

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JUNE 25, 2023 † TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

The readings this Sunday speak about the fear and challenges one may face in the course of the Christian life. History has proven that those who live the life of Christ in full and authentic ways may face rejection, persecution, and personal threat. A person of lively faith may also encounter the fear of feeling overwhelmed or doubtful of facing the task of fulfilling the call of the gospel.

The prophet Jeremiah is something of a tragic figure. Not choosing to be a prophet of God, Jeremiah feels duped and dragged into this Divine call of doing God's work. Yet, for all his trials and troubles he persists with unwavering faith and obedience. In the threat of rejection and in the risk of personal violence, Jeremiah hears the whisperings of many, "Terror on every side! Denounce, let us denounce him!" Jeremiah owns his fear and presents it to God with every confidence of his saving help. Like most of us, Jeremiah can wallow in his struggles, yet also surrenders his fear and conflict to the providence of God.

In the gospel, Jesus instructs the disciples as he sends them out on mission to not be afraid. Against the tension of personal fear and inevitable rejection, Jesus secures them in the truth of his authority. He assures them that all lies, secrets, and untruths will be revealed and will come to nothing. Be bold, speak light into darkness, Jesus instructs. Do not fear those who can harm the body, be vigilant of those who can cause you to lose your soul. Jesus then reminds them of God's unfailing care. God knows and protects the value of two sparrows. Would God not protect his beloved ones who serve with faith and obedience in his name? Yes! God is fully and intimately aware of each one of us. God is involved in every moment of our lives. Should we acknowledge and proclaim the name of Jesus to others, Jesus will acknowledge our names before our heavenly Father. God is so particular as to know the number of hairs on our head.

If we are doing it right, with boldness and sincerity as persons of lively faith, we will have trouble in the world. What do you do in times of fear? When you feel overwhelmed and unable to perceive the presence of God, what do you do? When you are threatened by personal fear, or with worry or anxiety, what do you do as a person of faith?

When I feel overwhelmed or in the fear of a certain circumstance, the first thing I do is pray. I do so to remind myself that the Lord is always near, and that I am never alone. I remind myself of who God is and who I am in God. I remind myself of all the times I have been in a

similar circumstance and how God has always heard my prayer and sent some form of consoling help.

I will often go to a favorite reading or passage of scripture through which I have found consolation, courage, or a restoration of peace. For instance, I often go to Psalm 139 to remind myself the God knows me through and through. God knows where I am, what I am doing, and whatever distress I may be feeling. I am always consoled by the middle verses of this Psalm that reminds me that God knit me in my mother's womb, God knows my deepest self and nothing in me is hidden from God. I share the words of the Psalmist who prays, 'I give you thanks (Oh, God) that I am so reverently, wonderfully made. Wonderful are all your works.'

I regularly use Sarah Young's book, <u>Jesus Calling</u>. I will often go back to certain pages and just sit in the consolation and peace of the message. Like on the date of May 19th she writes of the Lord, "I want you to know how safe and secure you are in My Presence." How would you like to hear Jesus say that to you? I find it very consoling. On May 21st, she writes of the Lord, "I, the Creator of the Universe, am with you and for you. What more could you need..." June 1st, "I am involved in every moment of your life. I have mapped out every inch of your journey..." June 2nd, "Relax in My Healing, Holy Presence. Be still, while I transform your heart and mind."

Sitting with these kinds of words from the Lord restores my spirit as any fear or concern are put in the perspective of God's provident care and personal promise of peace. They remind me in an active way that I am not alone and there is nothing going on with me that God cannot handle, if I let him and allow his Presence to override my fear and limited resources. When I was forty years old and on a forty-day retreat, I was directed to the Book of Deuteronomy. In chapter 2:7 it reads, 'For forty years now I have been with you and you have never been in want.' Thirty years later I not only remember the prayer of that day, but I can confirm the same today at seventy. God is with me and I have never been in want. Stressed, weary, or tired at times, but never in the fear of God's absence or lack of provident care.

In this kind of prayer, especially in times of fear or concern, I am reminded that I am loved, forgiven, redeemed, and acceptable to the Lord. This kind of awareness shrinks fear, increases faith, and inspires courage and creativity. Life is difficult at times, but God is faithful and ever-present. What do you do when you are afraid?

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

Adoration on Tuesdays 8:45am to 10:00am

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

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 SUMMER HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm Closed Friday, 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 Summer Office Hours: by appointment 248-542-8720

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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



MONDAY, June 26, 2023

8:00am Mass: Edmund Gutowski† (50th R.A.) req. by

Bernadette Gutowski

TUESDAY, June 27, 2023

No Mass

WEDNESDAY, June 28, 2023

No Mass

THURSDAY, June 29, 2023

No Mass

SATURDAY, July 1, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Ben Guc† req. by Mary Jane Guc

Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, July 2, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Dennis Menard† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Christina Paluch† req. by Fr. John & staff of St. Vincent Ferrer Connie Armatas† req. by Margaret McDonald & Agnes Gaitens



JUNE

NO 8AM

MORNING MASS

JUNE 27, 28, 29

THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

READINGS THIS WEEK

June 25, 2023

Sunday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35

(14c)/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33

Monday: Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and

22/Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: Gn 13:2, 5-18/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/

Mt 7:6, 12-14

Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8

-9/Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: Vigil: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Gal

1:11-20/Jn 21:15-19 *Day*: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm 4:6-8,

17-18/Mt 16:13-19

Friday: Gn 17:1, 9-10, 15-22/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-

5/Mt 8:1-4

Saturday: Gn 18:1-15/Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and

53, 54-55/Mt 8:5-17

Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17,

18-19 (2a)/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-

42



The Necklace

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I have a necklace that originally belonged to my great-grandmother. I don't really know much about the man who gave it to her, most of those

details have been lost to time. But I know that he wanted to marry her, and that she refused, and it had something to do with religion — ultimately, he did not share her faith. And while I've certainly seen many interfaith couples have loving and successful marriages, in this particular case, my greatgrandmother discerned that this would not be one of those marriages.

Like I said, I don't have many details about this man, but I know that she felt she couldn't marry him because it might jeopardize the souls of her children, and therefore the souls of their children, and their children after them — me. She turned him down because of me.

My great-grandmother never sold that necklace, not even when the Great Depression further reduced her financial circumstances. She kept it, and she gave it to her daughter, who gave it to her daughter, who gave it to me. The necklace is always given with a warning: there is something worse than being poor, worse than being scared, worse even than being desperate. Worse than all of these things is separation from God.

When I wear this necklace, I think about my grandmother and this man she possibly loved a hundred years ago. I think of the many decisions we make every day — large and small, good and bad — that reverberate down through the generations in ways we cannot, at the time, imagine. I think of the God who knows every hair on my head.

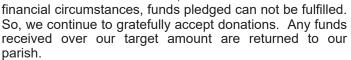
"And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna."

— *Matthew 10:28* ©LI



2023

Thank you to those who have contributed to CSA 2023. Our pledges have put us over the targeted amount, but there are times when, due to





ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION

THIS MONDAY, June 26 at 7pm Administration Bldg. Patio

The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the second and

fourth Mondays of June thru August, 2023.

If the weather is intolerable, we will not meet but ask all to pray the rosary in private. The Immaculata group prayers will be at 6:30 pm and the Rosary will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.



Everyday Stewardship

When I was a teenager, after a homecoming dance one year I took my date for a walk on the Potomac in downtown Alexandria. The moon was out and I was struck by how the light shimmered on the water. I remember focusing to try to

see all the details of the dancing rays on the ripples. My date didn't see it and didn't really get it. She thought it was no big deal. It was a great date and a fun night, but for that one moment we saw the world from two completely different vantage points.

Two of the greatest gifts from God to each of us are life and time. Without taking care, we can easily miss the grandeur and beauty of both. Being mindful as an everyday steward means pausing to see the detail in all that exists around us. God's creation is not something created with a broad brush, but instead with the intricacies of a master painter.

God created all things with purpose and a complexity only the divine could fully comprehend. Every single hair on our head has been counted! But when we take a moment to reflect on the beauty that is created by that complexity, we allow ourselves to revel in God's generosity. There is so much to give thanks for in this life. But you and I can't give thanks to God unless we really stop to take notice. When was the last time you stared in awe at the moon?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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REAL PRESENCE



"He affirmed that the bread, which comes from his creation, was his body. When the chalice we mix and the bread we bake receive the word of God, the eucharistic elements become the body and blood of Christ, by which our bodies live and grow."

From Treatise Against Heresies of St. Irenaeus

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When I was in middle school, there were times I didn't want my fellow students to see my parents drop me off or pick me up in the school parking lot. I was embarrassed of my parents. Why? I have no idea. Maybe it was our station wagon. Or I didn't want to look like a little kid. But in retrospect that was a silly thing to do. I was a kid. And I had two parents who loved me and had built a wonderful family. I was afraid of the other kids' judgment. How silly! I should have been afraid of forgetting or downplaying my family, which is where my identity had its deep roots.

This is a way to understand Jesus' words to his disciples this Sunday, when he says, "Don't be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna." Fear, in this sense, refers to where we find our deepest identity and our highest love. That's why Jesus says next that when we acknowledge him before others, he will acknowledge us before the Father. It doesn't mean we're brash or boastful. But rather we unhesitatingly and humbly embrace our identity as followers of Jesus and children of God the Father. After all, if we love who we are and where we come from, who cares what the other kids think about us?

— Father John Muir



NEXT WEEKEND JULY 1/2

The annual collection to support the charitable work of the Holy Father will be taken next weekend. Envelopes for this collection can be found at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

ST. IRENAEUS



Can you imagine sitting at the feast of the Apostles? St. Irenaeus was born in Asia Minor - now Turkey -- and was tutored in Christianity by St. Polycarp, himself a disciple of St. John the Evangelist. Irenaeus caught the missionary zeal and became a priest sent to Gaul (modern day France). Following a persecution by the

pagan Roman emperor Marcus Aurelius, Irenaeus replaced the martyred bishop in the region. His trials were not over, however. The heretical sect of Gnosticism spread to Gaul. Gnostics proclaimed a secret, spiritual knowledge available only to a few. Irenaeus researched the Gnostic texts and exposed the falsehoods they taught, such as denying the divinity of Christ. His book Against Heresies is still being published today, over 1800 years after his death. May St. Irenaeus intercede for our own quests for greater understanding!

Evangelical Service Corner

FOOD PANTRY

Our food Pantry has closed, but 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.



- ...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, earthquakes and disasters
- ...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.
- ...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally ...all who are sick, homebound, undergoing or recovering from surgery, medical procedures, treatments or testing

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 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

Please join us this Sunday for an Evangelization Mission in Rosie's Park!

Please join us this Sunday, June 25th at 4:00pm in Rosie's Park for the final meeting of the Great Mission. We will

announce the Good News of wour salvation!

Please come and bring a friend.

Look for a banner with this image to find us →



WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

LECTIO DIVINA

Ouestion:

What is Lectio Divina, and how is it associated with the Benedictine Monastic tradition, whose founder, St. Benedict, we honor on July 11?

Answer:

Benedict desired his monks to live in community, praying the Liturgy of the Hours together, contemplating sacred texts, and doing manual labor. The monks developed a technique to facilitate a spiritual and devotional reading of the Bible known as Lectio Divina, the holy reading of a text. This method encourages the reader to hear the biblical text with an open heart and focus on whatever God wants to highlight and then apply it to daily life.

There are variations on Lectio Divina, but essentially, the technique consists of a three-step process of reflection. When the reflection is done with a group, the responses are shared by all the participants. Once the text is selected, it is read meditatively, and the following are then explored: a word or phrase that attracts you; how and where the content of this reading touches your life today; what you believe that God wants you to do during this coming week (month, year, lifetime).

Thanks to Benedict, the Christian community has been gifted with this special way of entering into the biblical text. This week, use the Lectio Divina process on one of the readings for the coming Sunday and make a note of the life connections you are making. How is this reflection on the biblical text drawing you closer to God and others?



CHAIR EXERCISE FOLLOW-UP

If you are interested in participating in a follow-up series to the chair exercise session that

was held at St. Vincent's in April, please call the parish office to let us know. Angie Maynard, our parish nurse, would work to provide such a series using DVD's created for this purpose if enough parishioners want this. Deadline for calls is Thursday, July 6, 2023.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Jer 20:10-13

We hear how the prophet Jeremiah turned to God when he felt alone and attacked. What do you need to pray to God for this week?

Second Reading: Rom 5:12-15

Paul taught that through the grace of God, Christ reversed the sin of Adam, which brought death to all. When have you felt God's grace in your life?

Gospel: Mt 10:26-33

Jesus encourages his disciples not to be afraid. What ae some fears you have that you could turn over to God?

Ministry Schedule July 1/2, 2023 Mass 4:00pm 9:00am Sacristan T Riley D Tourville **M** Simmons Reader #1 L Yolkiewicz D Tourville Reader #2 T Riley A Goll EME **M** Simmons R Pasiak M Black P Miles M Waskowski Greeters P Miles R Juska-Svoba D Vu L Collins R Bertolini B Gutowski Ballantine T Lane

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...



Venerable Pierre Toussaint & Servant of God Marie-Rose Juliette Toussaint

Venerable Pierre Toussaint was born into slavery in 1766 in what is now Haiti and raised as a Catholic. He and his sister, Rosalie, were brought to New York City by their enslavers, the Bérard family, originally of French descent, in 1787 as they fled unrest in Haiti.

Upon arrival in New York, Pierre was set up to apprentice to one of New York's leading

hairdressers. Pierre learned quickly and started doing the hair of rich women all over New York. When Jean Bérard later died, Pierre was already in a position to support himself and Bérard's widow with the earnings he made from his hairdressing work. He voluntarily took on support of her until she remarried. Pierre was eventually able to purchase the freedom of his sister Rosalie and Pierre was freed by his enslavers in 1807.

Upon gaining his freedom, Pierre took on the surname of Toussaint, in honor of Toussaint Louverture, a Haitian revolutionary leader who helped transform the fledgling slave rebellion in Haiti into a successful revolutionary movement. Pierre Toussaint continued to work among the elite in New York as a hairdresser and, as his success grew, he began to use his wealth for several philanthropic causes.

In 1811, Toussaint purchased the freedom of Marie-Rose Juliette. ("Servant of God, Marie-Rose Juliette Toussaint was born Marie-Rose Gaston in 1786 in Saint Domingue which is present day Haiti. She and her family were enslaved and moved with their enslavers, the Noels, to Baltimore during the Haitian Revolution." There she met Pierre and they were married on August 5, 1811)

When Pierre's sister Rosalie died of tuberculosis, they adopted her only daughter, Euphemia, and raised her as their own. Alongside Euphemia, the Toussaints sheltered orphans and fostered numerous New York street children. They purchased a house on Franklin Street where they supported orphaned boys, getting them educations, helping them learn trades, and sometimes even setting them up with their first jobs.

The Toussaints became a charitable tour de force and well known among New Yorkers. They began an employment agency, a credit bureau, and a refuge for traveling priests and immigrants. During the cholera outbreak in New York City Pierre and Juliette would cross quarantine barricades and nurse sick people back to health in their own home. They raised money to build what is now Old St. Patrick's Cathedral on Mulberry Street and helped found the first black Catholic school in New York City — St. Vincent De Paul on Canal Street.

During all of his philanthropic work, Pierre continued to work as a hairdresser and support his family. He died two years after his wife Juliette's passing in 1853, at the age of 87 and was buried alongside her and Euphemia in the cemetery of St. Patrick's Old Cathedral in New York...He was declared Venerable by Pope John Paul II in 1996. Juliette is recognized as a Servant of God for her incredible virtue and holiness.



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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP		
Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants		*713
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants		35
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$	4,566.16
Loose Cash /Check Collection		157.00
Total	\$	4,723.00
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$	9,340.46
Energy	\$	124.45
*To save on postage, we are only mailing envelopes to parishioners who have been using them this past year. The new figure will be 245 for envelopes distributed & EFT users		

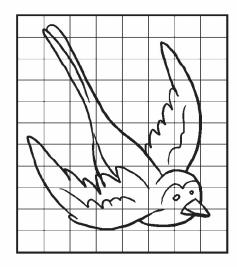
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

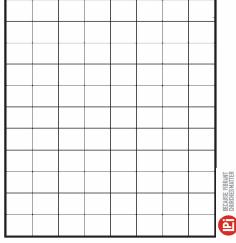
Christ promises to acknowledge us before his Father if we will acknowledge him. In what ways are we called to acknowledge Christ today? In what ways are we tempted to deny him, to distance ourselves from him?

©LPi



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PERNAMENT DIACONATE VOCATION AWARENESS NIGHT

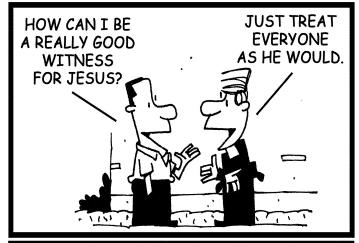
The Permanent Diaconate Office of the Archdiocese of Detroit will be hosting an in-person Vocation Awareness Information Night at St. Regis Catholic Church in Bloomfield Hills, for all who are discerning a call to the Diaconate. Please pass along the following information if you know of any interested men or would like to encourage someone you know.

Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2023 Time: Check-in 6:30 pm, Presentation: 7:00 – 8:30 pm Location:

St. Regis Catholic Parish 3695 Lincoln Rd Bloomfield Hills, MI 48301 Father Shields Hall at the School

For info or to register visit: https://www.aod.org/hub/events/2023-07-11/diaconate-vocation-awareness-information-night-5

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: There are two different types of sin. What are they called?

Answer: Venial sin and mortal sin



Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Tuesday: St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and

Doctor of the Church

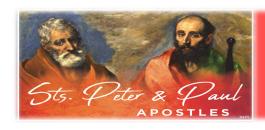
Wednesday: Saint Irenaeus, Bishop and Martyr

Thursday: Sts. Peter And Paul, Apostles

Friday: The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman

Church

Saturday: St. Junipero Serra, Priest Next Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time



June 29



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