

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church

Reverend John Esper, Pastor

www.stvincentferrer.net



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EASTER SUNDAY

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb.
- Lk 24:2



When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place.

John 20: 6-7

From The Pastor

Praise be God for the gift of Our Lord Jesus Christ risen from the dead! Words cannot hold the reality and truth of Divine love revealed in the dying and rising Jesus. For those who believe and seek to live with faith in Christ, the Resurrection means everything. Even for those who do not believe, the world is different with the Spirit of the risen Christ in world.

The Resurrection is the source of all Christian hope. After a brutal and torturous death, the risen Christ confirms all that he has promised us. Only after the Resurrection, through the experience of hundreds of people encountering Jesus fully alive, do we realize the gift we have been given. The Christian truth is realized because the One who was dead is now alive and known among us.

God is the source and origin of all love. In love God created. In love God redeems through his Incarnate Son. In the Holy Spirit, God in Christ lives and dwells within us. To say the Resurrection is a profound gift hardly touches the reality of its effect. In the rising of Jesus, an eternal hope is born. In the rising of Jesus, new life and identity is given to all who seek their wholeness in God. The darkness, chaos, and disorder of the world is given a new freedom in the One who has reconciled the world against our proneness to evil and sin.

Only the power of Divine love can defeat the deception of evil, the lie of sin, and the sadness of death. The lie of evil, the disorder of sin, and the fear of death instill the greatest fear and anxiety known to the human heart. These disorders, prevalent in our human nature, confuse and hide the gift of faith given us by God. They diminish hope through discouragement due to the tensions and fears that surround us. They create doubt and mistrust against the bonds of love that give our lives the deepest meaning of our existence.

The life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus is pure gift. Jesus, who became the Word Made Flesh, preexisted in the Father ever to become the redemptive Son of our salvation. God is the source and origin of all love. There is no love in the world that does not come from God. There is no lack of love in the world. All the love the world needs is given in the work of creation as a gift of God, now redeemed in the dying and rising of the Son, made evident through the Holy Spirit. What feels like a lack or an absence of love in the world is the consequence of sin, selfishness, and the deception of

evil that obscures the truth of God whose love is eternal and unchanging.

Hope is critical to the maturing of human nature as we seek the goal of eternal life. The goal of every human heart is union with God. In the rising of Jesus, our greatest hope and deepest longing is fulfilled. God in Christ has done for us what we could never do for ourselves. In Christ, through his pure act of love for us, our sins are forgiven. In his name we are defended against evil, and in his rising from the dead, our path to eternal life is opened.

All God has promised in Christ is now fulfilled in the Lord Jesus. The dying and rising of Jesus reveals the pattern of our own path through death to new life. The virtue of Christian hope is not a passive wishful thinking nor an excited anticipation of things wanted but not yet seen. Hope is an active and persistent grace that walks through every darkness with the light of Christ guiding the way. Hope is most itself in the deepest hours of our unknowing. The new life of the Resurrection is only understood in the dark hours of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane, the injustice of his trial, and his three hours on the Cross. This darkness becomes the light and strength of our hope in Christ as we endure the trials and difficulties we encounter.

The power of the Resurrection is the power of love. Only from the womb of love can new life come forth. The unitive love of God flowing from the Holy Trinity is that womb from which we are born. The Father/Creator gives us life. Jesus the Son redeems us through his dying and rising. It is the Holy Spirit who animates the Divine life and love of Jesus within us. Take seriously your Profession of faith in the renewal of your Baptismal Promises, as well as your rejection of evil and the lie of sin. Allow these to become the identity and manner of your life as you travel the path to eternal life.

Not only today, but every day is the day of the Lord. Christ the Lord is risen and present in every moment of our lives. Accept deeply the gift Christ has given you. You are loved, forgiven, and redeemed in the Lord Jesus. In Christ, loving yourself and others will deepen your love for God. The fabric of this love animates the virtue of hope in every trial. The Resurrection of Jesus will one day be our own. In Christ, our union with God is assured. Rejoice in this truth of love. Happy Easter to all.

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



MONDAY, April 21, 2025

8:00am Mass: Pat King† req. by Corrine McCarthy

TUESDAY, April 22, 2025

8:00am Mass: Janice Fox† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, April 23, 2025

8:00am Mass: Wayne Brown† req. by Stan & Linda
Yolkiewicz

THURSDAY, April 24, 2025

8:00am Mass: Pat King† req. by Mary Jane Guc

SATURDAY, April 26, 2025

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Neil Repke† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Genevieve Szeliga† (51st R.A.) req. by Son, Tony &
Jeanette Szeliga

Mary Petrucci (Special Intention) req. by Jean & Mike
Pietraszewski

Barbara Lorris (Special Intention) req. by Jean & Mike
Pietraszewski

Roxanna Giardina† (4th R.A.) req. by Rick & Toni
Pasiak

Dorothy Cusmano† req. by Rick & Toni Pasiak

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, April 27, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Cathy McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Lawrence Bunting† req. by Sam & Meg Lamerato

Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends

SVF Staff Appreciation req. by Bernadette Gutowski

John & Rose Armstrong† req. by Bob & Mary James

READINGS OF THE WEEK

April 20, 2025

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 (24)/Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18, 19-21/Mk 16:9-15

Next Sunday: Acts 5:12-16/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 (1)/Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19/Jn 20:19-31

EVANGELICAL CHARITY

PRAYER BLANKET & CARD FOR SHUT-INS DECORATING MINISTRIES

Thursday, April 24th - 6:00—9:00pm—Parish Hall

Our next Prayer Blanket and Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministries meeting is Thursday, April 24, 2025. We will be meeting from 6pm - 9pm in the church social hall. The Prayer Blanket Ministry needs volunteers to arrange squares for the blankets, cut material for the squares, decorate squares, and sew the blankets together. Come join us and have a good time. No artistic skills are needed, just a willingness to give of yourself to someone in need. For further information call the chairperson of the Prayer Blanket Ministry: Renee Hauzie at 586-718-6371.



Anointing of
the Sick

HEALING MASS NEXT SATURDAY

APRIL 26, 2025 - 4:00pm

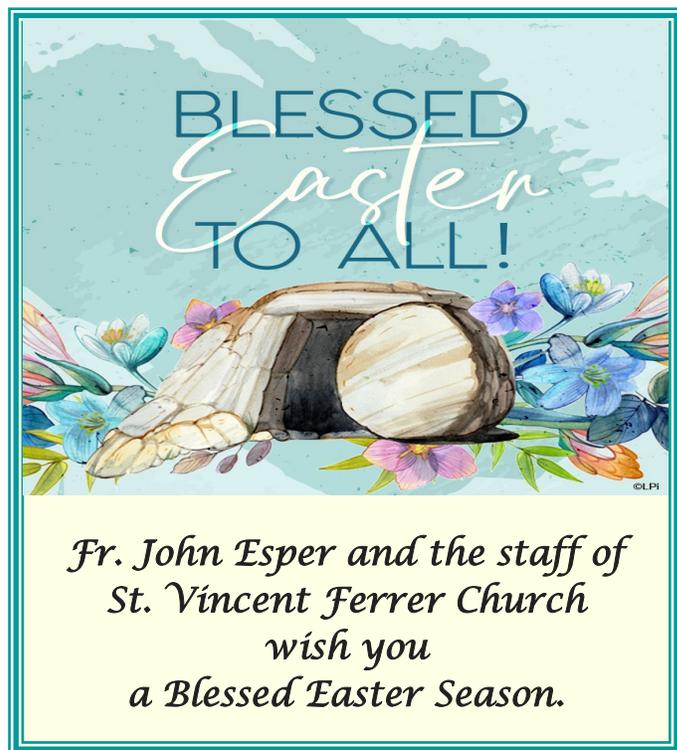
Fr. John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass. Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.



...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



Easter Sunday

When I was a young boy, my parents told me about their wedding. Then a few years later, they showed me my mother's wedding dress and my dad's suit. It was astonishing to see and touch garments that connected me to the event that led to my existence. Of course, I already believed they were married based on their word. But these holy garments made the event real and tangible for me.

Something like this is at play when St. John reports encountering in Jesus' tomb, **"the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place"** (John 20:7). Those two separate cloths, for his head and for his body respectively, meant a great deal to St. John and to the early Christians. Some years after the resurrection, there surfaced reports of two cloths with unusual characteristics, one bearing the image of a crucified man's body, another smaller one with the image of a wounded man's face. Some call them the Shroud of Turin and the Veil of Manoppello; they both can be seen today.

These two cloths have a long and complicated history, and scholars debate aspects of them. If you're curious, I encourage you to read about them. To be clear, I believe in the resurrection of Jesus because of the testimony of eyewitnesses and the gift of faith in the Church. Nevertheless, seeing these two mysterious cloths have made the life-giving event of Jesus' resurrection more real and tangible for me. Maybe they will for you, too.

— Father John Muir
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My Dad
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GENERAL FLOWER DONATIONS

Mrs. Benedicta Anderson
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 Mr. Raymond Van Hall
 Rose Wysiecki
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 Ryan Vu

Thank you to all who made
 memorial flower
 contributions to beautify our
 worship space.
 The contribution total was
 \$1,996.00

The Search

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



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

Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Explained

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy is an intercessory prayer invoking God’s mercy on the world, utilizing words drawn from the text of The Diary of St. Faustina Maria Kowalska. St. Faustina was a Polish nun who received visions of Christ imploring her to spread the message of his Divine Mercy, specifically through the recitation of this chaplet.

Prayed with an ordinary five-decade Rosary, the chaplet opens with a recitation of the Our Father, the Hail Mary and the Apostle’s Creed. The beads usually used for the Our Father are used to recite this prayer: “Eternal Father, I offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world,” followed by ten Hail Marys and the words “Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”

For a print option of the prayers of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy visit: <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/chaplet-divine-mercy>

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Everybody’s trying to find God. They may not admit it. They may not even know it. They may talk around it, shy away from saying the name, both to others and to themselves: *God*. But I know for a fact that every person who was ever born into this world spent their lives searching for Him - somewhere, somehow, even if the only place they thought to look was in money or drugs.

It’s a comforting fact, really — a reminder of how alike we all are. Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, atheist, rich, poor, Black, white. When it comes right down to it, the history of humanity is a never-ending Easter morning scene that plays in perpetuity. The sorrow, the shock, the confusion. Again and again, as each newborn baby opens his eyes, the search begins anew. *Where did he go? What has happened? Where can I find him?*

Catechesis isn’t enough. Even those who learn about Jesus Christ, who accept his word, hang hesitantly outside the tomb, afraid to go in. Jesus’ best friend — the disciple whom he loved — ran faster than Peter, so desperate he was to find his Lord. But when he got to the tomb and saw it empty, he got spooked. He froze.

Sometimes, we expect God to be right where we left Him — in a certain parish, with a certain priest, in a certain relationship, at a certain job. We show up, and we’re heartbroken to see that our expectations have been turned upside down. *He’s left us*, we think dejectedly, but we’re wrong.

There is no one who has been abandoned by God. There are only those who stop looking for Him.

Don’t let the empty tombs define you. It’s the search that defines you.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Question: In his speech, Peter emphasizes that he and the Apostles were chosen as “witnesses” to tell others of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. Have you ever told anyone why you believe in Jesus?

2nd Reading Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8

Question: Paul urges the Corinthians to celebrate Jesus’ death and resurrection with sincerity and truth. How does your family celebrate Easter Sunday?

Gospel Jn 20:1-9 or Lk 24:1-12

Question: We hear how Mary of Magdala, Peter and the Beloved Disciple initially react to seeing Jesus’ empty tomb. How do you share startling news with others?

©LPi

Ministry Schedule

April 26/27, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	T Karolski
Reader #1	T Riley	J Kosnak
Reader #2	R Pasiak	T Karolski
EME	M Simmons	C McCarthy
	D Tourville	D Gray
	T Riley	M Waskowski
Greeters	L Collins	P Rarus
	J Ballantine	R Juska-Svoba
	R Bertolini	D Vu
	T Pasiak	B Turchin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of April 26/27, 2025
Jenny Ballantine

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

DISCERNMENT

Question: How do I discern if a call to do something big is really from God?

Answer: Each day we face plenty of decisions about following God: whether or not to pray, how to treat people, and how to prioritize our time. Sometimes there can be something much more significant we discern: a vocational call, a promotion at work that requires a move, or a new ministry position at church. In addition to a pro-con list or a cost-benefit analysis, here are a few things to prayerfully consider and to talk over with trusted individuals.

Does it conform to God's will revealed in the Church? God doesn't call us to do something that contradicts the moral law. Will it encourage spiritual growth? Sometimes we need to choose between multiple good options. Consider the personal impact on you and others you are responsible for, like family. Other times we might be invited to do good for others, but when we assess our other life commitments, we see that saying yes to this would actually impede our prior responsibilities in the long run. Does the call seem consistent? This isn't to say that God won't do something new. Even so, consider if the call is consistent with your gifts and abilities. Can you see a "through-line" so to speak, with how your experiences have led you to this point? Do others confirm it? Share your reflections with trusted, insightful confidantes. Have they seen the same things you have, or are they bringing up new points to consider? Humbly add their relevant points to your considerations. Don't forget your gut. After you've carefully considered everything in your mind, don't neglect your instincts. Does your heart say yes or no? ©LPi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What does the word "deacon" mean?

©LPi

Answer: Servant, minister, and/or messenger.

Congratulations

to Lizandro Barba, Karl Finkbeiner, James Musgrave, and Daniel Whalen who were ordained as transitional deacons on Saturday, April 12th. Please keep these deacons in your prayers as they spend the coming year in final preparation for Ordination to the Priesthood.

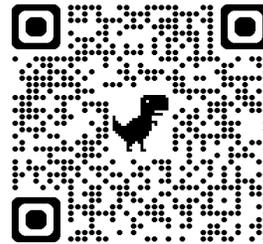
PRAY FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, April 26th 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.



To support St. Vincent Ferrer Church with a financial contribution, scan the QR code to connect to our [tithe.ly](#) giving site.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING APRIL 12/13, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	105		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 6,941.02	1,756.02	27,884.60
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	905.00	433.00	1,301.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	209.00	(1,464.00)	(23,855.71)
Bequests		71.00		3,564.80
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days: Easter		124.00		234.00
Evangelical Charity-Virtual Soup Suppers		69.50		2,060.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 76,160.34				Paid 75,047.84

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