

#### **From The Pastor**

God loves bread and loves to feed the hungry. What is it about bread that God loves so much? Bread is a food staple. Bread in a variety of forms and grains is universal, readily accessible, and reasonably inexpensive. Bread keeps most of the poor of the world alive. Without bread, countless others would die of starvation daily. Bread is God's friend, and God uses bread daily for the nourishment of body, mind, and spirit.

The closest friends of God also love bread and know its value. Elisha is a friend of God with great zeal for the Divine way for the people of Israel. In his deep love for God, Elisha is richly blessed with the power of God in the Spirit. Elisha is a powerful miracle worker, confident in the Lord with unwavering trust. Elisha is gifted with twenty barley loaves which he directs to be given to the people. The group gathered was a hundred people. The servant resisted, thinking twenty loaves would not be nearly enough to satisfy the large crowd. Without hesitation, Elisha insisted, "Give it to the people to eat." All ate and were satisfied with still more left over.

This miracle was a work of God, but God needed an agent that would trust and act on the Lord's behalf. God fed hungry and needy people through the faith of Elisha. More than stomachs were filled that day. Hearts and souls were stirred and given hope through the compassion of Elisha as an agent of God who provided what was needed.

The gospel is a mirror of the same story. With compassion and power, Jesus healed the sick, raised the dead, and brought peace to those who came to him. With this reputation, you can only imagine the crowds that would seek to be in the Lord's presence. Notice the dynamic. The crowd is not yet present, but Jesus 'saw that a large crowd was coming to him, so he said to Phillip, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" Jesus is not only the provider of bread, but also a teacher who forms and awakens hearts.

Not having the faith of Elisha, Phillip immediately resists, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" Jesus already knows what he is going to do. He is testing and teaching the disciples to trust in his power to feed and serve those in need. Phillip's response is typically human. Impossible. Where would we get that much food and how would we pay for it? His tone is dismissive. Andrew points out the boy with the five loaves and two fish. The boy appears willing to share his food with trust and confidence in Jesus. He was likely pleased, feeling important for giving what he had. Jesus takes, gives thanks, and shares the food with the multitude of peoples. All are filled, with twelve baskets left over. An unmistakable miracle that reveals the nature and the power of God. Why twelve baskets? They represent the twelve tribes of Israel, which represents all nations on earth. Jesus is bread for the world.

More is being given than bread for the body. Jesus himself is the Bread that is being given. Consider the hearts of the people whose stomachs were filled. They must have been stirred to faith, inspired with hope, and animated with anticipation over the works of Jesus. Their souls were awakened, which is exactly what Jesus intended to do.

We will read for six weeks from the sixth chapter of John's gospel on the Bread of Life. Jesus is Bread for the world and the Bread of Jesus will give us eternal life. How do we put a face on that as we receive this Eucharistic food?

We all see people on street corners begging for money. We are all bombarded with solicitations in the mail for donations to support countless agencies who work on behalf of the poor and needy of every kind. How do we respond?

The Eucharist is our teacher. If Jesus is the Bread of Life and we consume this living Bread, then we are to become bread for others. When people are in need and are begging, money is often not their greatest need. Jesus drew people to himself with food for the body that he may give them food for their souls. Knowing and trusting Jesus in our hearts, strengthened by the Eucharist of Jesus, we are called to become bread for others.

With empathetic and attentive listening, a faith-filled person can receive the story and needs of another and not be overwhelmed. Jesus saw the need people had for love, acceptance, belonging, forgiveness, appreciation, and personal validation. Every human being needs these basic foundations for stable human living. Beggars on the street corners want money, but if you listened to their story, I would bet dollars to donuts their greater need is for love in some form of human emotional support. That kind of support is the work of the Eucharist. Jesus gave the Bread of the Father's love, the food of redemption, and the acceptance of all persons. Be bread for others. Lend an ear, offer a hand of support, speak words of love, hope, and healing. The love given in the Eucharistic bread is most effective when shared with those most hungry for it.

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 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 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, July 29, 2024 8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom TUESDAY, July 30, 2024 8:00am Mass: Timothy Weiss† req. by Mary Ann Przybysz WEDNESDAY, July 31, 2024 8:00am Mass: Br. Michael Dubec† req. by Debbie Tourville THURSDAY, August 1, 2024 8:00am Mass: Joel Brown (Birthday Blessings) req. by Mom SATURDAY, August 3, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Michael Magri† req. by Kim Magri & Family Miriam Grabowski (for healing) req. by Jean & Mike Pietraszewski

#### SUNDAY, August 4, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Genevieve Kairis† (5th R.A.) req. by Mike Kairis Family Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



# **Readings for the Week**

### July 28, 2024

Sunday:	2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16,
Monday:	17-18 (see 16)/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15 Jer 13:1-11/Ps 32:18-19, 20, 21/Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Tuesday:	Jer 14:17-22/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/ Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday:	Jer 15:10, 16-21/Ps 59:2-3, 4, 10-11, 17, 18/Mt 13:44-46
Thursday:	Jer 18:1-6/Ps 146:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/
Friday:	Mt 13:47-53 Jer 26:1-9/Ps 69:5, 8-10, 14/Mt 13:54
Saturday:	-58 Jer 26:11-16, 24/Ps 69:15-16, 30-31,
Next Sunday:	33-34/Mt 14:1-12 Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24,
, j	25, 54 (24b)/Eph 4:17, 20-24/ Jn 6:24-35



"On this Fourth World Day devoted to them, let us show our tender love for the grandparents and the elderly members of our families. Let us spend time with those who are disheartened and no longer hope in the possibility of a different future. In place of the self-centered attitude that leads to loneliness and abandonment, let us instead show the open heart and the joyful face of men and women who have the courage to say "I will not abandon you", and to set out on a different path."

Pope Francis 2024 Message for World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly



...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



It doesn't matter what time of day we visit my mother-inlaw — she always has food to offer. If



we take two helpings, she will encourage us to take three. If we take three helpings, she will say, "Coraggio — take more." (She's Italian, in case you couldn't tell from the food-pushing and the language.)

When Jesus feeds the five thousand with the miracle of the loaves and fish, he does not produce *just* enough food to feed everyone who is there. He certainly could — that would be within his power. And he shows concern about waste, so it would make sense for him to do that. But instead, he deliberately overproduces. He creates more food than is necessary. He makes an abundance of it. Why?

I think it's for the same reason my mother-in-law keeps urging us to eat when we come to her house. Feeding people is not just a functional action. It's a gesture. It shows love. It shows concern. It shows welcome. Having an abundance of food — so much that there is some left over — is a sign that you don't care how much someone wants — you are ready to give whatever they are ready to take. You are ready to give recklessly. You are ready to give them not just all they need but also all they could want.

I think of this when I approach the sacrament of Confession. Time and time again I walk up to the door of that little room, a list of oft-repeated sins in my hand and a sense of shame on my heart.

Here I am again, Jesus. Back for more mercy. Hope you haven't run out.

He hasn't yet. He never will. "Coraggio," he whispers deep in my heart, "take more."

"When the people saw the sign he had done, they said, 'This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world.'" — John 6:14



### God Knows What We Need

You sit down at a restaurant and order drinks and an appetizer. Then you order an entrée with a salad. When all of that has been consumed, you order a dessert. You leave after having had a good time, but your pants don't fit so well now. You are so full you regret ordering all those courses. Your eyes were bigger than your stomach. You ordered what you wanted and not what you needed.

In our daily lives, we find ourselves wanting many things. We desire outcomes and good fortunes that we think will make all the difference. However, oftentimes when we receive these things, we only find ourselves wanting more. Worse yet, if we do not get them, we can see our lives as incomplete.

God always provides what we need. It may not be what we want. Our eyes can deceive us into believing that what we receive is not enough to fulfill us. If we trust in God and seek to only live with what sustains us rather than dive into excess, we will find that we are happier, healthier, and at peace. No one should ever make himself or herself feel overcome by too much of anything. God knows what we need even if we cannot see it for ourselves. *Tracy Earl Welliver*, MTS

#### **CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

Question: What does the word "Messiah" mean in English? ©LPi

Answer: The Anointed One.

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#### Please help us reach our goal of \$88,000.

We are using CSA 2024 also as a fundraiser this year and are asking parishioners to

prayerfully consider an increase in their contribution or pledge to help reach our goal of \$88,000.

To make a pledge or contribute by mail, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided. Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN.

Donations can be made online at our website: www.stvincentferrer.net using the donations tab or see the other ways to give on the pledge card.

For those who are not registered parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer, but who would like to help us reach our goal, pledge card packets are available at the parish office or at the long table alongside the chapel wall near the Herbert Street vestibule door.



## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

The world is filled with people whose basic needs aren't met, whether for clean water,

nutrition, safety, education, meaningful work, stable family life, basic medical resources, religious freedom, and the right to life. So how can we possibly believe what Psalm 145 says to us this week, "**The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs**"? Does he? What about the countless poor? Can't we identify at least a few unmet needs in our own lives right now? Is the Bible promoting wishful thinking and laziness in helping others?

No. The psalm flows from Israel's experience of God's relentless fidelity again and again —especially in the Passover from Egypt. This divine providence is recalled when Jesus feeds the needy multitudes in the Gospel of John. Passover arrives once again, and the people are hungry like the ancient Israelites on the wilderness journey. What is new is that in Jesus God not only provides for their needs, but He learns what it's like to have those human needs. He shares them too. He feeds them bread and fish; and even more, He hungers to provide them, and us, much more than just that kind of perishable food.

Our deepest need is for God. Like the multiplied bread, all earthly provisions ultimately fail, for we all finally die. Of course, our obligation to meet the needs of the poor is basic. But Christ promises to feed us with the one bread that never fails: God Himself. He is humanity's eternal food. If we eat this bread, we taste the faithfulness of God who answers all our needs, even when every earthly thing fails.

*— Father John Muir* 

# Is God Calling You To Be A Deacon?

The world and the Church need you!

God calls men like you to be consecrated to preach the Gospel, administer the sacraments, and care for the needs of the community.

Deacons, through the sacrament of Holy Orders, are empowered to preach, baptize, assist at the Eucharist, and witness marriages.

But deacons are not only ordained to attend to the religious needs of people; they are specially ordained to express care and concern for their brothers and sisters, especially the alienated and oppressed.

Interested in learning more? Visit www.aod.org/ permanent-diaconate

#### WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

#### **DEATH PENALTY**

#### **Question:**

My coworkers and I have been debating the death penalty and whether or not it should be part of our justice system. Why are so many people who claim to be pro-life believers in favor of it?

#### Answer:

The issues of crime and punishment are never easy because so many factors influence people and how they view problems and solutions. Increased violence, loss of life, cost to taxpayers and the community at large, and the maneuverings of lawyers and courts only add fuel to the fire. When bad things happen in your neighborhood or to your home or to you, you want relief. Any normal person would feel that way. A pro-life view does not insulate anyone from the bad effects of criminal behavior. Innocent people are hurt every day and it may seem as though those who cause the pain get away with it, or get off easy.

The death penalty is not excluded by Church teaching. The state has the right to impose penalties that are commensurate with the crime as well as to defend itself from further harm (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, §2266). When possible, punishment should help correct the offender, offering a chance of redemption, which is why the pope and bishops have called for an end to the death penalty. For more information, visit the Human Life and Dignity section of the USCCB's website (www.usccb.org).

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## **Observances for the Week**

Sunday:	17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time			
Monday:	Sts. Martha, Mary and Lazarus			
Tuesday:	St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and			
-	Doctor of the Church			
Wednesday:	St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest			
Thursday:	St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop and			
	Doctor of the Church			
Friday:	St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St.			
	Peter Julian Eymard, Priest			
Next Sunday:	18 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time			
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#### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, August 3rd 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: 2 Kgs 4:42-44

Trusting in the Lord, Elisha was able to feed a hundred people with just twenty barley loaves and fresh grain. Can you think of a time when you had to trust in the Lord?

#### Second Reading: Eph 4:1-6

Paul urges the church in Ephesus to live in unity and holiness. What are some signs that a community is holy and united?

#### **Gospel:** Jn 6:1-15

After Jesus fed the crowds with the multiplication of loaves and fish, he withdrew to the mountain alone. When do you find the need to be alone?

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### **Ministry Schedule**

August 3/4, 2024

	-			
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am		
Sacristan	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz		
Reader #1	M Simmons	A Goll		
Reader #2	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz		
EME	M Simmons	A Goll		
	M Kairis	M Black		
	J McCown	P Allen		
Greeters	L Collins	T Oparka		
	R Juska-Svoba	N Oparka		
	R Bertolini	B Gutowski		
	M Smith	T Lane		
Traveling Chalic	<b>ce Host beginning we</b> Frank & Nina Vi	ek of August 3/4, 2024 rga		



### **GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS**

St. Katharine Drexel | March 3 1858—1955

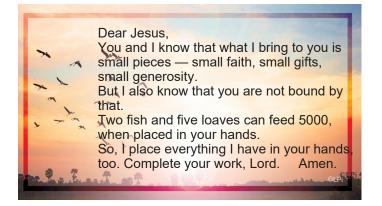
Born in Philadelphia, St. Katharine Drexel grew up to become one of the first American -born saints. Her mother passed away when she was only five

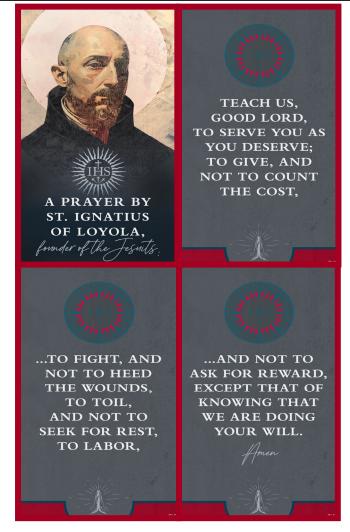


weeks old. Her father, a renowned banker, remarried a wonderful woman, and together they raised St. Katherine Drexel and her two sisters in a life of privilege. Both financially and spiritually wellendowed, the Drexels were devout Catholics and set an excellent example of true Christian servitude with prayer and care for the poor.

After her father's death. St. Katharine considered joining a contemplative order. However, during an audience with the Pope while on a trip to Rome with her sister, when she asked for more missionaries to be sent to the American West, the Pope asked her to become a missionary herself! Now known as the Apostle for Social Justice, St. Katharine gave up her inheritance and instead devoted her life to the material and spiritual well-being of Black and Native Americans. She established the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament for Indians and Colored, and together they opened a boarding school in Santa Fe, the first of 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 states. At the time of her death, she had also established a system of 63 schools, including Xavier University in New Orleans, the first Catholic university in the United States for African Americans. Believing that education was the key to opportunity, her love of the Blessed Sacrament sustained her mission.

At 77, she suffered a heart attack and was forced to retire from active ministry. She spent the next 20 years of her life in quiet yet intense prayer. She died at the age of 96 and was canonized in 2000 by Pope John Paul II. St. Katharine Drexel, pray for us! ©LPi





#### **GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS**

#### **St. Ignatius of Loyola** 1941 to 1556

This week we celebrate a spiritual master! Not only is St. Ignatius Loyola the founder of the Jesuits, but the legacy of his life of prayer -- now called Ignatian spiritualty -- inspired believers the world over. Injured as a young soldier, Ignatius spent his time in recovery reading the lives of the saints. They inspired his soul to holy heroism, changing his life forever. Ignatius gathered a group of friends who also desired to be "contemplatives in action," finding God in all circumstances. This became the Jesuits -- a great missionary and teaching order. Ignatius himself was constantly attuned to his own inner promptings. This self-knowledge -- open to the movements of the Holy Spirit -- led him to be an incredibly astute spiritual director. For Ignatius, recognizing God as the first principle of one's life determined everything. How has God changed you?



# FISCAL RIDDLES

Question 1: Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

Question 2: Who was the greatest female financier in the Bible?

Answer 2: Pharaoh's daughter. She went down to the bank of the Nile and drew out a little prophet

Answer 1: Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.



# **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, 11:30am 3:30pm (Spanish), and 6:00pm

WEEKDAYS (Monday thru 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 Communion Service - 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 JULY 20/21, 2024						
Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD		
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	92				
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,583.72	398.72	454.24		
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	112.00	(360.00)	(671.00)		
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	368.00	(1,305.00)	4,293.84		
Bequests				90.00		
AOD Collections:						
Holy Days: Assumption		8.00		18.00		
CSA 2024 Pledged 62,610.34				Paid 52,745.84		



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