

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

OCTOBER 22, 2023 † TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From the Pastor

"For this I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice." Pilate said to him, "What is truth?" John 18: 37-38.

In this liminal time of world change and uncertainty with political, economic, and grave social distress, it is to our great benefit as Christians to know what truth is. The above passage from the trial of Jesus before his crucifixion comes to mind as we consider today's gospel. The Pharisees are trying to catch Jesus in a trap to get rid of him. They attempt to flatter Jesus, "Teacher, we know you are a truthful man and you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth."

This statement drips with hypocrisy. These religious leaders see truth in Jesus and acknowledge it as the way of Divine truth. Yet, they betray this very truth by trying to trap Jesus in a double bind. They imply that they know the truth of God, yet they refuse to honor that truth in Jesus. To answer their question about the census tax would trap Jesus against the authority of Caesar, or to betray the Jews who suffer paying the tax to a king who holds himself as God.

Because Jesus is the truth, he sees through the ruse and casts the bind back on the Pharisees. With obvious clarity, Jesus simply states, "Then repay to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." Simple, but stunning. The Pharisees, who to their own conviction have a coin of Caesar, can only depart in silence.

What is truth? The Christian truth reveals the constancy, fidelity, and unchanging reality of the love of God, freely given to the world in the person of the Lord Jesus. Jesus is the truth of God. Why? Because God is love and Jesus is the fullness of the revelation of Divine Love through the Incarnation. How? As the essence of love, God gives the Divine self to the world in the person of the Lord Jesus. In the fullness of selfgiving love, Jesus freely surrenders to death on the Cross without resistance, bitterness, or resentment to set us free. How are we made free? Jesus takes into his person your sin and mine, all the sin and evil ever committed as if he himself were the sinner. Taking on all sin, Jesus dies on the Cross only to rise from the dead three days later. In the Resurrection, Jesus defeats, heals, and reconciles the sin of all humanity through this perfect act of Divine self-giving love. This is the truth of God's unconditional, unending love for all who will accept it.

This love and redemption cannot be achieved by any human being. It is all gift, unmerited, undeserved, and freely given. This gift can only be received. To accept in faith, humility, and repentance this gift of God is to come to know the truth of God offered through Christ. This is the truth that sets us free.

The world, even many Christians, are confused and uncertain about this deepest reality of our existence. Why? Surrendered love is hard; very hard, resisted, and often rejected for the sake of self-preservation in the form of my own liking. Deceived by the lie and deception of evil and the sin it ploys, even good-hearted persons of virtue become trapped in the illusion of power, pleasure, and control in this world. We are weak creatures subject to sin and death. We can do nothing to merit heaven on our own, and we don't like that. We want some control over our destiny. We want to know where we stand and how we measure up. Our only salvation is in the One who accepts us as we are with love, assurance, and freely offered forgiveness. To share in so great a gift is to believe and do the best we can to imitate the model and example of our Savior.

We were made to know this truth. Love is the essence of what makes us human beings. We are made in the image of the Divine Maker. The Divine Essence is in each of us. We hold the truth and the truth is love. There is a sacred order to life within and beyond basic morality that calls us to the integrity and dignity of our human nature. No person can be their own highest truth. It is a lie and a deception of control, fear of vulnerability, or blind selfishness.

What belongs to Caesar and what belongs to God? The Christian scriptures call us to the responsible duty to support the social good through civil authorities in service of the greater good. Civil obedience of law, paying fair taxes, and sharing in the social good belong to 'Ceasar' and those elected to lead us. Thus, society is served in stability, rightful order, and advancement.

To God we owe our lives. We belong to God who created us as his beloved children and to Christ who redeemed us. We came into the world with no power and we will leave in the same condition. That should tell us something. We are dependent on God for all things including the very air we breathe, the wonders of creation as gift, and the promise of eternal life. Surrendering to love is hard, but it is the only way to live a meaningful, happy, and truthful life. Cling to nothing of the world for it will all pass. Live in the truth that is the love of God freely given in the Lord Jesus. Be a good citizen, work to better society, pay rightful taxes, but surrender your life to God in Christ. Pray for peace. Be a person of peace.

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, Friday 9-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 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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

MONDAY, October 23, 2023

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

TUESDAY, October 24, 2023

8:00am Mass: Deanna's Intentions req. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, October 25, 2023

8:00am Mass: Paul Marion† req.

by Fr. John Esper

THURSDAY, October 26, 2023

8:00am Mass: Elizabeth Gauronskas† req. by daughter

Mass

Intentions

SATURDAY, October 28, 2023

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

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

Edward Lebioda (57th R.A.) req. by daughter, Jeanette, and Tony Szeliga

SUNDAY, October 29, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Cynthia Vertel(6th R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski Richard Velez† req. by Debbie Tourville Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



Readings for the Week

October 22, 2023

Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10

(7b)/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21

Monday: Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-

75/Lk 12:13-21

Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7

-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38

Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Lk

12:39-48

Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk

12:49-53

Friday: Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77,

93, 94/Lk 12:54-59

Saturday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 6:12-16

Next Sunday: Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51

(2)/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40



Blessing of Missionaries

So often we think of missionaries as those people from Protestant churches that go to other counties to spread the good news. However, do you realize that the United States is actually considered a "mission country" because we need more priests and sisters in the United States than we produce? Yes, we are now a mission country.

Let us ask God's blessing on those men and women from other countries who are in our midst as priests, brothers, and sisters. And when we pray, let us also ask God to change our hearts so that we will again produce a society that brings forth more vocations.

Let us pray...

God of every nation, you commissioned us at Pentecost to go and make disciples of all nations. When we take up your commission, we become missionaries of your Gospel.

Bless all missionaries in our communities with your love that surpasses all understanding. Change our hearts so that we become the missionaries you expect us to be.

We ask this through Jesus, the first missionary of your Gospel.

Amen.

Pray for the Sick of

Pray for...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful solution to world tensions.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, floods, earthquakes and disasters

.....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, 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



29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

With little more than a year until the United States'

national elections, I find myself feeling, like many Catholics, both dread and energized. Dread, because our democratic republic can be a messy endeavor and campaigns a long, nasty, and unedifying slog; energized, because hope for positive societal change can be enticing and engaging. As a pastor, I see similar conflicting attitudes in those whom I serve. How can Catholics best engage our political arena in a way which is truly helpful and worthwhile?

This weeks' gospel reading offers wisdom in this regard. Jesus says, "Render therefore to Caesar the things are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." This riddle forces us to answer for ourselves a hidden question: what is the relationship between political and divine authority? Two common but false answers lead to mischief. If we answer that the two are equivalent, politics becomes our absolute authority. This happens whenever religion is slave to the state, as in the travesty of the pro-Nazi German Christian movement in the 1930s and 40s. It also usually occurs when there is an official state religion. If we answer that the two are totally unrelated, we end up with an unchecked aggressive secularist state as we often experience now. Thus, religion becomes a weak and private pastime.

What's a better alternative? At our best, Christians hold that political authority does indeed have its own legitimate autonomy but is nested within God's all-encompassing authority. Think, for example, of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s respect for politics while also being able to criticize unjust human laws because he recognized a higher heavenly law. In other words, Caesar owns politics — and God owns Caesar. So, we should allow Jesus' words to lead us to have a deep respect and willingness to peacefully engage in politics without making that engagement our religion. We bring our faith to bear on our politics knowing confidently that Caesar isn't God — but he is indeed God's.

— Father John Muir



The November/December envelope packet should be arriving in the mail soon.

To be sure that Christmas donations are properly credited, please DO NOT submit Christmas donations until after December 8th.



Anointing

of the Sick

HEALING MASS NEXT SATURDAY

OCTOBER 28, 2023 - 4:00pm

Fr. John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass.

Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.



Sunday: 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time;

World Mission Sunday

Monday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest Tuesday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Saturday: Sts. Simon and Jude, Apostles

Evangelical Service Corner

PRAYER BLANKET & CARD DECORATING MINISTRIES MEETING Thursday, October 26th - 6-8pm

The Prayer Blanket Ministry and the Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministry will meet this Thursday, October 26th in the church social hall from 6-8:00pm. All are welcome to join us for these ministries.

Mercy in Action Day Thank You

A huge THANK YOU for all who participated in Mercy in Action Day last Saturday. Because of the generosity of our parishioners at large, around 45 volunteers were able to participate in a variety of activities: preparation of about 100 blessing bags containing personal hygiene items and 140 snack bags with your food donations. Some volunteers made 152 infant caps (59 to be delivered to the neonatal intensive care at Royal Oak Beaumont hospital, and 93 going to the women's pregnancy aid center in Madison Heights). 50 prayer blanket squares were decorated for St. Vincent's prayer blanket ministry. The St. Vincent de Paul volunteers collected 4 ½ very large boxes of clothing and several other household items (in spite of the rainy weather). Prior to last Saturday, generous donors provided 10 5# bags of cat food; 7 5# bags of dog food; I tub of litter; a variety of clean towels and blankets which were taken to the animal welfare shelter in Madison Heights. In addition, about 40 persons were present for adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and 20 persons participated in the outdoor rosary.

May God be glorified in all that we have done!



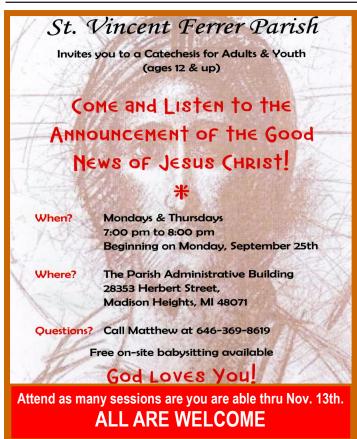












WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

DROPPED HOST

Question: What happens to a consecrated host if it accidentally falls to the ground?

Answer: This a very practical question because, as we all know, accidents happen, even during the most careful celebration of the liturgy. The short answer to this question is that nothing happens to the consecrated host. The Real Presence of Jesus remains in the consecrated host or any consecrated wine that might accidentally be spilled.

Another question we might ask is: How should the minsters respond if the Eucharist is dropped or spilled? If this happens, the priest, deacon, or extraordinary minister of Holy Communion should immediately pick up the dropped host and consume it. If it is a case of the Precious Blood being spilled, the minister would use the purificator (and additional purificators if needed) to clean the spill and then the area should be reverently washed as soon as the Mass is over and the water poured into the sacrarium (a special sink that is located in church sacristies for reverently disposing of holy water, the water used to clean sacred vessels, etc.).

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, October 28, 2023 at 9am Faith Formation Office in School

The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome. No registration is required.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Is 45:1, 4-6

God revealed to the Persian King, Cyrus, that he would be an instrument of the Lord, proving that no other gods exist. What convinces you there is only one Lord of the universe?

Second Reading: 1 Thes 1:1-5b

In his opening words to the believers in Thessalonica, Paul offers a prayer of thanksgiving to God for their faith and hope in Jesus. For what or for who are you thankful to God?

Gospel: Mt 22:15-21

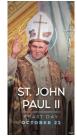
The religious leaders in Jerusalem tried to "entrap" Jesus with the question, "Is it lawful to pay the census tax to Caesar or not?" How often do you feel you have to defend your faith?

©LPi

Ministry Schedule October 28/29, 2023 4:00pm Mass 9:00am D Tourville Sacristan C McCarthy Reader #1 L Yolkiewicz A Goll Reader #2 D Tourville C McCarthy EME L Yolkiewicz A Goll **M** Simmons P Miles R Pasiak M Waskowski S Bosetti L Collins Greeters R Bertolini T Lane R Juska-Svoba **B** Turchin L Proszkowski J Turchin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of October 28/29
Dolores Bail

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...



SAINT JOHN PAUL II OCTOBER 22

St. John Paul II was born Karol Wojtyla in the small Polish town of Wadowice. During World War II, when the Nazis invaded Poland, Karol secretly studied for the priesthood in an underground seminary. He was ordained to the priesthood in 1946, appointed Archbishop

of Krakow in 1964, and three years later he was made a cardinal. In 1978, he was elected the 264th pope, where he took the name John Paul II.

St. John Paul II made evangelization a key part of his papacy and made pastoral visits to all parts of the world. In 1981, he was shot twice in an assassination attempt. Following Jesus' example of compassion, he later met with his would-be assassin in his prison cell, where he forgave him for what he had done.

St. John Paul II was well-known to be an active sportsman throughout his life, hiking and skiing well into his 60s. In 1992, his health began to decline, and it was later discovered that he suffered from Parkinson's disease, a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system.

Near the end of his papacy, it became difficult for him to speak, and his poor health and physical suffering made public appearances difficult. Still, he continued his pastoral work. He died April 2, 2005, and he was declared blessed on May 1, 2011. He became a saint on April 27, 2014.



SAINT ANTHONY MARY CLARET OCTOBER 24

Saint Anthony Mary Claret is also known as the "spiritual father of Cuba." He was born in Salient in Catalonia, Spain, in 1807. He became a weaver, like his father, and was very talented. But he studied in his spare time ANTHONY MARY CLARET to become a priest and was ordained in 1835. In 1849 the saint founded the Claretians, a religious institute of missionaries, and a

companion order of women religious who served as teachers for girls.

From 1850 to 1857 he served as Archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, where he worked diligently to reform both clergy and laity. He opposed concubinage and instructed black slaves, and championed familyowned farms instead of the mass farming of a sugar cash crop. These stances were vehemently opposed by many, and Saint Anthony was the target of assassins.

He was recalled to act as Queen Isabella II's confessor, a duty he reluctantly agreed to, with the exceptions that he would reside away from the court, attending the household only to hear confessions and instruct the children. While in Spain he founded the Religious Publishing House and wrote or published 200 Catholic books and pamphlets. He went into exile to France with the Queen's household during the Spanish Revolution of 1868.

The saint returned to Rome to Participate in Vatican I where he defended the infallibility of the Pope. He died in France in 1870 and was canonized in 1950 by Pope Pius XII.



MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

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

SUNDAY-7:30am, 9:30am (livestreamed), 11:30am 4:00pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00pm

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

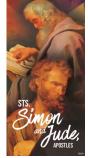
St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J) 50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)

SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Justin SUNDAY - 9:00am & 11:00am - St. Mary Magdalen MON-WED & FRI- 9:00am - St. Justin

St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067 SATURDAY - 4:30pm SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am WED - 12:10pm



ST. JUDE AND ST. SIMON OCTOBER 28

Saint Jude, known as Thaddaeus, was a son or brother of Saint James the Less, and a relative of Jesus. He was one of the twelve Apostles and said to be the author of the Letter of Jude in the Bible. He was called Jude to avoid confusing him with Judas, the Iscariot, who

betrayed Jesus. In the Roman Catholic Church, he is the patron saint of desperate cases and lost causes.

Also celebrated this day is St. Simon, the Zealot. St. Simon was also one of the twelve apostles and was not the apostle Simon who was later named Peter by Jesus. When he met Jesus, he was a member of the Zealots. It was a Jewish sect which was passionate about the honor of God and the purity of religion. He is patron saint of curriers, sawyers and tanners.

Not much more is known about these two apostles. After evangelizing in different areas separately, tradition has it that they united to spread the gospel in Persia, where they were martyred in 65AD. It is believed that St. Jude was beaten to death with a club then decapitated, and St. Simon was crucified.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God is greater than this world, and his truth is stronger than all its ideologies. Remember that no matter how we vote, who we agree with or what our background is, we belong to Him alone.

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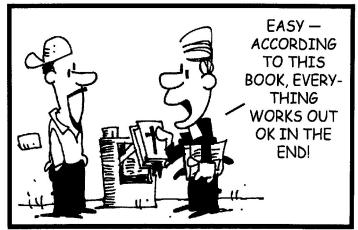


CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who is the person that Mary appeared to in Guadalupe, Mexico? ©LPi

Answer: Juan Diego





JUSTA SECOND

Adam: What is a million years like to you?

God: Like one second.

Adam: What is a million dollars like to you?

God: Like one penny.

Adam: Can I have a penny? God: Sure, just a second.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 14/15 Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24 Budgeted Over/Under YTD Actual Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants 245 94 Offertory (including loose cash) \$ 5,293.00 \$4,278.89 (1,014.11)(2,685.39)289.00 \$37.00 Energy (252.00)(652.08)Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles \$ 1,115.39 32.00 (1,083.39)(15,356.68)Mass Intentions n/a .00 1,420.00 AOD Collections: World Mission: Propagation of the Faith 25.00 25.00 n/a 15.00 All Holy Days n/a 811.00 Budget deficit donations 60.00 3,739.00 Priest Retirement Fund 5.00 1,180.00



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