

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JANUARY 28, 2024 † FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

In the early days of ministry, the people were amazed at the words and deeds of Jesus. They expressed astonishment at the words of Jesus and the authority with which he speaks. What is going on here? Why were these people so impressed? The greater question is, why are we so much less impressed by the words and the works of Jesus in our time?

On the one hand, it is true that familiarity can lessen amazement in things that become common, even when such actions and events are clearly works of God. In their amazement, the people who personally encountered Jesus outwardly wondered, 'What is this? What does this mean?

On the other hand, to look beyond the words will lead us to a deeper understanding of the meaning and purpose of the words and works of the Lord Jesus. Early on, the people seemed to learn less about what Jesus taught than how he taught. Jesus taught with authority. What does this mean? Through the words of Jesus, the people are hearing the truth of God directly from the mouth of God himself in the person of Jesus. This was in great contrast to the steady repetition of the teachers of the Law who typically taught and insisted on the best ways to follow the commandments of God. Law keepers were acceptably righteous, while Law breakers were rejected sinners. Big difference.

The words and actions of Jesus are intimately related. The words of Jesus have authority and the works of Jesus have power. In his words and deeds, Jesus is revealing his identity as the Holy One of God, the long-awaited Messiah. This is further confirmed in the encounter with the man with an unclean spirit. The 'unclean spirit' represents evil and those powers of darkness that are hostile to God and rejecting of Jesus. Mark, the gospel writer, sets up for us from the beginning of the ministry of Jesus the tension of the light of God against the darkness of evil. It is the work and intention of evil to defeat the mission of health and Divine goodness revealed in the Lord Jesus.

The truth of God revealed in Jesus is seen in his sovereign authority. The authority of God given through Jesus is the unchanging transcendent power of Divine love. Divine love is truth, revealed in the justice, mercy, and integrated wholeness of the human-Divine man, Jesus Christ. This love is purposeful, intentional, and undivided in the work of redemption for the eventual union of all things in God. This is the authority that amazed and astonished the earliest believers.

In contrast, the works of evil are experienced in the lies, deception, and cunning of the Devil. Such lies are evident in chaos, confusion, and disorder that leads to division, separation, and often violence stirred by hatred. Evil leads to dis- integration and fragmentation in its opposition to unity and health found in God.

Consider the efforts of the unclean spirit. The spirit is shown to perceive the identity of Jesus. With this knowledge, the unclean spirit cunningly tries to thwart the goodness and the good work of Jesus. The spirit boldly cries out with presumed authority over Jesus, "What have you to do with us (evil spirits), Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are – the Holy One of God!" The spirit knows exactly what Jesus is about and tries to scare him off. It is the work of Jesus to destroy all evil, and the spirit knows this.

Resolutely, Jesus rebukes the spirit, "Quiet! Come out of him!" The spirit convulses his victim with a loud cry and comes out. We are not told about the person who was under the spirit's influence, or why the person came to this disorder. This point is that the person is now free, delivered from the grip of the spirit and able to express faith in the words and works of Jesus. The unclean spirit is left to wander in the wasteland, lost and unredeemed in his rejection of the truth of God revealed in the Lord Jesus.

This gospel invites us to ponder the authority and power of God that we hold and profess in the Lord Jesus. Jesus is the revelation of Divine love Incarnate for the redemption of humanity and all creation. In the work of our redemption there will inevitably be the tension and contradiction of sin and grace. This side of heaven, sin will be with us, and the disorder of evil will ploy against us in our desire to follow the light and goodness of God in Christ. Grace will always be with us such that when we fail or fall short, we can call on the Lord for mercy and forgiveness.

The dynamic of Mark's gospel calls us to faith and truth in the power and authority of Jesus, the Christ. The question remains for us to answer, 'What is this, and what does it mean? For the believer it means hope, promise, and freedom in the truth of eternal life. Jesus defeated evil, sin, and death through his death offered in perfect love for you personally and for all creation.

That is amazing and worthy of our astonishment. Deepen your faith in Jesus, reject evil, confess sin, and rejoice in the power and truth of our redemption.

Father John Esper

ETURGICAL 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 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, January 29, 2024

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

TUESDAY, January 30, 2024

8:00am Mass: Deceased Morello Family req. by Debbie Tourville

WEDNESDAY, January 31, 2024

8:00am Mass: Dianne Karolski† req. by Stan & Linda

Yolkiewicz

THURSDAY, February 1, 2024

8:00am Mass: Robert Bischoff (44th R.A.) req. by Jane

SATURDAY, February 3, 2024

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

Daniel V. Sanocki† req. by Family

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, February 4, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Dianne Karolski† req. by Mel & Marie Szlag Jane McKay (Birthday Blessings) Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Tresa Lamerato†(4th R.A.) req. by Meg & Sam Lamerato

Antonia Brillantes† req. by Family

We are collecting dried palms to turn into ashes.

Please place them in the marked baskets at the church entrances.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

January 28, 2024

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/1

Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3,

4 -5, 6-7/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/

Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk

6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab,

11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9,

10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13,

14/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (see

3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39

SIX WEEK GRIEF SUPPORT SERIES BEGINS THIS THURSDAY

Register by THIS MONDAY - Jan. 29th Call the parish office to register.

Beginning this Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 10am to 11:45am in the Administration bldg, dining hall, Judy McCown and Mike Kairis will facilitate a 6 week grief support series. The purpose of this grief support group is to provide a safe place for people who have experienced the loss of a significant person in their lives to engage in the work of mourning. Using the "companioning" model developed by Alan Wolfelt, Ph.D., we hope to help participants support each other in their journey through grief. Each session will explore different aspects of grief and mourning with a sensitivity to each individual's unique experience of loss and grieving. Through weekly reading, reflection, and sharing, group members will work together through the essential phases of grief and mourning from the reality of loss to moving forward in life with a sense of hope and gratitude. Space in limited. No fee.

INTERGENERATIONAL HEALING MASS

Tuesday, February 6, 2024 7:00pm St. Vincent Ferrer Church Celebrant: Fr. John Esper

What is intergenerational healing?

We all understand the concept of material inheritance. After people die, they often leave money, property and possessions to family members.

We are also aware of a physical inheritance. Doctors always ask for the family medical history of a new patient. There is also a spiritual inheritance. We can thank God and family for the benefit from our virtuous ancestors going back a thousand generations (see Sirach 44:10-12). We are also adversely affected by the sins of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and by the sins of the ancestors, who adversely affected them, with consequences that may extend to what is inherited materially, emotionally and physically.

In his book entitled *Intergenerational Healing*, Fr. Robert De Grandis writes: "intergenerational healing is, for the Christian, an opportunity to recognize and bring healing to family influences from the past, with implications for the future. Intergenerational healing suggests the possibility that negative acts and deeds of our ancestors can somehow enter our "bloodstream" and take a toll on future generations. Transforming the connection with these troublesome roots is what intergenerational healing is all about. It's an exciting, fascinating area of the healing ministry."

All are welcome.

GATHERING THIS TUESDAY FOR

SACRISTANS, GREETERS, READERS & EMES

JAN. 30TH - 7:00PM - ADMIN BLDG.

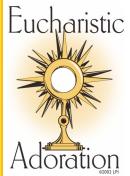
Make plans to attend an evening of renewal and reflection Tuesday, January 30th at 7pm in the Admin bldg. dining hall. Fr. John will lead us in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving for our ministries. The evening will also attend to tasks and format of the individual ministries.

This meeting will also meet the requirements of the Archdiocese to recertify ministers every 3 years.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who was the first Catholic president of the United States? ©LPi

Answer: John F. Kennedy



Lent Begins February 14th

We are planning to extend hours of Adoration following the 8am Mass Tuesday mornings until Noon during Lent. In order to do so, we need people to keep Jesus company during those hours. Please sign up at the table near the Herbert St. vestibule door.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Dt 18:15-20

Moses taught the Israelites that God would raise up a prophet like him to teach them the Lord's commands. But he also forewarned about false prophets. How can we avoid listening to false prophetic voices?

Second Reading: 1 Cor 7:32-35

Paul expresses his desire for the Corinthian believers to be free of anxiety so they can focus their attention and energies on Jesus. What distracts you from the Lord?

Gospel: Mk 1:21-28

Mark informs us that early in Jesus's public ministry his "fame spread" quickly throughout Galilee because of his powerful deeds, such as the healing of the demonpossessed man in today's reading. Is there something or someone in your life that you pray Jesus would heal?

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AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE HEALING CHRIST

A Manresa Silent Healing Retreat Friday to Sunday - March 1 - 3

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 4:30pm (Dinner 6:00pm)
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 For more information call 248.644.4933



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions.

...medical and humanitarian

aid for those suffering from hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, wars, floods, 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, 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

What Have You to Do with Me, of Nazareth?

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Inevitably, when we read the story of the Garden of Eden, my children try to imagine what life would be like if Adam and Eve had not sinned against God.

"Would we have to go to school?" they ask me. "Would we get sick? Could we eat whatever we want? Would we get older?"

I tell them the only thing I know for sure about a world without sin is that we would be happier. I can see confusion in their faces — *Why? How?* — but I have none of the concrete answers they want. I don't know how to describe a happiness untouched by sin.

The moment sin entered the world, a chasm erupted between God and mankind. There is now a space between humanity and the divine, a cavernous and seemingly impassable void into which God calls for us, unendingly. And because we are lost in the dark, and miserable, instead of following his voice when we hear it, instead we reply: "What do you want?"

"What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"

Did the unclean spirit know, when he cried out all those thousands of years ago in Capernaum, that he was giving voice to a question which defined the human condition? They are the words of a demon, yes, but they are also my words. Far, far more often than I care to admit, when God is reaching for me, I look upon His hand with contempt and confusion. When I am grappling with a problem or a sin which overwhelms me, again and again I forget that I already know the solution.

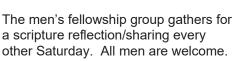
The tragedy of original sin is not that we live in a world where we cannot eat what we want, where we age, and where we become sick and die. The tragedy of sin is that we have forgotten how to be happy. We look at happiness and we think: "What do you want with me?"

"If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts."
— Psalm 95:7

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, February 3, 2024 at 9am Faith Formation Office in School





INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

With one swift command, Jesus freed a man from the possession of evil spirits. He has that same power to banish the shadow of sin from our own lives. Let's invite him into our hearts, asking him to cleanse the darkness he finds there.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie "Nefarious" features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like *multiple* persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel *fake* sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?" Notice the plural, us. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man's identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, "Quiet! Come out of him!" Jesus' word has the power to restore the man's singularity — him — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

— Father John Muir ©LPi

Ministry Schedule February 3/4, 2024						
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am				
Sacristan	T Riley	D Tourville				
Reader #1	J McCown	D Gray				
Reader #2	M Kairis	A Goll				
EME	J McCown R Pasiak	A Goll R Grant				
	M Kairis	D Gray				
Greeters	L Collins R Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba P Rarus				
	T Pasiak	D Vu				
	R Bertolini	T Lane				
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Feb. 3/4, 2024 Sally & Gene Bosetti						



The educational efforts of a Catholic school are focused on the life of faith. That faith is formed in knowledge of the teachings of the Church and of the Gospel, and those qualities are demonstrated through a life of service to the community.

Prayer for the Youth

Dear Lord,

Be with our young people this week and always—keep them in Your care. Help them to form godly friendships, speak the truth, and know You in the personal way that will challenge, shape, and guide them. Amen. ©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

COMMUNION & MORTAL SIN

Question: I have a friend who receives communion, but who I know for a fact is in a state of mortal sin. Should I tell our priest? Is it my responsibility to say something?

Answer: While we may always want to do what is best for our friends and family members, we have a responsibility to respect their privacy and their conscience. In its reflections on the Eighth Commandment ("You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor"), the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. [One] becomes guilt: -of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor; -of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another's faults and failings to persons who do not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them" (no. 2477).

We will never truly know what is in a person's mind, heart, and soul; only God knows those things. We should, of course, take our concerns to God and entrust the person about whom we are concerned to God's grace and mercy. If we have concerns about the spiritual wellbeing of someone with whom we are close, we should go to the person themselves and talk about our fears and concerns. Unless it is a case of abuse or endangerment (which we have a moral and even legal responsibility to report to the appropriate authorities), we ultimately do not have the freedom to share another's persons faults or sins, however good we think our intentions might be.

EUCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES



St. Pius X, Pope (1835 – 1914)

St. Pius X, born Giuseppe Melchiorre Sarto, was from the Austrian Empire in what is now modern-day Veneto, Italy. He was

the 257th Pope and served from 1903 until his death in 1914. St. Pius X's love for the Eucharist was evident from a young age and he carried this devotion throughout his life. As Pope, he emphasized the importance of fostering a personal relationship with Jesus through the Sacrament, advocating for its accessibility to all Catholics, regardless of social status.

One of St. Pius X's most significant contributions to the Church was the role he played in lowering the age of eligibility for First Communion. Recognizing the significance of early spiritual formation, he sought to enable children to receive the Eucharist as soon as they reached seven years old. He believed that children could experience the profound graces of the Eucharist, grow in their faith at an early age, and that the reception of Holy Communion regularly in a child's life would set the foundation for a lifetime of spiritual growth.

His papacy was also marked by his efforts to combat the rising tide of modernism — a movement that challenged traditional Catholic teachings. He wrote an encyclical entitled "Pascendi Dominici Gregis," subtitled "On the Doctrines of the Modernists," condemning modernist errors and safeguarding the integrity of Church doctrine. His commitment to preserving the traditional scope of Catholicism, especially the teachings of Christ's true presence in the Eucharist, earned him the epithet "Pope of the Eucharist."

Despite his rejection of modernism, St. Pius X was the first Pope to use a typewriter for his encyclicals, signaling an embrace of modern technology during his time as Pope. St. Pius X, Pope of the Eucharist, pray for us!

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time,

Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

Wednesday: St. John Bosco, Priest

Friday: The Presentation of the Lord, World

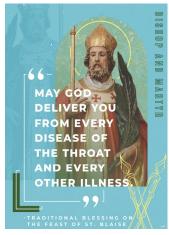
Day for Consecrated Life

Saturday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St.

Ansgar, Bishop

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time OLPI

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



St. Blaise | February 3

You may be familiar with the annual "blessing of throats" that many parishes in the United States use to commemorate the beloved bishop and martyr. St. Blaise lived in the fourth century in Turkey and Armenia. Due to religious persecution, he was forced to flee and hide in a cave in the back country in order to save his life.

History has it that one day a group of hunters stumbled upon where St. Blaise was living. They found the bishop kneeling in prayer, surrounded by wolves, lions, and bears that he had tamed. The legend has it that as the hunters dragged Blaise off to prison, a mother came with her young son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At Blaise's command, the child was able to cough up the bone and thus lived.

Today we remember the saint on his feast day by taking two candles, crossing them against the throat, and saying the following prayer:

Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

©LPi



FEB. 2nd

God of all

goodness, you have called people to follow you faithfully. Humans have heard that call and many choose to follow your call in varied and faith-filled lives. Some follow your call in private, silent lives as hermits; some choose to follow you with lives lived as virgins and widows; while others choose public lives of vowed men and women as religious brothers and sisters.

Abundantly give to these men and women the courage to follow their call as witnesses to your gifts and faith and service to the world.

We ask this in faith through the name of Jesus our Savior. Amen. $$^{\tiny{\mbox{\tiny \mbox{\tiny }}}}$LPi}$







248-770-7645







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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 21/22						
Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD		
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	18				
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 7,624.59	2,331.59	(4,349.99)		
Energy	289.00	545.00	256.00	(854.61)		
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	87.90	(1,027.49)	(27,721.57)		
Mass Intentions	n/a	100.00		3,630.00		
Holy Days: Immaculate Conception, Mary Mother of God	n/a	55.00		4,572.00		
Budget deficit donations		50.00		5,573.37		
2023 CSA overage returned (3,442.84 unpaid pledges remain)				6,328.16		



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