



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

MARCH 2, 2025 + EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

It is difficult to interpret or comment on the obvious. To the attentive observer the obvious should be obvious. To the inattentive observer even the most obvious things can go unnoticed. What is it about human nature that causes this contradiction?

Often, those who depend on the temporal and material world (news, media, social opinion, cost of things, needs and wants, etc.) to interpret and assess the meaning and value of things will observe differently than those who desire to see and perceive from the heart. Spiritual sight and perception will interpret the ways of the temporal and material world differently. Spiritual sight grows from a heart of faith, worldly sight often does not.

Sirach was a spiritually committed person who sought the wisdom of God. He spent much time observing and pondering human behavior. His writings are the fruit of his observations. This obvious theme today is that of wisdom in the desire to know and act in the ways of God.

I have long remembered a priest who taught spirituality to young students at Creighton University. As he observed their behavior and the fruit of their written work he would teach them: junk in, junk out. What you feed your mind and heart is what will come out in your words, actions, and work. If you party and goof around with your time, this will become evident. If you read, reflect, pray, and live cleanly it will be seen in the fruit of your efforts.

Isn't this exactly what Sirach is saying? 'The fruit of a tree shows the care it has had.' Jesus uses the same image in the gospel because it was widely relatable to his listeners. "A good tree does not bear rotten fruit, nor does a rotten tree bear good fruit." The sayings are obvious and should be taken to heart as Jesus is working to transform the inner understanding of his disciples.

Jesus minces no words in his pointed examples. Jesus is referring to the false face of hypocrisy evident in some of the religious leaders. He is teaching his followers to not follow their example. How can one offer to take a splinter out of another person's eye when they do not realize they have a beam in their own eye? Hypocrite, take the obvious beam out of your own eye that you may remove a splinter from your neighbor's eye. It takes some

kind of intentional blindness to miss the beam in your own eye, to presume to take a splinter out of the other's eyes. What is that? Ego, pride, arrogance, superiority, or just ignorance?

What is in the heart is revealed in the words and actions of a person. The words and actions of a person reveal the character of the inner self. It may be hidden for a time, but before long it will be revealed. Jesus challenges his disciples to have their inner self match their outer words and behavior. This is the ongoing work of conversion to see any conflict of what I hold in my heart and how I behave and relate to others.

This is the challenge and the call to know the self. Who am I? Am I self-aware enough to understand and control my inner life lest my words and behaviors betray me? "A good person out of the store of goodness in the heart produces goodness, but an evil person out of a store of evil will produce evil." What is in the heart, the mouth speaks. We may resist the word evil, but to be honest, we all have thoughts, moods, emotions, and opinions that if said it will not reflect us well. Can I say, look in the mirror carefully before you judge the looks of another.

Truth in word and action create trust and stability that will lead to mature relationships that bear good fruit. Lies and critical judgement lead to uncertainty and confusion that cause instability in behavior and relationships. Disorder is born and the illusion of good fruit turns bad. The closing verse from last Sunday's gospel come to mind again. "The measure with which you measure will in turn be measured out to you."

I do not know if it was intentional or not, but these readings today seem like a good tee up as we begin Lent. This Wednesday is Ash Wednesday. If you have not already done so, please pick up our flyer of offerings and opportunities for the season. Much is offered and I encourage you to participate in one or more of these blessings.

Today's readings give us plenty to ponder and reflect on as we seek to free ourselves from those things that hinder us from receiving the love God is giving us in Christ. It is a season to love Jesus more through our love for others. What may be hindering the good fruit we hope to produce?

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



MONDAY, March 3, 2025

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

TUESDAY, March 4, 2025

8:00am Mass: Stefanija Juska (17th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

WEDNESDAY, March 5, 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00am Mass: Susan Erickson† req. by Jane McKay

7:00 pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

THURSDAY, March 6, 2025

8:00am Mass: Deanna req. by Family

SATURDAY, March 8, 2025

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Emma (Special Intention) req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

SUNDAY, March 9, 2025

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Living & Deceased Members and Families of the Fr.

Heary K of C Council

William Olszewski† req. by Family

LIVE
STREAMING

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



LENT BEGINS

READINGS OF THE WEEK

March 2, 2025

Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 (see 2a)/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45
Monday: Sir 17:20-24/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 10:17-27
Tuesday: Sir 35:1-12/Ps 50:5-6, 7-8, 14 and 23/Mk 10:28-31
Wednesday: J1 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
Next Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13



Be Each Other's Eyes

I was traveling recently and watched as a wife led her blind husband onto the plane by her arm. She lovingly helped him into his seat and made sure he was comfortable. She placed their bags above in the bin and then sat next to him. They were ready for the flight. As I sat in my seat just a few rows away, I wondered what he would do if she ever left his side.

Sometimes those we love in our life can be blind, and we need to be their eyes. They aren't physically blind, but they are unable to see the truth about their life, situation, or needs. We need to lend them our sight and insight, or they will remain in their world of darkness.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Can a blind person guide a blind person?" If we aren't actively working to be sure that we can see clearly, what will we be able to offer someone we care about when they come to us with their blindness? Can you lead someone to Christ if you aren't living a life with him yourself? Can you share with another truth if you aren't concerned with knowing the truth yourself?

Life is not always easy. Without faith, hope, and love, the road can be too hard to travel. We are not created to be alone. Instead, we are created to be traveling companions. However, the blind cannot lead the blind. May the Light of Christ dispel your darkness and give you sight so that when the call comes, you might lend an arm to lead the blind.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

*Jean Witkowski
Douglas Evans
Mary "Jo" Kronbach*

Please remember them and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.
May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



ASH WEDNESDAY
Remember that You Are Dust, and to Dust You Shall Return.

MASSES
8:00AM &
7:00PM
Ashes are only available at Mass.

DAY of FASTING and ABSTINENCE

Catholics ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with two smaller snacks that do not equal another meal.
Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Ash Wednesday Ashes

Question: Why do we place ashes on our forehead each Ash Wednesday?

Answer: Ashes are rich in spiritual symbolism. We recall in the second chapter of Genesis, when the human person is fashioned "out of the dust of the ground" and receives the breath of life (Genesis 2:7). In death, a person returns to the ground from which we came. The ancient Hebrews used ashes as a sign of repentance, reminding themselves that God is God and we are not.

As the minister places ashes on our forehead, we hear either "remember that you are dust and unto dust you shall return" or "turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel." When we receive ashes, we remember our own mortality. We're reminded that we have limited time on this earth and we ought to make the best use of it that we can! People are in need of love, care, and compassion. We all need to continually rediscover the love of God. The Gospel invites every person in every stage of life to encounter and imitate Jesus here and now. The forty days of Lent are the perfect time to assess our own awareness of these realities. ©LPi

JOIN US FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS



Fridays during Lent
7:00pm
in church

(also livestreamed)



EVANGELICAL CHARITY



CCSEM Senior Food COLLECTION March 8/9

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 food, from: Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS SUNDAY, MARCH 9

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

All are invited to Fr. John's
Lenten Reflection Series

Building Pathways of Hope

Wednesday Evenings - 7:00pm

March 12, 19, 26 and April 2



Virtual Soup Suppers

Our Virtual Soup Suppers will precede Fr. John's Reflections on March 12, 19, 26 and April 2.

A soup recipe will be offered and will also be available on line or in the bulletin. A brief explanation of the charities that we will be collecting for each of the evenings will be given. Donations collected at these Virtual Soup Suppers will go to the following charities:

March 12	Matchan Nutrition Center
March 19	St. Christine's Soup Kitchen
March 26	St. Leo's Soup Kitchen
April 2	St. Vincent Ferrer Benevolent Fund

Information on these charities will be found in future bulletins and on line at our website. Donations can be marked appropriately and dropped in the collection baskets in church or at the Parish Office. Online donations can be made through our website: www.stvincentferrer.net or use our QR code found on page 7.

INTERGENERATIONAL HEALING MASS

Tuesday, March 11, 2025 7:00pm

Celebrant: Fr. John Esper

What is intergenerational healing?

We all understand the concept of material inheritance. After people die, they often leave money, property and possessions to family members.

We are also aware of a physical inheritance. Doctors always ask for the family medical history of a new patient. There is also a spiritual inheritance. We can thank God and family for the benefit from our virtuous ancestors going back a thousand generations (see Sirach 44:10-12). We are also adversely affected by the sins of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and by the sins of the ancestors, who adversely affected them, with consequences that may extend to what is inherited materially, emotionally and physically.

In his book entitled *Intergenerational Healing*, Fr. Robert De Grandis writes: "intergenerational healing is, for the Christian, an opportunity to recognize and bring healing to family influences from the past, with implications for the future. Intergenerational healing suggests the possibility that negative acts and deeds of our ancestors can somehow enter our "bloodstream" and take a toll on future generations. Transforming the connection with these troublesome roots is what intergenerational healing is all about.



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

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE HEALING CHRIST

A Manresa Silent Healing Retreat
 1390 Quarton Rd.
 Bloomfield Hills, 48304

Friday to Sunday - March 21- 23

There are quiet places in our hearts where we have placed doubts, memories, fears and hurts which need the loving hand of Jesus to heal. Receive His embrace during a precious few days of quiet and serenity. It is a place of peace where we can light a path which can lead to freedom, forgiveness, healing. God is waiting for you. Don't miss the invitation.

Directors:
 Fr. John Esper
 & Debbie Tourville



Weekend schedule:
 Registration, Friday 5:00pm - Dinner 6:00pm
 Closure of Retreat: Sunday at Noon
 A nonrefundable deposit of \$50 is required
 You may register on line at www.manresa-sj.org
 For more information call 248.644.4933

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

ASH WEDNESDAY ASHES

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Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, MARCH 8TH 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

1st Reading Sir 27:4-7

Question: Sirach teaches us to pay attention to how people speak; it reveals a lot. How often do you find yourself weighing your words before speaking?

2nd Reading 1 Cor 15:54-58

Question: Paul speaks of Jesus's resurrection as taking away the "sting" and "victory" of death. What words of comfort do you use to those grieving over the death of a loved one?

Gospel Lk 6:39-45

Question: Jesus encourages his followers to be humble in judgment of others and mindful in speech. Have you had good role models in your life for these virtues?

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Ministry Schedule

March 8/9, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	T Riley	D Tourville
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	R Pasiak	D Tourville
	P Miles	M Black
	T Riley	P Allen
Greeters	R Bertolini	B Gutowski
	L Collins	T Lane
	R Pasiak	P Rarus
	T Pasiak	D Vu

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of March 8/9, 2025
 Kathy Bush

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. CASIMIR JAGIELLON
FEAST DAY MARCH 4
1458-1485

We live in a culture that tells children, "Follow your dreams! Be who you want to be!" It might be hard to imagine the courage it took to be St. Casimir. A prince second in line for the throne of Poland, the young man had great expectations placed upon him. Inspired by a devout tutor, St. Casimir developed a deep faith. As a teenager, he would often sleep on the ground, reject courtly finery for plain clothes, and dedicate long hours to prayer. He even made a private commitment to celibacy. Casimir's avoidance of a military engagement made his father furious. The king imprisoned his own son. The episode confirmed to St. Casimir that he served a higher King, Jesus Christ. He would spend the rest of his life in prayer, study, and service to the poor. When we need courage to do what is right, St. Casimir, pray for us!

(St. Casimir, who died at the age of 25, was canonized in 1521 and is the patron saint of Poland, Lithuania and young people.)

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which saint who was a Carmelite nun is known as the "Little Flower"?

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Answer: St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

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

The practice of fasting predates Christianity. The Old Testament is full of examples of righteous men and women mortifying their flesh for the purpose of making atonement or simply to grow closer to God. Jesus himself fasted for forty days and forty nights in preparation for the beginning of his public ministry, and we see his disciples following his example in the Acts of the Apostles.

Fasting continues to be an important part of Christian devotional life today. Many people feel the practice of fasting enhances their prayer and helps them fulfill St. Paul's advice to "put to death the deeds of the body" (Romans 8:13) to grow in the Spirit. Most Catholics will associate fasting with the liturgical season of Lent, which begins and ends with obligatory fasting for all members of the Latin Catholic Church between ages 18 and 59.

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Log in Your Eye

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Today's Gospel is a big favorite of non-Christians — or Christians who don't like being told what to do.

That trusty ol' *remove the wooden beam from your own eye* line is a classic. *Mind your business, Christians! You're not perfect either.*

And that's entirely true. None of us are perfect. We've all got logs in our eyes. We can't approach life acting like we have the answers simply because we follow Jesus.

Jesus has the answers, and we have Jesus.

The real problem with having someone remove a splinter from my eye, if he himself has a log in his eye, is not that he has no business removing the splinter from my eye. It's that he can't see clearly to do it. His own eyesight is occluded.

If we see a splinter in another person's eye, or a problem in the world that needs to be fixed, or a scandal in the community that should be addressed, what Jesus is saying is not that we should ignore it and move on. He's merely saying that, when we see these things, we must take them first as a challenge to examine ourselves. To address the problem as it exists within our own souls, so that we ensure we are seeing clearly. Then, if we reach out to pluck the splinter, we will do so with clear eyesight.

He wants us to worry as much about our own souls as we do about other people's.

We tend to look at the world and feel anxious — so much evil! So much hate! So much sin! We pray, *God, when will you change it?*

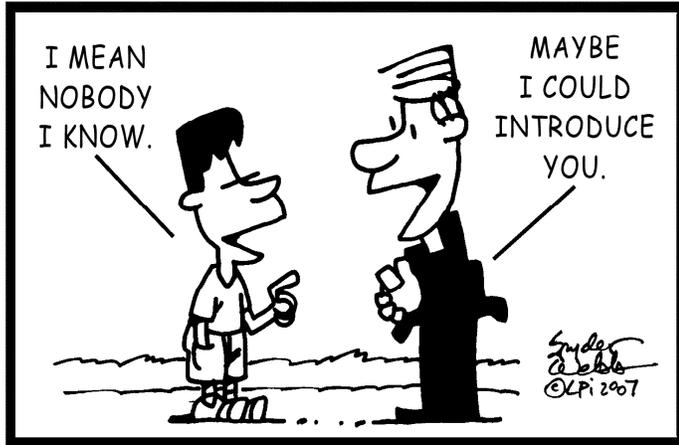
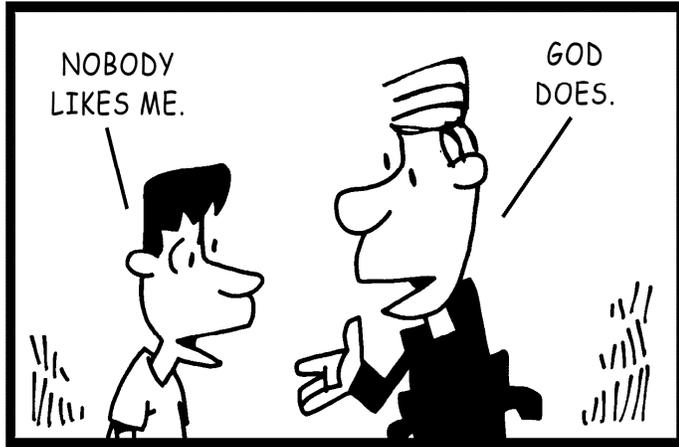
And He whispers back: *I will change it here. Now. In your own heart. You just have to ask.*

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OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

Sunday: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
 Tuesday: St. Casimir
 Wednesday: Ash Wednesday
 Friday: Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
 Saturday: St. John of God, Religious
 Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

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To support St. Vincent Ferrer with a financial contribution scan the code below to connect to our tithe.ly giving site.



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

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

Daylight Savings Time Begins
MARCH 9th



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING FEB 22/23, 2025

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	91		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,269.09	84.09	11,656.83
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	230.00	(242.00)	(254.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	54.00	(1,619.00)	(13,888.71)
Bequests		167.00		2,784.00
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days:				5,610.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 76,160.34				Paid 74,517.84

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