

From The Pastor

Imagine Jesus at the wedding in Cana of Galilee. What is he thinking? How does he feel about being there? He is in the early months after his Baptism by John the Baptist. We must assume that this experience is still very much in his mind. At thirty or so years of age, Jesus has a highly developed spiritual sense of himself as well as deep personal awareness of the Father's love for him. I assume the words of the Father's voice heard at his Baptism, "This is my Beloved Son with whom I am well pleased" is at the center of his awareness and the focal point of his personal prayer.

After his Baptism, Jesus is led into the desert for forty days to fast and pray about the confirmation of his identity with the Father and what it means for his life. He is fully aware of the communion of love he shares with the Father. This oneness with the Father elicits the temptations of the Devil who seeks to destroy the role and mission of his life. Jesus will not deny the truth of the Father's love and readily rejects the temptations of the Devil.

Leaving the desert, secure in the call of his mission, Jesus begins his public ministry. In short order, He is invited to a wedding in Cana in Galilee. Jesus is outgoing, loves to be with people, and is always ready to engage in human encounters. All this while he is in the frame of his mission and ultimate call to the Cross. Moving in the Divine will, Jesus fully engages his human life.

Interjected into this very human scene, St. John the gospel writer uses the event to convey the symbolism of a wedding, a shortage of wine, and a miracle of changing water into wine to indicate the work of Jesus that will lead to the Cross. Beyond the wedding of a young couple, John is conveying to us in the person of Jesus the marriage of God and humanity, the union of heaven and earth. Jesus is the Bridegroom; we are the Bride. God seeks a union of love with all he has created.

It would have been a great humiliation for the family if the wine had run out. Mary informs Jesus of the concern. He initially deflects. As only a mother can, Mary tells the servants to do as he tells them. Jesus obeys his mother despite 'my hour has not yet come.' In love, Jesus not only obeys his mother, but most fully the will of his Father.

The multiplication of the wine is twofold. On the one hand, the power of Jesus is revealed in the miraculous abundance of wine. Secondly, the abundance of wine symbolizes the abundant love Jesus offers on the Cross by the shedding of his Blood. Our union with God is realized through the Blood of Christ.

Why the symbolism? God in the person of Christ is being introduced to the world. The presence of Jesus creates a new frame of understanding of who God is and what God intends for all humanity, and each of us personally. The presence and reality of Jesus is too stark, too radical to accept without faith in the mystery and power of God to heal, reconcile, and redeem. The stark reality of God in the flesh is too much. Symbolism opens our awareness to a mystery beyond the ability of words to convey.

God is a mystery come in the flesh. No one gets that without the action of the Holy Spirit. Jesus is filled with the Spirit, his life animated by the power of the Spirit, the power of Love given at the time of his Baptism. Notice that these early movements make clear both the human nature of Jesus in union with his Divine nature. This is where we come in.

This is where we see the unity and strength of the Sacraments of Initiation. In Baptism we are consecrated to Christ through a profession of faith (at infancy by our parents) and we receive the Holy Spirit. Christ lives in us in the person of the Holy Spirit. We begin a journey of faith, hope, and love that matures us in the ways of God seen in the Lord Jesus. Like Jesus, we learn to obey our hearts in the virtues of love, goodness, and gospel values.

In preparation for First Communion, we learned about sin and its effects. We are offered the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In any disobedience against love, we receive the Lord's mercy and forgiveness, readily given to restore our peace with God, self, and others.

Accepting the gift of our redemption (forgiveness of sin) through the Blood of the Lord Jesus, we are called to the table of the Eucharist to be nourished. Bread and wine are consecrated into to the Body and Blood of the Lord Jesus, consumed by us to express our communion with God who is in communion with us through the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus.

Symbols are essential to convey spiritual and Divine things. The Eucharist is not a symbol. It is the living reality of the Lord Jesus given to us in Sacramental signs to strengthen the marriage we share with God in Christ. Please ponder how these mysteries of love are evident and active in your life.

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS 8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm Sunday - 9:00am

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, January 20, 2025 8:00am Mass: Diane Seavitt-Conway† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

TUESDAY, January 21, 2025 8:00am Mass: Jim McCown (9th R.A.) req. by Judy McCown

WEDNESDAY, January 22, 2025

8:00am Mass: Charlie Hamilton† req. by Mary Jane Guc **THURSDAY, January 23, 2025** 8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SATURDAY, January 25, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

SUNDAY, January 26, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer William & Patricia Tilton† req. by Family Gracie (Special Intention) req. by Mom Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

MONTH OF THE MOST HOLY NAME OF JESUS

Readings for the week

January 19, 2025

- 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
- Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/Mk 2:18-22
- Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c/ Mk 2:23-28
- Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4/ Mk 3:1-6
- Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/ Mk 3:7-12
- Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14/Mk 3:13-19
- Saturday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Mk 16:15-18
- Next Sunday: Neh 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 (see Jn 6:63c)/1 Cor 12:12-30 or 12:12-14, 27/Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21



2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

A friend invited me to an invitation-

only wine-tasting event. There were over two hundred varieties of wine. Having no idea how to approach such a massive selection, I wandered aimlessly among the tables, sipping this and that. At the end of the evening my friend asked if I had tried some of the exceptionally expensive wines. I hadn't. "The really good stuff disappears first," he said. "My man, you missed out on some amazing vino." I was so disappointed. I wasted my chance for amazing once-in-a-lifetime wine. The wine I tasted was, well, *blah*.

Don't we often feel a similar disappointment in life? I missed this or that opportunity. If only I had known. Optimism sputters and fades. The glory days are gone. The chances, it seems, for the really great things in life come and go so quickly. Then they are gone forever. The good stuff goes first. Then life is just *blah*.

Not so with the Lord Jesus. In Jesus' miracle at the wedding at Cana, the steward of the feast says, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then... an inferior one" (John 2:10). That's the natural downward progression of life. The good stuff disappears quickly. But he says of the groom (who symbolizes Jesus), "But you have kept the good wine until now." This is the ever-improving trajectory of the realm of God's grace. With Jesus, the "good wine" of divine love, hope and peace gets better as our journey of faith progresses. Where are your greatest disappointments? Don't give in to the lie that the really good stuff is gone. Tell Jesus Then learn how vou've run out. to taste that amazingly good wine, because he saves the best until now. — Father John Muir





HEALING MASS NEXT SATURDAY

JANUARY 25, 2025 - 4:00pm

Anointing of the Sick

Fr. John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass. Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.



"On June 24, 2022, the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* decision overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and we praise God for the great opportunity state and federal legislators now have to protect pre-born children. While God, in His mercy, ended the nearly fifty-year nationwide regime of abortion on demand, right now state and federal laws, in many instances, are still hostile to pre-born children. So, great prayer and advocacy is very needed." *www.usccb.org*

- Evangelical Charity

PRAYER BLANK & CARD MINISTRIES MEETINGS Thursday, January 23rd - 6:00—9:00pm

The Prayer Blanket Ministry is in great need of decorated squares for prayer blankets and sewers.

If you can decorate squares, arrange squares, sew, or iron blankets we have a job for you. Please come and join us for all or part of the time.

Observances For The Week

Sunday:	2 nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian,
	Martyr; Martin Luther King Day
Tuesday:	St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr
Wednesday:	Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of
	Unborn Children
Thursday:	St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St.
	Marianne Cope, Virgin
Friday:	St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of
	the Church
	The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
Next Sunday	:3 rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebrate
	Catholic Schools Week

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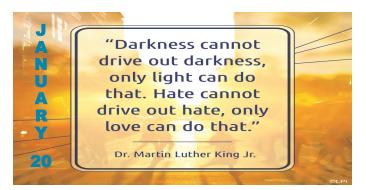
THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YOU

There are close to 7.6 billion people currently on earth. That is a lot of people! If you try to estimate how many people have collectively been born since the beginning of time, a good guess is 108 billion! It is hard to contemplate that many distinctly different human beings created by our God. In the midst of all those people, where do you and I fit? Can we really be created to make a difference in the world? One can feel very small and insignificant when reflecting on the numbers.

We render ourselves insignificant when we make the mistake of seeing ourselves as being just like everybody else. However, when looking at the numbers, how can one honestly think we are all the same? Another way we become insignificant is believing the lie that one person in the midst of so many does not have the power to make an impact. However, we all spend time reading books, watching movies, or listening to news about singular people who made all the difference in some part of the world. Imagine your own world without a few key people who have touched you and made a difference.

We are all created with unique gifts. We have those gifts that have been part of us from birth and those that have been imparted to us by the Holy Spirit. St. Paul tried to get the Corinthians to understand that reality when he explained to them the many gifts of the Spirit. Perhaps some of his audience back then thought they were insignificant. The message then remains the message today: God is counting on you to use what He has given you. If you don't, who will?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who was the only apostle, excluding Judas, who was not martyred? ^{©LPi}

Answer: St. John



Excerpt from Archdiocese of Detroit "THE JUBILEE OF HOPE"

"One of the most important observances of a Jubilee Year is the pilgrimage, making our way through

the world so as to appreciate the beauty of creation, recall the need for silence and recollection, form friendships with fellow travelers, and seek Christ, who is the way (John 14:6) and the gateway (John 10:9) to eternal life, in every encounter and situation.

Archbishop Vigneron has designated several pilgrimage sites throughout the Archdiocese, where you can pray the official prayer for Jubilee Year 2025 and unite spiritually with all who will journey to Rome as pilgrims.

Designated Pilgrimage sites in the Archdiocese of Detroit

Basilica of Ste. Anne, Detroit Blessed Solanus Casey Center, Detroit Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament, Detroit Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, Southfield National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica, Royal Oak Our Lady of Fatima Shrine, Riverview Our Lady of Hope Cemetery, Brownstown Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Chapel, Livonia Shrine of Jesus, The Divine Mercy, Clinton Township Shrine of St. John Paul II, Orchard Lake Shrine of St. Joseph, Detroit



...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

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

HOLY DAYS

Question: Why do some dioceses move holy days, or not even celebrate them at all. Doesn't everyone do the same thing?

Answer: The short answer is no, not everyone does the same thing. Although the church is universal, there are many local customs and saints that each country, sometimes just a region, will honor. For example, feast days and patronal days may not be major feast days on the church's universal calendar, but are celebrated as such in one place. Holy days of obligation are the same way. The US Conference of Catholic Bishops has a certain amount of discretion in choosing days which best reflect the local church's experience and history.

Another reason certain feasts are moved is a practical one. With limited clergy, or a great difficulty for people to get to Mass, the feast day may be transferred to a Sunday. The rationale is that if a significant feast should be part of the church's celebration, then better to do so on a Sunday when people and clergy are available, rather than try to fit it on a day when one or both cannot be there.

Christmas and Immaculate Conception are always observed as days of obligation. In the USA we celebrate six holy days of obligation. There are also other special days and they are ranked, in order of importance as solemnity, feast, memorial and optional memorial.

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

The Angelus, Explained

The incarnation of Christ changed the life of every Christian person who ever lived. Reflecting on that moment in salvation history is an opportunity for grace, growth and peace. Who wouldn't want that every day, or even three times every day?

The Angelus is composed of three antiphons which narrate the annunciation, each followed by the recitation of a Hail Mary (a prayer that itself contains the "angelic greeting" of the angel Gabriel). Its name is derived from the first words of the prayer in Latin.

This devotion was developed over the course of several centuries and is rooted in the ancient practice of saying three Hail Marys in the evening. Historically, people were called to prayer by the ringing of church bells — "the Angelus bells." Most people who recite the Angelus do so daily at noon, though it is often said (at 6:00am) in the morning, at noon and (at 6:00pm) in the evening.



Saturday, January 25th 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

Is 62:1-5

1st **Reading Question:** Isaiah spoke of God's delight in Jerusalem and desire to see Israel as His spouse. What married couples do you know who genuinely take delight in each other?

1 Cor 12:4-11

 2^{nd} Reading Question: Paul taught the Corinthians that the gifts of the Holy Spirit to individuals are meant to benefit and unify the community. What gifts do you have that you think benefit others?

Jn 2:1-11

Gospel Question: After all the wine was consumed, Jesus turned water into wine for the bride and groom at the wedding. When have you received an unexpected gift from someone?

Ministry Schedule

January 25/26, 2025

	y						
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am					
Sacristan	T Riley	D Tourville					
Reader #1	M Simmons	D Gray					
Reader #2	T Riley	A Goll					
EME	M Simmons	P Allen					
	P Miles	D Gray					
	R Pasiak	M Black					
Greeters	M Smith	M McLaughlin					
	P Miles	P Rarus					
	T Pasiak	B Turchin					
	R Pasiak	T Lane					
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of January 25/26 Marge & Duane McLaughlin							

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



St. Marianne Cope 1838-1918 January 23

Barbara Koop, later Mother Marianne Cope, was born in Germany on January 23, 1838, and immigrated with her parents to New

York when she was 2 years old. In August of 1862 she went to the sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York and took her vows the next year. Her early religious life saw her working as a teacher and administrator for local Catholic schools until she was called upon by the bishop to use her administrative skills as superior of St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, New York. She devoted herself to the care of the sick and infirm and the hospital flourished under her leadership. As the Provincial Mother of her order in Syracuse, Cope, along with six other sisters, answered a call made by the Hawaiian government to run the Kaka'ako Branch Hospital on Oahu that served as a receiving station for people suspected of having leprosy.

Of the more than 50 religious communities in the United States and Canada who were asked by the government to help the suffering communities and hospitals for those with leprosy (Hansen's disease) in Hawaii, Mother Marianne and her sisters were the only ones to answer the call. They immediately got to work transforming the hospital environment for those with leprosy and their families. Of this mission, she said —

> "I am hungry for the work and I wish with all my heart to be one of the chosen ones, whose privilege it will be to sacrifice themselves for the salvation of the souls of the poor Islanders.... I am not afraid of any disease, hence, it would be my greatest delight even to minister to the abandoned 'lepers'."

In 1888. Mother Marianne and two sisters took on an even more challenging assignment and went to the Hawaiian island of Moloka'i, a leper colony, to open a new home devoted to the protection of girls and women with leprosy as well as to take charge of the home that her friend, Saint Damien de Veuster, had established for men and boys. She helped improve life on the island by introducing pride, cleanliness, and a little fun to the colony. She often provided bright scarves and dresses for the women she served and cheerfully carried out her mission until she died on August 9, 1918. While in service, she was awarded the Royal Order of Kapiolani by the Hawaiian government for her selfless love and care of those in need and never contracted leprosy. She was canonized in 2012. ©LPi





St. Sebastian January 20 (256-287)

Not much is known about the life of St. Sebastian, except that he was a Roman martyr whose name has been mentioned throughout history since early 350.

We see St. Sebastian many times in art, especially from iconic paintings from Guido

Reni, Andrea Mantegna and Hendrick ter Brugghen. Historical scholars now agree that a spiritual story has the beloved saint entering the Roman army because only there could he assist Christian martyrs without arousing suspicion on himself. Eventually he was found out, brought before Emperor Diocletian and delivered to Mauritanian archers to be shot to death. Pierced with arrows, he was left for dead, but managed to survive. He recovered from his wounds but still refused to leave. One day, St. Sebastian took up a position near where the emperor was to pass. He confronted the emperor, condemning him for his cruelty to Christians. This time the sentence of death was carried out, and St. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs. Today he is the patron saint of athletes. ©LPi

Do Whatever He Tells You

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I once ran out of pizza at my kid's birthday party.

Everyone told me it wasn't a big deal but come *on*. It was a disaster. I had invited all these people over. They showed up with presents and sang "Happy Birthday" and stood around patiently while my kid ripped through his cache of gifts. The very least they were expecting was to be fed sufficiently.

I'll tell you what, I sure could have used the Blessed Mother that night.

I love the story of the wedding at Cana because it's such a silly little miracle. I don't mean to be disrespectful — of course it's an incredibly important moment in Christ's public life. But it's not healing a leper. It's not raising the dead. It's not even walking on water. It's saving a young couple from embarrassment.

I think sometimes we forget, or even refuse, to bring small concerns and inconveniences to God because we think we should be able to handle them on our own. What a ridiculous attitude that is — as if we could handle anything on our own. It's so fitting that Mary, ever the observant Mother, is the one to bring the matter to Jesus' attention. He asks her what this problem has to do with him. She doesn't answer him, because, between you and me, I don't think he's asking her. I think he's asking us. All she does is tell the waiters what I consider to be the best piece of advice in all of Scripture: "Do whatever he tells you."

I'm so quick to throw up my hands and feel sorry for myself when I encounter a barrier in my life. What I should be doing is taking the matter to God, and then doing whatever He tells me.

PRO-LIFERS IN MICHIGAN TO BE HONORED

At the National Prayer Service on January 24, 2025 in Washington, DC (the morning of the March for Life), pro-life advocates from our state and 17 other states will be given special recognition for their efforts to defeat the pro-abortion ballot amendments. If you are attending the March for Life, be sure to start your day with this inspirational prayer service. It will take place from 8:30 to 10:30am (Catholic Mass at 7:30am) at DAR Constitution Hall, 1776 D St. NW (18th & D). For more information, visit www.NationalPrayer Service.com



Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose and belonging? Register today for a life-changing REFLECT weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on February 21-23, 2025. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$230 for meals and a single room. Visit www.ReflectRetreat.com, email reflect.michigan@gmail.com, Or call (586) 770-1772 for details



A peer support ministry open to all widowed. For more information on this organization and the upcoming events visit: www.widowed friends.com (new email address)



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

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 JAN. 11/12, 2025					
Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD	
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	86			
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,639.32	(545.68)	8,879.88	
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	551.00	79.00	716.00	
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	273.00	(1,400.00)	(5,598.21)	
Bequests				983.00	
AOD Collections:					
Christmas		320.00		23,145.26	
Holy Days: Mary Mother of God		165.00		5,570.00	
CSA 2024 Pledged 76,160.34				Paid 74,150.34	