**THURSDAY, February 23, 2023**

8:00am Mass: Priests and parishioners of our Family of Parishes

**SATURDAY, February 25, 2023,**

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Stefanija & Pranas Juska† req. by Regina Juska-Svoba Peter Conway req. by Mom

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Deborah Strucienski† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Martha Eggert (for health) req. by Mary Jane Guc

Kenneth Kowalski req. by Kowalski Family

**SUNDAY, February 26, 2023**

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Carlo Virga† req. by Virga Family

Anna Perry† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Mike Higgins† req. by Krystyna & Family

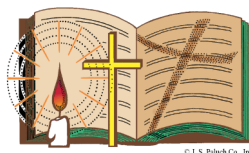
Special Intention req. by Renee Hauzie

**L**  
**E**  
**N**  
**T**

*Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we came from, where we must go, what path we must take in life.*

Pope Benedict XVI

**B**  
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**READINGS FOR  
THE WEEK OF  
February 19, 2023**

- Sunday: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18; Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48
- Monday: Sir 1:1-10; Ps 93:1-2, 5; Mk 9:14-29
- Tuesday: Sir 2:1-11; Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 39-40; Mk 9:30-37
- Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
- Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
- Sunday: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7; Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17; Rom 5:12-19 [12, 17-19]; Mt 4:1-11



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All are invited to join us in church or online for Fr. John's Lenten Reflection Series

*Hope in Changing Times*

Wednesday evening - March 1, 8, 15 & 22

To watch livestream visit St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (Madison Heights) youtube channel.



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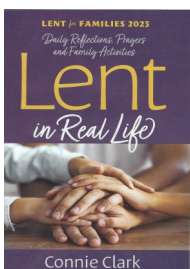
**Virtual Soup Suppers**  
**March 1, 8, 15 & 22**

We are preparing for our "Virtual Lenten Soup Suppers" to accompany Father John's Wednesday Lenten Reflection Series: *Hope in Changing*

**Times.** As was done over the last couple 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. If you have a variation on a standard recipe that your family enjoys and would like to share, please contact Mary Ann or Sheryl in the Parish Office. (no cookbook recipes due to copyrights)

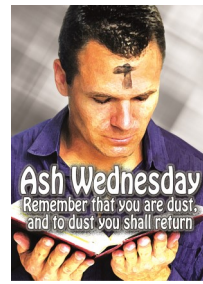
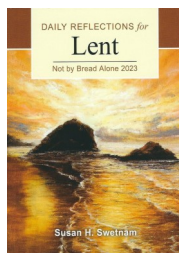
Each week contributions from our Virtual Soup Supper will be donated to a different charity. There will be a collection basket in church or you can click the donate button at our website: [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net), or you can leave a donation at the Parish Office. This year our charities will be: 1) The Ukrainian Fund for Ukrainian refugee children; 2.) The Light House of Oakland County, formerly known as Common Ground; 3.) Song and Spirit Outreach in Metro Detroit; and 4.) The Benevolent Fund at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish. More details on the work of these charities will be found in upcoming bulletins.

**LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLETS**



Pick up a Lenten reflection booklet at the table in back of church.

To defer the cost, a \$2.00 donation is requested.



**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES**

**February 22, 2023**  
**8:00am and 7:00pm**

*Ash Wednesday is full of joy...  
 The source of all sorrow is the illusion that of ourselves we are anything but dust.*

Thomas Merton

In addition to choosing their own penitential practices, Catholics are also asked to observe the practices of fast and abstinence during the 40 days of Lent.



**Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics.** In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin (Roman) Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin (Roman) Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

From US Conference of Catholic Bishops website: [www.USCCB.org](http://www.USCCB.org)

**Stations of the Cross**

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**Fridays in Lent at 7:00pm in church**

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

**Patricia Podgorski**

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



**NEXT SATURDAY**  
**HEALING MASS**  
**February 25th- 4:00pm**

Fr John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass. Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.



**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*



**EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER**

**FOOD PANTRY**

**THE FOOD PANTRY AT ST. JUSTIN-ST. MARY MAGDALEN CLOSED IN 2022. WE NO LONGER COLLECT FOOD FOR A FOOD PANTRY.**

If you wish to make general food donations, please take them directly to the food pantry at St. Mary in Royal Oak. 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.

**PRAYER BLANKET AND CARD DECORATING MINISTRY MEETING**  
**FEBRUARY 23RD - 6 TO 9PM**

The Prayer Blanket Ministry and the Card Decorating For Shut-ins Ministry will meet again on Thursday, February 23rd from 6 - 9 PM in the church social hall. You can choose to work on prayer blankets, cards or do a little of both. Choose to stay the entire time or a portion of it. All are welcome; adults and children. Come join our wonderful group and meet new friends.

**PARISH NURSE MINISTRY**  
**SURVEYS DUE NEXT WEEKEND - FEB. 25/26**

Reminder: Please return surveys into the designated box in church or drop them off at the Parish Office during the week.

***AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE HEALING CHRIST***

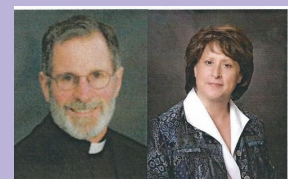
**A Manresa Silent Healing Retreat - Friday to Sunday - March 3-5, 2023**

There are quiet places in our hearts where we have placed doubts, memories, fears and hurts which need the loving hand of Jesus to heal. Receive His embrace during a precious few days of quiet and serenity. It is a place of peace where we can light a path which can lead to freedom, forgiveness, healing. God is waiting for you. Don't miss the invitation.

Directors: Fr. John Esper & Debbie Tourville

Weekend schedule: Registration, Friday 5:00pm (Dinner 6:30pm)

Closure of Retreat: Sunday at Noon



A nonrefundable deposit of \$50 is required for this retreat

You may register on line at [www.manresa-sj.org](http://www.manresa-sj.org) For more information call 248.644.4933

**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.**

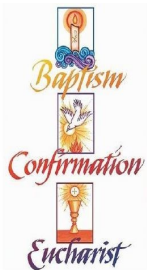
“*The Chosen* is the first-ever multi-season show about the life of Jesus. Created outside of the Hollywood system, *The Chosen* allows us to see Him through the eyes of those who knew him.

*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>

**OCIA — Order of Christian Initiation of Adults**



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.

**Ministry Schedule**

February 25/26, 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Kairis	A Goll
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	M Simmons	A Goll
	M Kairis	M Waskowski
	J McCown	M Black
Greeters	R Bertolini	D Vu
	L Collins	T Lane
	R Pasiak	P Miles
	T Pasiak	J Ballantine

**OUR FASCINATING FAITH**

**Ashes**

There are three major Biblical traditions concerning ashes: repentance, mourning, and mortality, and they are interrelated. Repeatedly throughout the Bible we encounter the use of ashes (often together with sackcloth) as a penitential practice. A similar practice is seen when someone is in mourning or distress. And ashes are a metaphor for human life, which is seen as brief and destined to end in death:

Ashes are the result of fire, the complete burning of something that was alive. They are ephemeral; the slightest puff of air can send them away into nothingness. It is easy to see how ashes came to symbolize fleeting human life or the humility of repentance.

Ashes can represent other things as well. For example, ashes are often used to fertilize our gardens and fields. Ash is therefore necessary to bring about and nourish life.

We can now begin to see how appropriate a symbol ashes are for the season of Lent. For Lent is not only a time of repentance, of sorrow for our sins. It is a baptismal season of preparation for the new life of our catechumens and of recalling the new life of our own baptism. We start Lent in ashes, and end it in Easter. What will the ashes mean to you this Lent?

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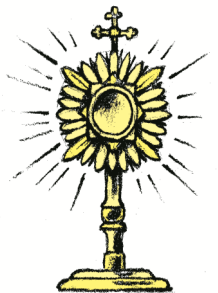
**Please Sign Up**

**TUESDAY ADORATION HOURS  
 EXTENDED  
 DURING LENT**

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.

Adoration  
 of the  
 Blessed Sacrament



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**CATHOLIC PRAYER CORNER**

**PRAYER FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

Loving God,  
 hear this prayer, which I offer on behalf of my family and friends. Keep them safe in your care. When they are in trouble, be with them. When they despair, bring them hope. When they are joyful, help them share their happiness. Help us all to realize that we are your sons and daughters and that you love us more than we can imagine. Amen.

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**TEMPLE OF GOD**

When Paul writes “you are the temple of God,” note that he uses the plural form of “you.” He was speaking about the community at Corinth as a temple. For Paul, a temple is where God dwells. God abides, and is active within, the shared life of the community. Paul speaks at length about the divisions within the Corinthian community. These divisions were seen as a defilement of God’s temple.

We encounter divisions in our own Church today, sometimes accompanied by a troubling lack of humility and charity. Often the conflicts revolve around establishing markers of true discipleship, with some emphasizing personal faith and morality, and others emphasizing justice and the Church’s social teachings. Perhaps the Spirit, active in the temple of our shared life, points toward Jesus’ command “love your enemies.” Perhaps we best exhibit discipleship in the charity we extend, and our capacity for dialogue, with those who disagree with us or who are unkind to us.

**THE SERMON**

Today we conclude the series of Sunday Gospel passages from the Sermon on the Mount, Matthew’s chapters 5–7. Having proclaimed the coming of the Kingdom, Jesus extensively described to his new community what life is like in this new realm, and the inner dispositions needed to enter into it. He exposed hidden places of the heart, especially those places that needed to be healed.

The Sermon is a huge challenge for us today. The Sermon pushes against our attempts to compromise what God summons us to be and to do. It challenges our deep desires to see ourselves as virtuous, and to resist God’s desire to transform us. It reminds us that we are both loved by God and in need of God’s help. As we anticipate the season of Lent, consider prayerfully reading the Sermon as a whole. We are invited to carefully explore our deeper motivations, to allow God to uncover and to heal our fears and our wounds.

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**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	718
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	109
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 5,131.83
Loose Cash /Check Collection	165.00
Total	\$ 5,296.83
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 355.00

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**LENTEN PREPARATION**

Wednesday is Ash Wednesday—the beginning of Lent, an important time in the church year. The season of Lent is the forty days of preparation before the great feast of Easter.

Do you belong to a sports team? Play a musical instrument? Dance? Do gymnastics? In any of these activities you need to practice skills, learn to concentrate, and listen to your coach or instructor. You may even have to do extra work to prepare for a big event. If you don't do the work you will not be ready. The same is true for Lent. We make extra preparations for the great celebration of Easter.

The Church names three principal practices that we should perform every Lent. You can get a head start this year by planning with your family how you will do each one. They can be accomplished in many different ways, so it is important to decide which way is best for you and your family. Take the next two days to make a plan for Lent.

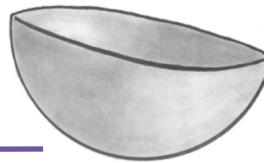


• *Prayer:* We prepare by praying more. During this Lent we will do some extra praying. As a family and individually, how will we do this?

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• *Fasting:* We prepare by fasting more often. Fasting means doing without something—food, video games, TV, trips to the mall. When we fast from certain things we make more space in our lives for other things like prayer and good works. What will we do without this Lent?

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• *Almsgiving:* We prepare by giving alms more freely. God commands us to give to the poor, not because we are rich but because we have received from God all that we have. Sharing with the poor enriches us in many ways. We each give to one another. As a family and individually, how will we share what we have with those in need?

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**DISCIPLES TOGETHER**

Today's readings reflect on our communal identity as disciples. Before we begin Lent together in a few days, we take time to appreciate what God has done by giving us our family of faith. In Leviticus, God tells Moses to "speak to the whole Israelite community" and give them instructions for living in love. Moses passes along the message—to each and every believer—that God's people must strive together for holiness. Saint Paul echoes this message, insisting that we are indeed God's holy children. As temples of the Spirit, we belong to Christ and to one another. This mutual belonging is a blessing and a challenge. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus sets a high bar for Christian community: his followers must love not only those who are easy to love, but also the people who upset us. Together, let us ask God to give us this kind of love.

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**God's Word for Children**

The Lord wanted Moses to give a message to the whole Israelite community. Fill in each blank below with the letter "o" to see what God said.

"Be h \_ ly,  
 f \_ r I,  
 the L \_ rd,  
 y \_ ur G \_ d,  
 am h \_ ly."  
 Leviticus 19:2

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- Sunday: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: Presidents' Day
- Tuesday: St. Peter Damian; Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday
- Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence; Washington's Birthday
- Thursday: St. Polycarp
- Friday: Abstinence

saint snippets

St. Francisco Marto

One of the three Portuguese children who witnessed the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima in 1917

February 20

More than anything else, I want to console our Lord.

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SINCE 1906  
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 FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Royal Oak 248-541-7000  
 Utica 586-731-2411  
 Michael Kairis, Sherry Marshall  
 - Parishioners

[www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com](http://www.SullivanFuneralDirectors.com)

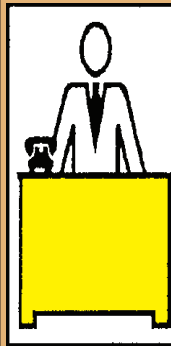
**Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.**

Individual and Small Business  
 Tax Returns

Home: **(248) 589-2077**  
 Cell: **(248) 808-4353**

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 Madison Heights, MI 48071

5% Donation to St. Vincent De Paul upon any new completed return.



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