

## St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

#### OCTOBER 27, 2024 † THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

#### From The Pastor

Even the best stories can grow old and lose their impact after several hearings. This effect is evident in our hearing of the Word of God. The events and encounters given us from the life of Jesus can too easily lead us to the punch line long before it is proclaimed. Ah, we think, I know this one and I know how it ends.

The power and grace of the Word of God, however, is timeless with an endless capacity to inspire, awaken, convert, or convict the attentive listener. The same story can be told and retold with different inflections that influence how it is heard that it may reveal a different movement in the faith of the hearer.

Consider today's story about Bartimaeus, the Blind Man. Fresh details may help us hear the story in a new way. Jesus is on the road moving closer to Jerusalem as he prepares for his passion and death. Jericho is about fifteen miles from Jerusalem; another two-or three-day's journey for Jesus and the disciples. In Mark's gospel, this is the last miracle Jesus performs before his passion. On the road with Jesus and his followers are crowds of people on their way to the Holy City to celebrate the Passover feast.

Jericho was a city known to have many blind beggars lining the streets seeking alms from the passing crowds. It was a lonely and dark life for these unsighted beggars trying to be seen and heard. Bartimaeus seems to be different. He knows of or has at least heard about Jesus. Put yourself in his place. Consider yourself in his circumstance. Would you have called out to Jesus? Would you have made a scene even though others around you are trying to keep you quiet? Somehow, Bartimaeus is undeterred.

This man is blind, but he is not disengaged with life. He is not forlorn, nor surrendered to his fate in life. This man wants to see. He wants to be more fully alive and actively engage in the faith he holds. He believes in Jesus. How else would he have boldly shouted out, "Jesus, Son of David, have pity on me." Not just once, but many times. People around him did not want to hear it. Maybe they did not believe it, or care to be troubled by its truth? In your need and desire for Jesus, would you cry out in such a way? Would you allow others to silence you as you seek the attention of the Lord?

Bartimaeus is aggressive and persistent in his desire to have a face-to-face encounter with Jesus.

Would you act in this way in your desire for Jesus? Are you like that now? For Bartimaeus, this was not a passing shot in the dark. He must have felt this was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity he was not going to miss. He believed and he wanted to be heard. Is this kind of energy in your faith walk with the Lord?

Once he gained the attention of the Lord, Bartimaeus does not miss the moment. Jesus gives the perfect opening and it is an opening that is offered to all of us. Jesus asks, "What do you want me to do for you? As clear and direct as he could be, Bartimaeus pleads, "Master, I want to see."

Pay attention to how Jesus responds. He says, "Go your way; your faith has saved you." Jesus sees faith and desire in the man's eyes knowing it comes from deep in his heart. Jesus is pleased. He is encouraged, even happy and consoled by such faith as he draws closer to his death for the sake of all. Jesus makes no claim on the man by saying, "Go on your way." Bartimaeus is free to go and live his life as he wishes in the faith he holds in Jesus. With such faith, Jesus appears confident the man will go and do good work that will aid in the coming of the Kingdom.

Receiving his sight, free to go his own way, the man chooses to immediately follow the way of Jesus towards the Cross. What happens to this man later is not known to us, yet we can be confident it was something that served the Lord.

How does the story strike you this time around? There is much each of us could take from the story. Most obviously, what do you want Jesus to do for you? Maybe not as obvious, do you have the faith and courage of Bartimaeus to ask for your needs so boldly? Do you desire a face-to-face encounter with Jesus or is a silent plea to the heavens enough for you?

Jesus says to Bartimaeus, 'your faith has saved you.' Is your faith saving you? Do you perceive the salvation of Jesus active and present in you? Bartimaeus shows this by his persistent and direct request of Jesus. Then he follows Jesus on his way. What might that look like for you?

What Jesus offered to the Blind Man, he is offering to each of us personally in our stance and place in life. How might you respond to this offer? Will you allow Jesus to respond as he wishes and not only as you expect?

Father John Esper

# Liturgical Schedule

#### DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

#### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm in Chapel



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 Thursdays 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



#### 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 9am to 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 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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



MONDAY, October 28, 2024

8:00am Mass: Cynthia Vertel† (7th R.A.) req. by

Bernadette Gutowski

TUESDAY, October 29, 2024

8:00am Mass: Richard Velez† req. by Debbie Tourville

WEDNESDAY, October 30, 2024

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention)

req. by Mom

THURSDAY, October 31, 2024

8:00am Mass: Safety and protection of children FRIDAY, November 1, 2024 ALL SAINT'S DAY

8:00am Mass: Deceased Parishioners

7:00pm Mass: Families of Deceased Parishioners

SATURDAY, November 2, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Milda Svoba Walters (9th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

Deceased priests & deacons who ministered to the SVF

& St. Dennis communities

**SUNDAY, November 3, 2024** 9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Mark Smith (3rd R.A.) req. by Family Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



## **October 27, 2024**

Readings for the week of October 27, 2024

Sunday: Jer 31:7-9/Ps 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6

(3)/Heb 5:1-6/Mk 10:46-52

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

16

Tuesday: Eph 5:21-33/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Lk

13:18-21

Wednesday: Eph 6:1-9/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab,

13cd-14/Lk 13:22-30

Thursday: Eph 6:10-20/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Lk

13:31-35

Friday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5

-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

Saturday: Wis 4:7-14/Ps 25:6, and 7b, 17-18,

20-21/Rom 5:17-21/Mt 11:25-30

Next Sunday: Dt 6:2-6/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 (2)/

Heb 7:23-28/Mk 12:28b-34



## HOLY DAY MASSES 8:00AM AND 7:00PM

All Souls Mass of Remembrance will be Monday, November 4th at 7:00pm.

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

Near my house there is a school for the blind. Often, I see blind people learning how to navigate the world with only a walking stick, even on a busy street with roaring traffic. I'm amazed to see how adept and carefully they get around without sight. Nevertheless, often a sadness arises in me that he or she cannot see all the beautiful colors, images, and persons filling the world around them. Those days, I find myself deeply grateful for the basic privilege of sight.

That's part of why the mystery of Jesus as the sight-giver is so moving to me. This week, it's wonderful how Bartimaeus the blind man is no longer content with his limitation and bellows out his desire for Jesus' mercy. In beautiful simplicity, he cries out to the Lord, "Master, let me receive my sight." Jesus quietly heals his sight. And off he goes, fully taking in the world around him. Imagine the delightful new way in which he is able to respond to the world.

Like blind Bartimaeus and the courageous people in my neighborhood, we may be able to get around reasonably well in our daily lives. But we are blind to the gestures of heroic love of people close to us. We can't see the desperate need of the hungry, thirsty, imprisoned, exploited, endangered, and so on, in our midst. We can't see Jesus drawing near to us in so many ways, but he is. This Sunday let's cry out to him: Lord have mercy on me! I want to see! And little by little — or perhaps in a flash — we'll see once again, or perhaps for the first time.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

On Sunday, October 20, 2024 Reverend John Esper Administered the Sacrament of Baptism to



#### Theadora Lou Morelli

We welcome her into Christ's family. May she grow strong in her faith. God bless our newly baptized and her family.



## WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST BOOK STUDY

at 9:00am

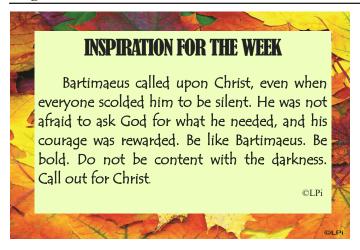
### **BEGINS THIS WEDNESDAY**

"Grant, Lord, that I may know myself that I may know thee." —Augustine

Much is said in Christian circles about knowing God. But Christians throughout the ages have agreed that there cannot be deep knowledge of God without deep knowledge of the self. Discerning your true self is inextricably related to discerning God's purposes for you. Paradoxically, the more you become like Christ, the more you become authentically yourself. In this profound exploration of Christian identity, psychologist and spiritual director David G. Benner illuminates the spirituality of self-discovery. He exposes the false selves that you may hide behind and calls you to discover the true self that emerges from your uniqueness in Christ. Freeing you from illusions about yourself, Benner shows that self-understanding leads to the fulfillment of your God-given destiny and vocation. Rest assured, you need not try to be someone you are not. But you will deepen your experience of God through discovering the gift of being yourself.

Sign up in back of church or call the Parish Office to register by this Monday.





### THE SAFETY OF DARKNESS

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Leprosy and blindness and deafness — oh, my. The disabilities cured by Jesus in his public ministry really are quite something, aren't they? Vividly symbolic and rich food for reflection. It just wouldn't be the same if Jesus had cured eczema or athlete's foot or compulsive nail-biting.

Blind Bartimaeus, sitting by the side of the road, in particular captures my imagination. Because I have a confession to make, sometimes, I like to sit in the darkness, even though I know it isn't very good for me.

Well, listen: it's just easier, isn't it? You don't have to care about or fix the problems you can't see. No one expects you to rush to someone's aid if you don't see their injuries. The darkness is a good place to be, if you don't feel very brave or very smart or very able.

And when Jesus passes you by, if your whole world is darkness, it's easy enough to pretend you just didn't notice him at all.

But Bartimaeus chose not to stay in his darkness. More than that, he cried out to be released from it, even when everyone around him told him to shut up. He was so persistent that he caught the notice of Jesus, and when he heard those words — "Take courage; get up, Jesus is calling you!" — what did he do? He didn't stammer and run away. He had courage. He got up.

It takes courage to ask for what you need to follow Christ. Because if you ask for it, you'll get it. And then begins the terrifying, wonderful journey of discipleship — testifying to what you have seen. Life in the light, no longer sitting by the side of the road but *on* the road, journeying toward the greatest destination of all.

"What do you want me to do for you?" Jesus asks us.

Do we have the courage to answer him?



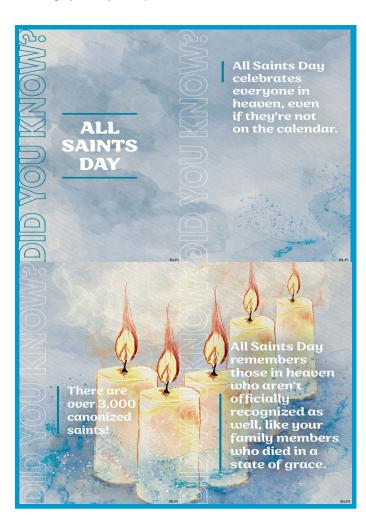
...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions. ...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, wars, floods, earthquakes and disasters.

...respect for life from conception to natural death ...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



## Women's Sacred Journey

# SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2ND 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.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

#### HALLOWEEN

**Question:** Is Halloween a pagan holiday or a Catholic one?

**Answer:** The short answer: nowadays, a little bit of both. But it wasn't always that way. Halloween and All Saints' Day are closely connected. In the 800s, the Catholic Church began celebrating All Saints' Day. It was originally called All Hallow's Day or Hallowmas. The celebration began early on All Hallows' Eve. But if Halloween is really about the saints in all their victorious glory, where do we get haunted houses, costumes, and pranks?

All Saints' Day became associated with the other deceased rather quickly. November 2<sup>nd</sup> is All Souls Day, where we pray for the souls in purgatory. Throughout the European world, especially with the Celtic and Germanic peoples, the dead were honored in the autumn months. The Celtic pagan celebration of Samhain had its own folk rituals and occurred around the same time as these Catholic feast days.

Within the last few hundred years, this included dressing in disguise and going door to door, asking for food in exchange for a rhyme or poem. Some people masqueraded as "dark" spirits and pulled pranks on others. Today's celebration of Halloween tends to take on these later practices, rather than the original meaning of celebrating the saints. But remember ... this feast was Catholic first!

# Observances for the Week

Sunday: 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Monday: Ss. Simon and Jude, Apostles

Thursday: All Hallow's Eve

Friday: All Saints Saturday: All Souls' Day

Next Sunday: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Daylight Saving Time Ends;

National Vocation Awareness Week

### QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Jer 31:7-9

Jeremiah speaks of a joyful future awaiting those Israelites who were in captivity in Babylon. What are some things you are looking forward to with joy?

First Reading: Heb 5:1-6

Hebrews teaches us that God glorified Christ by making him the eternal "high priest." What are some gifts you have received from God?

**Gospel:** Mk 10:46-52

The blind man, Bartimaeus, pleaded to Jesus and Jesus healed him saying, "your faith has saved you." What worries or fears do you need to bring to the Lord?

DLPi

#### St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

#### John Skorna

Please remember him and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

## **Ministry Schedule**

November 2/3, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am		
Sacristan	P Miles	T Karolski		
Reader #1	R Pasiak	P allen		
Reader #2	P Miles	T Karolski		
EME	M Simmons	P Allen		
	R Pasiak	A Goll		
	T riley	R Grant		
Greeters	L Collins	D Vu		
	R Juska-Svoba	B Turchin		
	R Bertolini	B Gutowski		
	M Smith	T Lane		

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of November 2/3

Bernadette Gutowski

#### GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

#### VENERABLE ANNE DE GUIGNÉ 1911-1922

Venerable Anne de Guigné was born in Annecy-le-Vieux, Savoy, France to a wealthy family. She was the oldest child of four and by



all accounts, a tyrant as a toddler. However, her early years were shadowed by the First World War. Her father was killed in action when she was just 4 vears old. After her father's death, to comfort her mother, she became kind and obedient in everything.

Anne made her First Communion at just 6 years old, which at the time still required a special dispensation because she was so young. Anne had a profound understanding of Jesus' presence in the Holy Sacrament. She developed a strong personal relationship with Jesus, whether in Mass, after Mass in prayer at the tabernacle, or at home, she declared that she loved to talk with "little Jesus." The grace of these prayerful conversations gave her a deep understanding of the reciprocal love between Jesus and his faithful.

When Anne was just 8 years old the first symptoms of the disease that would take her life appeared. But though her face was often disfigured from the pain, she offered her suffering as a sacrifice to God. She is attributed with saying, "we have many joys on earth, but they don't last; the one that lasts is to have made a sacrifice."

At just 10 years old, Anne died of meningitis. The cause for her sainthood was begun in 1932 and on March 3, 1990, she was declared venerable by Pope John Paul II. Venerable Anne de Guigné, pray for us! ©LPi



#### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What is the sleeveless outer garment that priests wear at Mass called? ©LPi

#### "What type of cake is served in heaven?"



"Angel food cake!"



Ve won't need food in heaven in the same way that we do on earth. But, maybe at the "marriage supper of the Lamb" (Rev 19:9) some cake might be in order!

## Giving As God Does

Ask yourself this question — what would you pray for if you really believed God could and would do anything for you? In my experience, we all have something. We all have that miracle we're afraid to request, afraid we will be disappointed.

Do we doubt God's readiness to give because ourselves have such an imperfect understanding of charity and love? Maybe if we had better faith in God we would be more ready to give of ourselves — and maybe if we were more ready to give of ourselves, we would understand more clearly the ways of God.

Because we're not really afraid that God can't do something. We know He can do anything. What we're afraid of is that He will do what He always does: give us what we need, not what we want.

Have you ever had a friend in need and you just wanted to give them something — a meal, a phone call, a text? Not because you knew it would help, but simply because you wanted to reach out. And have they ever said to you: It wasn't so much what you gave, but the fact that you did. You gave them what they needed even if it wasn't what they specifically asked for.

When we give in this manner, we are giving as God does. Sometimes we are afraid to ask because we don't want to be disappointed. But remember, the blind man on the road got what he asked for, but he would have gotten what he needed even if his answer had been the opposite. God's generosity is always reckless, and it's always perfect.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS





# 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



## 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 - 10:00am - 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

#### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question2:** What is the name of the basin that holds Baptismal water inside a church? ©LPi

Answer 2: Font.

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING OCT 19/20, 2024

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245			
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,708.59	523.59	5,047.03
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	376.25	(95.75)	(2,190.55)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	85.00	(1588.00)	(290.66)
Bequests		42.00		487.00
AOD Collections: Missionary Cooperation Plan		75.00		4,307.00
AOD Collections: Propagation of the Faith		50.00		1,042.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		20.00		1,103.63
All Holy Days: All Saints/All Souls		90.00		1,423.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 74,560.34				Paid 70,670.34



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