

From The Pastor

To fully realize the power and new life of the Resurrection there must be an experience of the pain and loss of a real death. The transforming awareness of new life and love is only realized in the surrendered acceptance of a real loss. Death can only change a beloved survivor into new life, meaning, and purpose through a journey of loss and recovery. Such a journey has steps and stages that moves each person in their own unique way.

Consider the experience in the Upper Room with the fearful disciples behind locked doors. They are in the trauma, confusion, and loss of their beloved Jesus. Their hopes are crushed. Their faith in the power and Lordship of Jesus seems to be as dead as his body. Feeling the mood and dark energy in the room, consider the shock of Jesus appearing before them. Jesus says, "Peace be with you." As evidence, he shows them the physicality of his wounded hands and side.

This is a premier encounter of grace. To say they 'rejoiced' would be an understatement of shock and joyous confusion. Jesus repeats, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you. He breathes on them saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit. The sins you forgive are forgiven, and the sins you retain are retained." Everything changes in an instant yet takes the rest of their lives to understand and fulfill.

This is the Pentecost scene in St. John's gospel. The journey from death to the new life of the Resurrection depends on the action and acceptance of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the love of God and only love has the power to transform death into new life. Consider these words. They are true spiritually, emotionally, psychologically, morally, and physically. Every aspect of the human personality is contained within the spiritual nature of our identity. We are spiritual beings, and any true human transformation can only happen through the action of the Holy Spirit.

For those present, this was a two-fold movement. In the presence of Jesus, his word of peace frees the disciples from fear, guilt, and confusion that begins the healing of the Lord's death. Seemingly instantaneous, the disciples still had to process and accept the reality of Jesus' death, his scourging, humiliation, and shame. These images were not simply deleted from their mind's eye, nor were they intended too. An emotional and psychological process had to take place. Jesus did die a tortuous death for the sake of defeating the power of evil and our personal sin. Now they see him alive. Enter the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus breathes on them. Breath is an action of the Holy Spirit that gives or creates new life. The breath of love animates new life within and beyond the trauma, loss, and separation of death. Not only physical death, but also spiritual death. Sin is spiritual death. This is part of the journey to new life. Forgiveness brings new life in the willingness to let sin go, surrendering it to the love of Jesus and the power of his Cross. Conversely, to retain sin or bind sin in unforgiveness leaves a person or persons bound in the unfreedom of fear and guilt. Only in the Holy Spirit are we able to realize the new life of the Resurrection in the forgiveness of our sin and our merciful forgiveness of the sins of others.

The transforming power of the Spirit is given another expression in the story of Thomas. Why is this story included? It was likely a real event. It is also pertinent to many believers today. A part of Thomas is in each of us. This is another step in the process from death to new life. Death is often denied, or at least accepted only on the surface. Even more resisted is the belief of life after death. Many people are 'have to see it to believe it' kind of people. Notice that Jesus accepts with patience the stubborn resistance of Thomas. Jesus allows his need to see and touch his wounds. The exchange confirms the Lord's death as well as the reality of his Resurrection in his living presence. Thomas could only surrender in humility: "My Lord and my God." Jesus councils, "Do not persist in unbelief, but believe." This too is an action of the Holy Spirit.

To accept the reality of life after death, we are compelled to surrender our old ways of knowing, thinking, relating, and being. The Resurrection of Jesus changes everything. Life after death in the body changes the meaning and purpose of how we live. In the fruit of redemption, we are restored to our original nature. Reconciled in the death of Jesus, we are given new life and full relationship with God. We exist in the love of God for the purpose of loving.

On this Mercy Sunday, consider your new life in the power of the Risen Christ. Now reconciled in Christ, the doors are unlocked and wide open for you to have a full and rich relationship with God. Let go of fear, guilt, and unforgiveness. Die to all that is not life giving in yourself and embrace the gift of love that is the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is given. Make a conscious act of acceptance to receive the power of this redeeming love.

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 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

Mass

MONDAY, April 8, 2024 8:00am Mass: Linda Karolski† req. by Bernadette Gutowski TUESDAY, April 9, 2024

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

WEDNESDAY, April 10, 2024 8:00am Mass: Religious sisters who taught at St. Vincent Ferrer School

THURSDAY, April 11, 2024 8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer SATURDAY, April 13, 2024 4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Mike Gonzales, Sr.† req. by Regis Welsh Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom Aro J. Gallerani† (3rd R.A.) req. by Family SUNDAY, April 14, 2024 9:00am Mass: Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Ron Sadowski† (29th R.A.) req. by Nancy Sadowski Living & Deceased Members & Families of Fr. Heary Knights of Columbus Council David Rudy† req. by Mary Jane Guc

Leonard Kwapis† req. by Members of the SVF St. Vincent de Paul Conference Dianne Karolski† req. by Tim & Nancy Oparka

Linda Karolski† req. by Tim & Nancy Oparka



READINGS FOR THE WEEK April 7, 2024

Sunday:	Acts 4:32-35/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24
Mandayu	(1)/1 Jn 5:1-6/Jn 20:19-31
Monday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
Tuesday:	Acts 4:32-37/Ps 93:1ab, 1cd-2, 5/Jn
	3:7b-15
Wednesday:	Acts 5:17-26/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Thursday:	Jn 3:16-21 Acts 5:27-33/Ps 34:2 and 9, 17-18, 19-
Thanbauy.	20/Jn 3:31-36
Friday:	Acts 5:34-42/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Jn 6:1-
C (1	15
Saturday:	Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/Jn 6:16-21
Next Sunday:	
5	(7a)/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Question: Where did the feast of Divine Mercy come from?

Answer: If you were born well before the year 2000, you know the feast of Divine Mercy has not always been celebrated in the Church. In the early 1900s, a young Polish nun began receiving private revelations. Jesus appeared to her during her times of prayer, speaking a message of mercy and love for the world. She received a set of prayers — the Divine Mercy Chaplet — and the request to have a feast day established to remind the Church of the mercy of God. St. Faustina died in 1938, on the cusp of war and in the midst of one of the most violent centuries in the history of the world.

Her story and her diaries began circulating in Poland and beyond. It quickly became apparent that this was a holy young women, and the cause for her canonization opened. In the year 2000, she was canonized by the first-ever Polish pope, St. John Paul II. On her canonization day, he established the second Sunday of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday,

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S H O W E R Please return unwrapped gifts to the tables in back of church NEXT weekend, April 13/14, or drop them off at the Parish office

before noon on Friday April 12th.

ITEMS REQUESTED

diapers (all sizes) baby wipes diaper bags wash clothes burp pads quilts, blankets receiving blankets pacifiers layettes bibs bottles shampoo body wash outfits rattles onesies socks booties nail clipper sets brush and comb sets light-weight sleepers

Baby gifts will go to Wee Care and Madison Family Planning "a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come." ©LPi

St. FAUSTINA (1905-1938)

St. Faustina was born Helena Kowalska in Poland to a poor family with ten children. They were devoutly Catholic, and she felt a call to the religious life at age seven,



when praying in front of the exposed Eucharist. Despite wanting to become a sister as soon as she finished her schooling, she was sent to work as a housekeeper to help support the family instead.

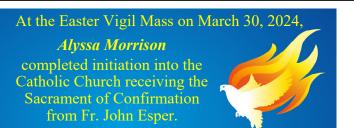
When she was 18, she had a vision of Jesus suffering and, in the vision, Jesus asked her how long she would keep putting off entering religious life. She decided, at that moment, to travel to Warsaw and join the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. Upon entering the Congregation, she took the name Sister Maria Faustina.

During her 13 years in the Congregation, Sister Faustina experienced and recorded extraordinary revelations from Jesus. She recorded these experiences and messages into notebooks which became later known as the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*. In these writings, she reveals Jesus asking her to proclaim God's loving message of Divine Mercy.

Alongside her writings, Sister Faustina also experienced many miraculous phenomena. There are stories of her experiencing hidden stigmata, bilocation, prophecy, and the ability to read into human souls. Despite these occurrences, she maintained that miraculous events were simply "ornaments" for the soul and that her real sanctity came from her deep relationship with Jesus and desire to do God's will.

After her death at age 33, her writings on Divine Mercy sparked a great movement in the worldwide Catholic church with a strong focus on the Mercy of Christ and how to extend that mercy to others. Saint Pope John Paul II called her "the great apostle of Divine Mercy in our time." St. Faustina, pray for us!

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church



May God continue to bless her on her faith journey.

Written in the Wounds

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

For all the condemnation Thomas the Doubter has received in 2000 years of homilies, I think there's something to admire in him.

Thomas is not unique. We all waver at some point, overcome by hesitation, distracted by the clamor of the world which seeks at every turn to shout above the whisper of the divine.

Thomas knows what he saw on Good Friday: his friend nailed to a cross, a sword driven through his body. He saw the blood and the water. He saw these things with his own eyes, eyes given to him by God, eyes which have never failed him before. And God doesn't ask us to suspend reality to believe in Him. He only asks us to be discerning about how that reality is interpreted in our hearts.

Thomas knows the man before him is either a fraud, preying on the hopes and anxieties of the traumatized disciples, or he is the Christ, the Savior of the world, accomplisher of impossible things. But where to look, to tell the difference?

Satan once appeared to the great mystic saint, Teresa of Avila, disguised as Jesus. She knew instantly that he was a fraud. Enraged, he demanded to know where his deception had failed. "You have no wounds," she told him simply.

Could we have accepted a savior who did not bleed? I don't think we could, because sooner or later, we would all stand before him and say, "Here is where the world hurt me. Here, and here, and here. What about you?" Christ can point to his hands, his feet, his side. "Here, and here, and here," he can say. "And I overcame them all." It's the wounds, you see. The truth is in the wounds.

Thomas answered and said to him, "My Lord and my God!" — John 20:28 ©LPi

PALM SUNDAY RAFFLE

This year's Palm Sunday raffle was supported by the donation of twelve baskets whose contents were a great part of Easter meals for many parishioners. \$365.00 was raised by ticket sales and was given to assist in scholarships for our own Religious Education program. A big "thank you" to all who provided baskets, bought raffle tickets, participated in the fun, and to those who organized, set up, and led the event.

Great fun was had by all!

EVANGELICAL CHARITY

MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION

April 13/14 Items requested:

Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like: Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including:

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable foods from: Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING April 9 - 6:30pm - in church

If you are interested in joining St. Vincent de Paul Society, we meet at the back of the Church every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30PM to 8PM. You can also reach us at svfconference@gmail.com.

NO BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS THIS MONTH



...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



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WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

SHOULD A CATHOLIC PURSUE AN ANNULMENT?

Question: After a civil divorce, is a Catholic obligated to pursue an annulment?

Answer: Many Catholics are not exactly sure what an annulment does. An annulment does not deny that a marriage took place, nor does it deny that there once was love. It does not mean that people say anything untrue, such as they never loved each other or that everything in their marriage was wrong. An annulment does not negate children, nor make them illegitimate. An annulment addresses the spiritual aspect of marriage. In effect, an annulment says that at the time of the wedding, there was either something present or something absent that prevented the sacrament from taking place. It is a spiritual determination that, if granted in the affirmative, allows a person to marry in the Church.

Annulments have no legal standing and are unable to be used in a civil court. Therefore, a Catholic has no moral obligation to pursue an annulment. However, when the tragedy of divorce occurs, and there is no hope for reconciliation, annulments may help bring some spiritual closure to a person's life. Some people have found the process to be healing and others have found it to be difficult. Speak to your priest or a member of the Diocesan Tribunal staff to decide what is best for you. ©LPi

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, April 13th 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.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Acts 4:32-35

We hear how the early Christians lived in unity and holiness, bearing witness to Jesus, and living in community as friends. Which of these traits do you see at work in your faith community?

Second Reading: 1 Jn 5:1-6

John teaches his community that our faith in Jesus helps us "conquer the world." What struggles are you facing that you need to confront and defeat?

Gospel: Jn 20:19-31

The risen Jesus meets Thomas in the midst of his doubt and encourages him to believe. Who could you encourage this week to have faith in the resurrection of Jesus? ©LP

Prayer for the 2nd Sunday of Easter

Dear Jesus,

As you greeted your disciples after you rose, fill us, too, with your peace. As you breathed your spirit on them, breathe on us, too. As your presence was known to Thomas, make it known to us, too. Help us to live in your peace, power, and presence. Amen.

©LPi



THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD April 8, 2024

Why April 8th and not March 25th?

This Solemnity commemorates the annunciation of the Incarnation of Jesus by the angel Gabriel to the Blessed Mother. It is usually celebrated March 25th, nine months before Christmas. Since, there are no solemnities or feast days celebrated during Holy Week or the Octave of Easter, which follows Holy Week, the celebration of the Annunciation was moved to Monday April 8th, 2024.

Ministry Schedule April 13/14, 2024						
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am				
Sacristan	R Pasiak	C McCarthy				
Reader #1	P Miles	P Allen				
Reader #2	R Pasiak	C McCarthy				
EME	M Simmons P Miles D Tourville	R Grant D Gray T Karolski				
Greeters	L Collins T Pasiak	D Vu S Bosetti				
	P Miles M Smith	P Rarus B Turchin				
Traveling Chal	ice Host beginning w Mary Ann Simr	/eek of April 13/14, 2024 mons				

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



ST. ANDREW OF CRETE (650-c.726)

St. Andrew of Crete also known as St. Andrew of Jerusalem, was born in the Syrian city of Damascus devout Christian parents.

According to legend, he was mute until he was 7 years old and miraculously cured after he received his First Holy Communion.

As a young teenager, Andrew entered a monastery near Jerusalem. His exceptional qualities quickly caught the attention of his superiors, leading to his appointment as Archdeacon by Theodore, the Patriarch of Jerusalem at the time. The Patriarch of Jerusalem is the head bishop of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem. Theodore also sent Andrew to represent the Church at the Sixth Ecumenical Council in Constantinople called by Emperor Constantine, playing a role in addressing the heresy of Monothelitism. This Sixth Council was pivotal in establishing that Jesus had both divine and human nature.

St. Andrew of Crete would go on to become an influential theologian, bishop, and hymnographer. Around the year 700 he was appointed Archbishop of the city of Gortyn, on the island of Crete. His service to the Church included charitable work for the poor and orphaned and he is credited with introducing the canon, a new form of hymn, into the liturgy.

His most renowned work, the Great Canon, is a masterpiece that guides the faithful through repentance and a return to God. To this day, the Great Canon is chanted twice a year in Eastern Orthodox liturgies during Lent. It takes around three hours to complete and includes more than 200 full-body prostrations along with its many odes, litanies, and refrains.

While the exact date of Andrew's death remains uncertain, it is known that he passed away on the island of Mytilene while returning to Crete from Constantinople. St. Andrew of Crete, pray for us!

©LPi

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What does OCIA stand for?

into the Catholic Church. Adults. This is the name of the process taken to enter Answer: The Order of Christian Initiation of

Jesus to St. Faustina...

Tell [all people], My daughter, that I am Love and Mercy itself. When a soul approaches Me with trust, I fill it with such an abundance of graces that it cannot contain them



within itself, but radiates them to other souls." -Diary (of St. Faustina) 1074

TODAY IS THE DAY

After my mother passed away, my sister and father had a falling out of sorts. When he moved to be closer to me, she told me that she didn't ever want to speak to him again, saying, "Even if he is on his death bed, do not call me." My father was in his late 70's, and the pain he would have felt if he knew her wishes would have been too much to bear. Because of this, I made a decision to not tell him. This also put a strain on my relationship with my sister as I cared for the one person in this world she seemed to despise the most.

Of all the gifts God has given us, time and family are at the top of the list to be cherished. Also, both are finite gifts. Our family members will not walk in this world forever, and each day that slips away cannot be restored. Still, we build up walls of fear, doubt, resentment, anger, and pain, not allowing ourselves to forgive and be good stewards of what we have been given.

On Divine Mercy Sunday, God's mercy is overflowing through all the earth. There is no excuse for you and me to not be reconciled with God and accept this profound compassion. In turn, there is no excuse to not extend that mercy and reconcile with those who have hurt us.

I always believed I would have a renewed relationship with my sister when my father's death would come to pass. Two weeks after he passed, my sister suddenly died as well. There is no rewind of time. Yes, good stewards, today is the day!

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Monday: Thursday: Saturday: Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter

2nd Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy) The Annunciation of the Lord St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr St. Martin I, Pope and Martyr ©LPi

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We find unfathomable mercy and everlasting love in the wounds of Christ — even when we are skeptical, even when we carry doubt. God meets us there in the confusion. He reaches for our hand and places them at his side. We just have to call his name. ©LPi



St. Justin-St. Mary Magdalen Rummage & Bake Sale St. Justin Church 16 Evelyn , Hazel Park Friday: April 19th 10:00AM-5:00PM Saturday: April 20th 10:00AM-5:00PM Sunday: April 21st 10:00AM-1:00PM Special Pricing on Sunday!!! Sale Items Include: Clothing, Toys, Lamps, Glassware, Furniture, Baked Goods, and many other wonderful things! **Raffle Drawing on Sunday** Tickets available at \$1.00 each - in books of 10 **Prizes** 1st Prize - \$500.00 Cash 2nd Prize - \$100.00 Kroger Card 3rd Prize - \$50.00 Meijer Card

Jesus to St. Faustina...

"My Heart overflows with great mercy for souls, and especially for poor sinners. If only they could understand that I am the best of Fathers to them and that it is for them that the Blood and Water flowed from My Heart as from a fount overflowing with mercy." —Diary(of St. Faustina) 367



Hosted by:

Fr. Heary K of C Council

Where: St. Vincent Ferrer - Social Hall 28353 Herbert St. Madison Heights, MI 48071

When: April 12th – Registration starts @ 6:30pm

Entry Fee \$30.00 Cash per player – Cost covers one Food & one Beverage item per player. Additional food and beverages available for purchase.

This is a blind draw Cornhole tournament

1st Place Cash Prize!

2nd Place Cash Prize!

3rd Place Entry Fee Returned!

There will be 50/50 drawings & gift basket raffles.

Please help make this a successful event for Fr. Heary K of C Council #7239 to support our 4 key principles: Charity, Unity, Fraternity & Patriotism.

Please share this flyer with friends and family. All are welcome.

Questions regarding this Cornhole tournament - Call Glain @ 586-876-3974 Sponsorships are welcome – Call 248-885-1847

Cornhole equipment & services provided by: Badges & Bags







FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING MARCH 30/31						
Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD		
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	20	96			
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 2,459.01	(2,833.99)	(8,837.43)		
Energy	289.00	82.00	(207.00)	(1,710.61)		
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	95.00	(1,020.39)	(35,219.51)		
Mass Intentions	n/a	185.00		4,735.00		
Holy Days: Easter	n/a	4,977.00		5,660.00		
Budget deficit donations		242.00		7,391.00		
2023 CSA overage (pledges outstanding - 2,531.36)				7,239.64		



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