



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JANUARY 12, 2025 † BAPTISM OF THE LORD

From The Pastor

‘Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one with whom I am well pleased.’ Have you ever considered that God is pleased with you? That God delights in your way, or that God is pleased to hold you up? To this day, this servant referred to in our first reading is not explicitly known. Biblical scholars are quite ambiguous about the identity of this person. Some say it is an unnamed prophet, others think it is the people of Israel, God’s people. Christians see this person as the hoped for Christ anticipated in the prophecies of Isaiah.

If God is pleased to uphold his coming servant, Jesus, then by association God is in fact referring to each of us. Consider the thought. God is pleased with you. God readily and intentionally holds you up as one of his own. This is not a wayward thought of inflated self-importance. Why would God not be pleased with you? I know, I know. All your imperfections, sins, unwanted thoughts, or less than stellar behaviors. True enough for all of us, but not true if we believe all we profess in the person and the life of Jesus. God, in the gift of redemption accomplished in the Divine Son, now sees us in the image of that Son, his beloved One.

Today we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord. What is this feast and why is it important? Technically it is not a feast day, but it serves as the conclusion of the Christmas season as a natural bridge that leads into Ordinary Time. The Baptism of Jesus is the last initial revelation of the identity of Jesus beyond his birth that naturally flows into the action of his life mission. The Baptism of Jesus biblically confirms his Divine nature through the voice of the Father and the vision of the dove representing the Holy Spirit.

Of equal importance, Jesus further confirms his human nature by requesting that John the Baptist perform his Baptism. Jesus fully identifies himself with our human condition, even our sinful nature. Jesus never sinned, but he fully identified with sinners. Jesus steps into our place to take on the reality of human sin in anticipation of his saving Cross. Accepting his death on the Cross, Jesus puts our sin to death by the power of the Divine love within his human nature. This is the beautiful mystery of our faith, the meaning of the Incarnation, and the fruit of our redemption accomplished on the Cross.

You have heard this before. Try to take it in in a new way. You are in Christ and Christ is in you. Becoming human, Jesus becomes every man, every

woman, every person made in the image of God redeemed through his death and Resurrection. This is the meaning of St. Paul’s words in II Corinthians 5:21. ‘He who did not know sin, became sin that we might become the righteousness of God.’ As sinners alienated and separated from God, Jesus took our place in the reality of our human condition to restore us as the beloved ones of God.

The Baptism of Jesus images our Baptism. His Baptism becomes our freedom for sin and death. Of himself, Jesus had no need of Baptism other than to fully unite and identify himself with our human condition. This Baptism not only unites us to Jesus, but also to the Father. As the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus in a new way at his Baptism, so does the same Holy Spirit come into us.

What the Father sees and loves in Jesus, he now sees and loves in all the redeemed; all those who believe in Jesus and who seek to follow his way. The Baptism of Jesus served as his commissioning to go forth and fulfill the mission and meaning of His life. Jesus begins his public ministry revealing in the rhythm and manner of his daily life, the power of God to heal, forgive, to show mercy, to preach, convert, and call us to a newness of life.

This is the work and action of our Christian life. Christianity is an interior faith. It must be known from the inside out, from the heart. Within and beyond the practice of church religion, faith must be an interior realization and acceptance that God dwells in us and lives through us. This is the meaning and the action of receiving the Holy Spirit at the time of Baptism. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus who is the inner nature of our identity as the beloved of God.

By the action of the Holy Spirit, we grow in a maturing conscious awareness of Christ who lives in us. This is most evident in our maturing love for self, others, with a maturing desire for God. When we love in any form of service, mercy, compassion, or forgiveness, God is revealed through us. These are times when we are likely to feel the stirring of our heart in the action of the Spirit who has moved us to act in love.

Consider your Baptism. Think about it. You are consecrated to Christ, who lives in you, and acts through you. You have the Holy Spirit. Why would God not be totally pleased with you, delighted to uphold you as his beloved one?

Claim it. Feel it. Live it.

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

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 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

MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, January 13, 2025

8:00am Mass: John Skorna† req. by Jean Vidosh

TUESDAY, January 14, 2025

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

WEDNESDAY, January 15, 2025

8:00am Mass: Intentiona of Immaculata Rosary Group

THURSDAY, January 16, 2025

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

SATURDAY, January 18, 2025

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Richard Raymond† req. by Dorothy Raymond

SUNDAY, January 19, 2025

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Living and deceased members and families of Fr. Heary
Knights of Columbus Council



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

January 12, 2025

Sunday: Is 40:1-5, 9-11/Ps 104:1b-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-28, 29-30 (1)/Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7/Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Monday: Heb 1:1-6/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 6 and 7c, 9/ Mk 1:14-20

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:21-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14/Ps 95:6-7c, 8-9, 10-11/Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11/Ps 78:3 and 4bc, 6c-7, 8/ Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 2:13-17

Next Sunday: Is 62:1-5/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 (3)/1 Cor 12:4-11/Jn 2:1-11

BREAKFAST BOOK STUDY

WEDNESDAYS 9:00AM
Beginning JANUARY 15, 2025

Desiring God's Will

By David G. Benner

"Most people think of God's will as something to be found or as the receiving of guidance from God when making decisions. Too often, however, the problem is not that we don't know what God desires for our lives, but rather that we just don't want to do what we already know he wants. How might our wills be changed so that we become both willing and able to do what God asks of us? In *Desiring God's Will* psychologist and spiritual director David G. Benner explores the transformation of the will in Christian spirituality. He examines why our desires are disordered and how our human volition can be brought into alignment with God's intentions so that we willingly choose that which God wants for us. In so doing, Benner shows us that cultivating discernment and being attuned to God's desires is the path to true life, spiritual health and freedom. God wants to change our choosing, not just our choices." Amazon.com

Sign up in back of church January 11/12 or call the parish office to register.

Avoid Slip and Falls on Snow and Ice

Accidental falls can be life-altering for us all. Broken bones can trigger the start of more serious health conditions or long-term disabilities. The Center for Disease Control reported 1,379 older adults died from falls in 2021 in Michigan.

With winter on the move the additional hazards of snow and ice on driveways, steps, parking lots, and walkways make falls more likely. Here are some tips to decrease the chances of falling.

1. Talk to your doctor and ask if you take any medications that can make you dizzy or sleepy. Ask about Vitamin D supplements to improve bone health. Also, ask if you have been screened for osteoporosis, which is a state in which your bones are weak.

2. Visit your eye doctor at least once a year and update your eyeglasses if needed.

3. Stay active to build up your strength, balance and flexibility.

4. Reduce things that can cause falls. Use salt to melt ice or cat litter for added traction. Make sure pathways are well lit and stair railings secure.

5. Wear non-skid shoes or boots. Put gripper tips on your cane.

6. Ask for standby assistance if you are unsteady on your feet.

If you fall, be sure to be evaluated even if you don't feel pain. A fall can cause a broken bone or indicate another medical issue. Your doctor can suggest treatments or interventions to prevent future falls.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

Baptismal Grace Beacons You

What have been the most significant moments in your life? You probably celebrate your birthday every year, so the day you were born must be pretty important. How about elementary, high school, or college graduations? Hopefully you do something special on or around your wedding anniversary if you are married. Do you have children? The birth of each child is probably near the top on the list of moments you will never forget. Then there are the sad moments of life: deaths, breakups, and tragedies. As you reflect on all these moments, you can see that you would not be who you are today without having experienced them. Of course as a Christian, you have one moment in time that has had an even greater impact on you and perhaps it didn't even come to mind: your Baptism.

You might say you don't remember it because you were an infant. Perhaps you do not even know the date it took place. You might not feel like it has had much impact on you at all. However, it has made all the difference.

Whether you feel the difference or not, on that day you were made a new creation in Jesus Christ. You were marked for Him with an indelible mark that no one can remove, not even you. On that day, you inherited a tradition and lineage of faith that has changed the face of the earth. Today, that baptismal grace beckons you to a real and substantial relationship with the One whose name was invoked on that day. It also calls you to respond with a stewardship way of life, where your gifts make a difference and glorify God. If today is the day you start taking all this seriously, you get to add a new moment to your list.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
 ©LPi

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: The Baptism of the Lord

Monday: St. Hilary, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Friday: St. Anthony, Abbot

Saturday: January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

BAPTISMAL BIB

Question: At my grandson’s Baptism, the priest put a bib on the baby. I do not remember seeing this before. Why is this done? Is it something new?

Answer: When an adult is baptized, there is a part in the ceremony when the newly baptized is vested in a white garment. It is symbolic of the changes that baptism brings in the life of the baptized as they are freed from the bonds of sin and brought into the saving grace of Christ. Realities that are so profound are symbolically presented so that we might better grasp and understand them.

Infants are often dressed in a baptismal dress, which is the baptismal garment. In some places, the bib is used as a kind of baptismal garment. At the place in the ceremony where the investiture takes place, the bib is used. Some are poncho-like and fit over the baby's head. Others are simply placed on the baby's chest. If the baby is dressed in a white garment, nothing else is needed. The prayer says it all: “See in your white garment the outward sign of your Christian dignity ... bring that dignity unstained into the everlasting life of heaven.” In baptism, we are given our purpose and goal in life as believers and this is symbolized by the white garment. ©LPi

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, January 18th 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. No fees or registration are required.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading Is 40:1-5, 9-11

Question: The prophet Isaiah brought words of comfort and hope from God to the Israelites exiled in Babylon. Is there someone in your life who needs hope for the future?

2nd Reading Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Question: Paul challenged Titus to reject godless ways and worldly desires. Do you have any family or friends you consider a role model in living an exceptional life?

Gospel Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Question: The Holy Spirit affirms Jesus as the Christ, the beloved Son of God. When do you sense the presence of the Holy Spirit in your life? ©LPi

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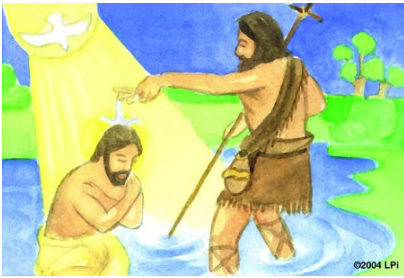
Judee Nelson from LPi, our bulletin printer, will be securing new ads for our church in the coming weeks. It is the support of the business community that helps to make our church thrive. Please consider purchasing a print and/or digital ad as your participation makes our bulletin successful, and you attract customers!

Church bulletin advertising is a cost-effective way to advertise 52 times per year and show support for your local community; in turn, parishioners will support you!

Digital advertising allows your business to be front and center to anyone who visits a church profile page on ParishesOnline.com — that’s approximately 500,000 page views per month!

Judee Nelson
(248) 770-7645
Jnelson@4lpi.com

Ministry Schedule		
January 18/19, 2025		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	D Tourville	R Grant
Reader #2	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
EME	D Tourville	M Waskowski
	P Miles	
	T Riley	R Grant
Greeters	R Juska-Svoba	M McLaughlin
	L Collins	N Oparka
	M Smith	T Oparka
	R Bertolini	D Vu
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of January 18/19 Bernadette Turchin		



WHO IS JOHN THE BAPTIST TO JESUS?

“He (John the Baptist) is the lamp in the presence of the sun, the voice

in the presence of the Word, the friend in the presence of the Bridegroom, the greatest of all born of a woman in the presence of the firstborn of all creation, the one who leapt in his mother’s womb in the presence of him who was adored in the womb, the forerunner and future forerunner in the presence of him who has already come and is to come again.”

From a sermon by St. Gregory of Nazianzus,



A Prayer for Christian Unity

Grant, O merciful God, that your Church, being gathered together in unity by your Holy Spirit, may show forth your power among all peoples, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen



Evangelical Charity

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 at 6:30pm in church.

NO BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS AVAILABLE THIS MONTH

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

We **WILL NOT** do a parish wide mailing of contribution statements. If you would like a copy of your 2024 contributions for income tax purposes, please fill out a request form found at the church entrance and drop it in the collection basket. Or call the parish office at 248-542-8720 after January 2, 2025.

Please make request by January 17, 2025.

Prayer
REQUESTS

Pray For

...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

PRAYER FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have gifted us
in your Son Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity kindled
in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us, the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.
May those seeds transform from within
both humanity and the whole cosmos
in the sure expectation
of a new heaven and a new earth,
when, with the powers of Evil vanquished,
your glory will shine eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
a yearning for treasures of heaven.

May the same grace spread
the joy and peace of our Redeemer.
throughout the earth.

To you our God, eternally blessed,
be glory and praise for ever.

Amen

DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED!**CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH****Memorare, Explained**

The Memorare is a prayer to the Blessed Mother in which the supplicant calls upon the maternal love and protection of Mary's intercession in an hour of dire need. "I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother," reads one section of the prayer, which goes on to beseech "the Mother of the Word Incarnate" to receive these petitions with love and mercy.

St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. Francis de Sales were two great devotees of this prayer.

Popularized in the 17th century by a French priest named Fr. Claude Bernard, the text is derived from an older and longer prayer entitled "*Ad sanctitatis tuae pedes, dulcissima Virgo Maria*" ("at your holy feet, most sweet Virgin Mary"). The title "Memorare" is taken from the Latin word for "remember," which begins the prayer. The modern version appears in the 1846 *Raccolta*, a collection of indulgenced prayers. ©LPi

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. HILARY OF POITIERS
C. 315-C. 367
Bishop & Doctor of the Church
January 13

Born a pagan, St. Hilary studied philosophy and the meaning of life, eventually making his way through the bible. He became a convert and was appointed bishop of Poitiers in 353. Sometimes referred to as the Hammer of the Arians, St. Hilary defended the Nicene Creed against a popular heresy, *Arianism. He was exiled to Phrygia for opposing Roman emperor Constantius II, who preferred the heresy which denies Christ's divinity. From Phrygia St. Hilary fought with his pen, zealously writing against the heresy.

Eventually he was allowed to return to Poitiers, but did so by a circuitous route, preaching against Arianism all the way. St. Hilary was likely the first writer of hymns in the West, his writings on the Trinity, Psalms and Gospel of Matthew survive today. St. Hilary was created Doctor of the Church, a title given to those who provided important contributions to theology and doctrine, in 1851 by Pope Pius IX. ©LPi

*The Arian heresy asserted that Jesus, the Son of God was not truly divine but was created and that he was not eternal but temporal.

Beneath the Surface

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

When I was seventeen, I wasn't sure that I wanted to be confirmed. It was a rough period in my life, and I was having some intense questions and doubts. It upset my mother, understandably. She knew that, at such a pivotal and difficult moment, I needed the grace of the sacrament more than ever. So, she called our priest and asked him to talk to me.

After that meeting, I made the decision to be confirmed.

To be honest, I can't remember anything he said to me. All I remember is that he sat with me. He listened to me. He let me talk and talk and talk (and cry). And when he said whatever he said, whatever it is that I cannot remember, it was obvious that he had listened to me.

Reading today's Gospel, it makes perfect sense that everyone thought John the Baptist was the Messiah. He was the guy pouring the water. Of course it seemed natural that he would be "the one." The one they were all waiting for.

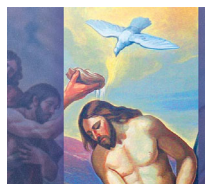
But instead, the Messiah was the man who came to be baptized. He was the one who descended into the waters, submerging himself in our experience of death and pain and sorrow — and in doing so, he sanctified it. He made it a means of redemption.

Jesus is our Savior, yes. When we dig ourselves a hole of sin and confusion and we can't climb out, he is the one who brings us back to the surface. But he doesn't pull us out; he lifts us. He jumps down into the pit. He looks around. He offers his hand, gives us a leg up, and by his strength and not our own, we are brought back into the light. ©LPi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the incense burner used at

Answer: Thurible or censer.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"The people were filled with expectation," writes Luke. And so we find ourselves, two thousand years later, filled with expectation, with longing. Who can give us what we seek? Only the one upon whom the dove descended. Follow him.

Surviving Divorce

an 11 week facilitator-led video healing program for men and women from Ascension Press, designed to bring hope & healing after divorce

Dates/Times

Tuesdays from January 21 to April 1, 2025 7:00-8:30pm

Location

Our Lady of Sorrows Family Center St. Mark Room
24040 Raphael, Farmington, 48336

Registration

Call Our Lady of Sorrows office at 248-474-5720 or at the Come and See Open House Tues, January 14 7-8pm at the location above or scan QR code

Cost

\$65.00

For questions visit:

throughlifeschanges@gmail.com



SCAN ME

The Bible Summit Sunday, Jan. 25th, 2025, 10:00am-4:15pm Holy Family, Novi

Discover the richness of God’s Word! Dive into the Bible with dynamic Catholic presenters at this one-day conference, as we celebrate *Word of God Sunday*. Choose from talks that reveal...

- modern **leadership** lessons from the Bible
- how to answer tough questions about seven day **creation**
- models of **evangelization** for a hostile culture
- scriptural insights for **human sexuality**.

Get answers to your tough questions during Bible Q&A with a panel of experts!

The Bible Summit is being hosted by the **Catholic Biblical School of Michigan at Holy Family in Novi**. Registration is \$35, including lunch. Registration deadline is January 16th register online at cbsmich.org/biblesummit or call/text 586-438-3085.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING DEC. 28/29, 2024

(1,631.00) Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	89		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,688.90	(496.10)	9,742.56
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	92.00	(380.00)	(420.55)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	* 1,972.00	299.00	(2,671.21)
Bequests			1.00	983.00
Christmas			12,776.95	17,134.95
Holy Days: Mary, Mother of God			45.00	4,222.00
* includes \$1,930 CSA refund				

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JAN. 4/5, 2025

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	77		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,945.00	(317.00)	9,425.56
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	1,530.00	1,058.00	637.45
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	146.00	(1,527.00)	(4,198.21)
Bequests				983.00
Christmas		5,690.31		22,825.26
Holy Days: Mary, Mother of God		1,183.00		5,405.00
AOD Collections:				
CSA 2024 Pledged 76,160.34				Paid 74,087.84

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