



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

AUGUST 4, 2024 † EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

When things are hard, it is easy to complain. When things go well, it is expected they will continue in the same manner. In difficult times, complainers look for someone to blame so the weight of the burden can fall on someone else. When good times reign, that is how it is supposed to be with the expectation that ‘someone’ must keep the good times coming.

The Israelites complained about their slavery at hard labor under the hand of the Egyptian Pharaoh. Life was hard with no resolution at hand. God heard the cry of the oppressed and gave answer. Through Moses, the people were stirred to hope in the prophesy and promise of God that would lead them out of Egypt to a Promised Land. It seemed like a dream, but the oppression of slavery led them to trust God in the promise of freedom. Signs came in the form of numerous plagues, sacrifices offered in the promise of a new covenant, door posts marked with the blood of the sacrificial lamb to mark their identity as the angel of death passed-by. They began their journey to freedom in haste with unleavened bread in the hope of a new beginning.

Journeys are hard. Resources fade, inspiration wanes, and the road and direction are uncertain. Worn out, fearful, hungry, and feeling lost, the people complained against Moses. Now it was his fault they were dying of thirst and hunger for the want of decent food. Fear and hunger will do that.

Provident and patient, God sends bread in the morning and meat in the evening. Manna was an unknown food curious and mysterious to the Israelites. In a stroke of comic relief they said, ‘what is this stuff,’ which in Hebrew is the word ‘manha’ or manna. It was bread from heaven, food from God to nourish and sustain the people on their epic journey. Do not forget, much more than a journey of miles from one place to another, this was a spiritual journey initiated by God to a new relationship with God that would make them God’s people. Their freedom was not only new land, but new life in God.

This is the journey of every life. Israel is a metaphor for all nations, all peoples trapped in the slavery of sin, want, and desire for something better. The something better will always be God because things of the world cannot give what God alone can give. Manna is an early sign of Jesus as the Bread of Life.

Jesus is the new covenant fulfilled in the Blood of

the Lamb. The dying and rising of Jesus is our freedom from the slavery of sin and undue attachments of this world. All we need for a full life in God is given in the Lord Jesus. Still, the human dynamic of want remains.

Why do we still pine and long for that which we already have? Jesus is the Bread of Life that feeds the soul in its journey to God. The gospel opens a deeper understanding of Jesus as spiritual food. The people have just experienced the multiplication of loaves and fish. They are well fed and satisfied. True to human nature, they are looking for Jesus wanting to know if or when he will do it again. Jesus challenges their motives. They are not looking so much for Jesus as they are for the bread and fish he provided.

“Do not look for food that perishes but for food that endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.” Jesus is our spiritual food that leads to eternal life in the Father through whom Jesus is given. The people seem to understand asking, “What must we do to accomplish the works of God.” The answer is simple and direct, ‘believe in the One he sent.’

Moses was the agent through whom God sent the manna. Jesus is the agent, the very person of God sent by the Father to be our spiritual bread, the food that will lead to eternal life. “...my Father gives the true bread from heaven.”

The core of the Eucharist is revealed at the Last Supper when Jesus explicitly says of bread and wine, “This is my Body, This is my Blood.” Jesus refers directly to the Cross upon which he gives his body and pours out his blood in the redemptive sacrifice of our salvation. Jesus is the essence of love incarnate. His person and his life, Body and Blood, are fully given and made present in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Jesus is real food that feeds body, mind, and spirit. How does this work? As Jesus says, “believe in the One whom the Father sent. To believe in Jesus is to invite and allow Jesus to become the meaning and purpose of your life. Through thick and thin, good times and bad, Jesus is ever-present to offer the peace and the providence of Divine care. Does this mean happy ever after? No. It means the constancy and surety of the Lord’s presence in redemptive love. Human nature will have us still complain, blame, and expect a free lunch now and then, but the food of life will be ours in Jesus who is the Bread of Life.

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

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, August 5, 2024

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

TUESDAY, August 6, 2024

8:00am Mass: Dianne Karolski† req. by Tom Karolski

WEDNESDAY, August 7, 2024

8:00am Mass: Joseph Pantano† req. by Family

SATURDAY, August 10, 2024

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

Sr. Melanie Chateau† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Cathy Saad (for healing) req. by Grace

SUNDAY, August 11, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Living & Deceased Members & Families of the Fr. Heary
Knights of Columbus Council

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

John Palomino† req. by Grace & Family

**There will not be a morning Mass this
Thursday, August 8th.**



Readings for the Week

August 4, 2024

Sunday: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15/Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54 (24b)/Eph 4:17, 20-24/Jn 6:24-35
Monday: Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102/Mt 14:13-21
Tuesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mk 9:2-10
Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 16:13-23
Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41/Mt 16:24-28
Saturday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/Jn 12:24-26
Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (9a)/Eph 4:30—5:2/Jn 6:41-51



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Since my college days I've loved a song called "Dance with You" by the rock band Live. It touches on the deep mystical

hunger of our heart: "I've tasted all the wines/ a half a billion times/ came sickened to your shore/ you showed me what this life is for." These lines resonate with anyone who has feasted on the good things of this world only to be left spiritually hungover and unsatisfied.

We see a similar dynamic evoked by Jesus' words after he feeds the crowd with bread and fish. To teach them to hunger for God, he recalls God's gift of manna-bread for the hungry ancient Israelites. Those folks had grown spiritually sick from the idolatrous food of Egypt yet still longed for more worthless pagan food. So, God sent heavenly bread to nourish their bodies, but also to heal their distrustful hearts. His people — like us — must learn to hunger and thirst for God alone. Before we can receive that which will not disappoint, we first must cease expecting that earthly goods will satisfy us.

We will get to the Lord's teaching on the Eucharist in the next two weeks. But first, he asks us: do you trust me to take care of you? Do you trust me to give you what you need for each day, and to not worry about the next day? Do you see that when you hungrily stuff yourself with the things of this world you become sick and lose your taste for the bread of life? So, our hungry hearts cry out: Lord, help us to trust that you'll provide for our every need. Help us to use only what we truly need. Help us hunger for the goodness of your Son, who is the true bread from heaven. That is what this life is for.

— Father John Muir
©LPI

Practicing Graciousness in the Desert

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Looking back over my journey of parenthood, I know there were days when I traveled the extra mile for my children. I made their toast the way they like it, let them play in the park an extra ten minutes, or let them go to the movies with their friends and I finished up the chores on my own. And then, it happened: the attitude. The request for the smallest thing from one of them is met with disdain or bewilderment.

Sometimes you can be made breathless with the ingratitude of another person who takes so much and with so little shame, only to scoff at the idea that they, too, give even the smallest amount.

But if we're being honest with ourselves, we will admit that we do the exact same thing to God. Haven't we all been the Israelites in the desert at one point or another? God has parted our Red Sea in some way. He's led us out of some great trial, given us some great blessings. But then we run into a little resistance somewhere along the way and we throw up our hands. How could you do this to us, Lord? How could you ask this of us? No, I can't go any further. No, I won't do any more.

Persisting in the blindness to the many ways God continues to protect us is nothing short of a temper tantrum. It robs our Everyday Stewardship of its graciousness, of our ability to accept with joy the trials of life because we are also constantly aware of its blessings.

ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION

Admin. Bldg. Patio

THIS MONDAY
AUGUST 5th - 7:00pm



The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the first and third Mondays of August.

The Immaculata group prayers will begin at 6:30 pm and the Rosary will begin at 7:00 pm.

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



...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

Food That Perishes

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

It's so easy to do the right thing because we want to tick all the right boxes. We want to live by the law. We want to accomplish the work of God.

Or, at least, we say that we do.

But Jesus tells us that in order to accomplish the work of God, we have to believe in the one he sent. And to believe in Christ is to be filled with the spirit of truth — to do what is right because it is right, not because we want to be filled with good feelings.

What is the difference between doing what is right because you want to be a good Christian, and doing what is right because you believe in Christ?

It's the difference between eating manna and the Eucharist. One fills your stomach and keeps you alive, and nothing more. The other satisfies a hunger you might not have even known you had, or if you did know, you called it by another name — sadness, unfulfillment, fear. One achieves a corporeal goal, and that's the end of it. The other accomplishes something invisibly, secretly, silently, and though there is physical evidence of its work all around us, you have to be shrewd to recognize it.

It's the difference between making a social media post condemning sin and enveloping a sinner (the one at our dinner table, the one on the street, the one staring back at us in the mirror) with love and concern. It's the difference between simply going to Mass and living the Gospel. It's the difference between speaking to God and saying a prayer. It's the difference between telling someone they're wrong and telling them about the truth.

There's nothing wrong doing what is right because we long for heaven, and there's nothing wrong with eating manna if you're starving. But that alone isn't enough. We must also long for the bread of heaven, the bread that gives life to the world.

Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.' — John 6:35

©LPi



CCSEM SENIOR MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION August 10/11

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

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS SUNDAY, AUGUST 11

Next Sunday, Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality.

BACKPACKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who contributed so generously to our successful collection of school supplies for the children of incarcerated parent(s) through the Jail Outreach Ministry and for children receiving them through Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan. After all items were sorted and prepared for delivery, our work team prayed for the children who will receive these items, that they will know that these are signs of God's love for them.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

CONFESSION

Question: If God knows everything we do, why do we need to go to Confession?

Answer: Another term for the Sacrament of Confession is the Sacrament of Reconciliation. We go to this sacrament not only to confess our sins, but to be reconciled with God. Of course, this begs the question, “If I can pray to God on my own, why can’t I be reconciled to God on my own?” In the seven sacraments, we recognize the importance of community. Sacraments like baptism or matrimony happen in the context of the wider church to remind us of the communal impact of our lives. We are not alone in our walk of faith!

We don’t need to confess our sins in front of the whole community – thank God! But going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a tangible reminder that our sins affect not only ourselves and our relationship with God, but others as well. Jesus gave his Apostles authority to forgive sins in his name. Through this sacrament, we are really, truly forgiven by God Himself. We receive an outpouring of grace and strength to sin no more and our relationship with Christ and his Body, the Church, are restored.

©LPI



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: In the New Testament, what is the first book to follow the four Gospels?

©LPI

Answer: The Acts of the Apostles.

Women’s Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, AUGUST 10 - 9:00AM

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
SVF SCHOOL BLDG.



All women in our Family of Parishes are invited to join other women to pray and reflect on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15

God heard the plea of the Israelites who feared they would die of starvation in the desert and in response, God sent them quail and bread to eat. What will you pray for this week?

Second Reading: Eph 4:17, 20-24

Paul taught the Gentiles of the Ephesian church to give up their former way of life and live with renewed minds in the truth of Jesus. What have you gained by being a believer in Jesus?

Gospel: Jn 6:24-35

Jesus teaches the crowds in Capernaum that he is “the bread of life” who feeds all who believe in him. Is there someone you know hungry for Jesus? ©LPI

Ministry Schedule

August 10/11, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	P Miles
Reader #1	T Riley	J Kosnak
Reader #2	D Tourville	P Miles
EME	T Riley	R Grant
	M Simmons	M Virga
	R Pasiak	M Waskowski
Greeters	L Collins	D Vu
	T Pasiak	S Bosetti
	R Bertolini	T Lane
	M Smith	R Juska-Svoba

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Aug. 10/11, 2024
Peter Miles

EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES



ST. MARTIN DE PORRES
NOVEMBER 3
 1579 - 1639

St. Martin de Porres came from the humblest of beginnings. Born in Peru, the illegitimate son of a Spanish knight and a previously enslaved African woman, he was subjected to bigotry his entire life. His early life was spent in deep poverty, after his father abandoned the family. At the age of 12 he was apprenticed to a barber-surgeon, where he would learn the medical skills which would gain him renown.

When he was 15, St. Martin wanted to join the Dominicans, however, the law in Peru prevented those of mixed-race from being members of religious orders. Undeterred, St. Martin volunteered to do menial work for the monastery and was allowed to live with the community. He worked in the laundry and kitchens, but soon was given the job of distributing money and food to the poor. In 1601, St. Martin was allowed to take his vows as a lay brother, despite the law. He was put in charge of the infirmary, the post he held until his death.

St. Martin was known for his great love of the Eucharist, and his intense prayer. Contemporary reports tell of levitation and light filling the room while he prayed, even bilocation where St. Martin was seen in distant countries despite never leaving Peru. St. Martin frequently went into the city to care for the poor and sick, especially the Africans who had been brought to Peru as enslaved people. He also founded an orphanage and school. He cared equally for all regardless of race or status. His kindness even extended to animals, caring for the dogs, cats and even mice and rats at the monastery.

St. Martin was beatified by Pope Gregory XVI on October 29, 1837, and canonized by Pope John XXIII on May 6, 1962, the first Black saint of the Americas. St. Martin de Porres, pray for us! ©LPi

 <p>Did you know that two saints with August feast days died in World War II at Auschwitz?</p>	 <p>St. Teresa Benedicta (Edith Stein)'s feast day is August 9. She was sent to Auschwitz as a Catholic nun of Jewish descent and died in the gas chamber. She worked her whole life in education and service to others.</p>
 <p>St. Maximilian Kolbe's feast day is August 14. He died in by lethal injection after ministering to fellow prisoners in Auschwitz and offering his life to save another.</p>	 <p>St. Maximilian Kolbe and St. Teresa Benedicta, pray for us!</p>

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



ST. LAWRENCE, DEACON
AUGUST 10

Little is known about Lawrence other than he was a deacon during the reign of Emperor Valerian from 253–259. In 258, Valerian began a persecution of the Roman Church. Lawrence was in charge of the purse for the Church of Rome. Roman officials demanded that the riches of the church be handed over to them. Lawrence asked for a few days to gather them.

Lawrence took the money he had charge over and distributed it to the poor of Rome. Then he gathered all the homeless and poor together. When the officials came again demanding the riches of the church, Lawrence pointed to the destitute and homeless, saying that these were the true riches of the church. For this he was imprisoned and tortured, and put to death by burning on a gridiron. It is said that as he was dying, he told his executioners to turn him over because he was done on one side and needed to be fully cooked for the Lord.

Lawrence continues to be a model for us today. The church needs continual reminders that its riches are the people. The primary purpose and mission of the church is to be continually sensitive to the needs of all God's people, most especially the least of our brothers and sisters. ©LPi

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus reminds his followers: "Do not work for food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life." We are so often distracted by the world before us, by the here and now. Let us not forget what is eternal. We were made for what is eternal. ©LPi



*Dedication of
the Basilica of
St. Mary Major
in Rome
Feast Day
August 5th*

The basilica was built after the conclusion of the Council of Ephesus (431), at which the Blessed Virgin Mary was proclaimed Mary, Mother of God –Theotokos. It is one of the first churches to celebrate the Virgin Mary and is the oldest Marian Shrine in the West. It is also the largest of the 26 churches in Rome dedicated to the Virgin Mary.

The basilica is one of the four papal basilicas in Rome. The other three are St. Peter, St. John Lateran and St. Paul Outside the Walls. St. Mary Major is the burial place of six popes and St. Jerome, who was responsible for translating the Bible into Latin. It also contains wood remnants of the Holy Crib of Jesus.

For more information and photos of this basilica visit : cmswr.org/basilica-of-saint-mary-major.



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



Observances for the Week

- Sunday: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
- Tuesday: The Transfiguration of the Lord
- Wednesday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest
- Thursday: St. Dominic, Priest
- Friday: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr
- Saturday: St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr
- Next Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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