



**PENTECOST  
SUNDAY**

*St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community*

Madison Heights, MI [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

**JUNE 8, 2025 + PENTECOST**

## From The Pastor

Love gives life. Love is the source and origin of all life. Love heals, forgives, and transforms death into new life. New life may mean a new beginning after an act of forgiveness, recovery after a critical illness, restored hope after a period of depression, or a new relationship after a painful loss, eternal life with God after physical death.

The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, is the source of all love. We tend to limit the love of the Holy Spirit to religious or spiritual love. This would be a mistake. Relational and lifegiving love always has its origin in the Holy Spirit. It is said that the Holy Spirit is the least understood and the most difficult person of the Holy Trinity to know. Perceptively this feels true, but does not have to be.

Scripture, Tradition, and experience are the three pillars used to build mature religion that leads to an integrated spirituality. On this Feast of Pentecost, I suggest the role of experience is the most effective way to realize the evidence of the Spirit's work in our lives. It is true that the Holy Spirit is a great mystery. It is also true the Spirit is ever-present and in full view for those with eyes to see.

As a person of faith redeemed in Christ, feel the love God has for you. Feel your self-love; the love others have for you, then the bonds of love you hold for others. Reflect on the love you share that gives you life, animates your day, inspires your generosity, goodness, surety, or peace. All of these are works of the Holy Spirit in you. Remind yourself of times you were forgiven or you forgave another and peace was restored. Times you went to confession and felt a renewal of mind and heart. Consider times you felt down, overworked, unappreciated, depressed, or insensitively harmed by another, times of crisis, loss, or loneliness. Did you pray at such times, feeling renewal or restored peace? That was the Holy Spirit. Recall times of illness, your own or another whom you prayed for and health was restored. Holy Spirit. Think of your daily prayer in the desire to praise, petition, or honor God with faith in the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit was there whether you had a warm feeling or not. The Holy Spirit is like the air we breathe; ever-present, rarely seen or heard. If the Spirit departed from you, you would know it immediately.

I cannot resist using the vision of Ezekiel in the story of the dry bones. The story has its own context,

but the image is universal and timeless. Who doesn't at times feel dry, hopeless, and without resources for a resolution? Historically, Ezekiel was carried into exile with the people of Israel to Babylon. The people are hopeless, lifeless, and in despair. God directs Ezekiel to call forth the Spirit to reanimate and restore the People of God.

You cannot miss the effectiveness of the imagery; dry lifeless bones scattered on the desert floor. Only a Divine action could restore and give new life to a people so dejected and feeling abandoned by God. Ezekiel is a man in the Spirit who has trust and a lively hope in the action of God. He acts as directed and life is restored through the breath and action of the Holy Spirit.

Have you ever felt this way in a time of loss, crisis, or waning hope? Call on the Holy Spirit. Remember who you are in Christ; that you belong to him who has given his life for you, and whose Spirit dwells within you. Looking beyond yourself, consider the millions of people in the world who are in fact suffering exile, oppression, hopelessness, starvation, and despair. How is God present in those circumstances today? As a person in the Spirit, how can your prayer or action be of service to them?

Consider the experience of those in the Upper Room when Jesus appeared. Can you place yourself in the room and imagine the tension and great relief at the same time? This was a lived experience for those present. Consider how they were transformed in the words and action of Jesus, "Peace be with you." Breathing on them and saying, "Receive the Holy Spirit." And they did and everything was transformed. They were never the same. They received the power of Divine love in the Holy Spirit with the commission to give witness through acts of forgiveness, justice, and mercy in the name of Jesus.

You and I have the same Holy Spirit with the same call to give witness, forgive others, and accept forgiveness ourselves. This is why the Feast of Pentecost is an essential reality of the Christian life. Ponder your experience. Put a name and a face on the Holy Spirit in your life as you receive and offer love, goodness, and mercy to others. In the Holy Spirit you have the power to be transformed. You also have the power to help transform others with the witness of your love. Be an agent of the Holy Spirit in the world. Love more.

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

LIVE  
STREAMING



### MONDAY, June 9, 2025

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Immaculata Prayer Group

### TUESDAY, June 10, 2025

8:00am Mass: Marissa Teslak (Birthday Blessing) req. by Mom

### WEDNESDAY, June 11, 2025

8:00am Mass: Deanna (Special Intention) req. by Family

### THURSDAY, June 12, 2025

8:00am Mass: Thomas & Catherine Brown req. by Family

### SATURDAY, June 14, 2025

1:00pm: Wedding of Julianna Todd and Colin McDowell

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Bishop Michael Byrnes req. by Fr. John

### SUNDAY, June 15, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer William Olszewski† req. by Family

Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Jo Kronbach† req. by Rose Evanski

Mike Higgins† req. by Krys Higgins and Family

## 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 SUMMER HOURS

Monday through Thursday  
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm,  
Closed Friday, 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

248-542-8720 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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

## READINGS OF THE WEEK

### June 8, 2025

Sunday: *Vigil:* Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b  
or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24,  
35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/  
Jn 7:37-39

*Day:* Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30,  
31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or  
Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16,  
23b-26

Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-  
2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34

Tuesday: 2 Cor 1:18-22/Ps 119:129, 130, 131,  
132, 133, 135/Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: Acts 11:21b-26; 13:1-3 (580)/Ps  
99:5, 6, 7, 8, 9/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: 2 Cor 3:15—4:1, 3-6/Ps 85:9ab and 10,  
11-12, 13-14/Mt 5:20-26

Friday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 116:10-11, 15-16, 17-  
18/Mt 5:27-32

Saturday: 2 Cor 5:14-21/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-  
12/Mt 5:33-37

Next Sunday: Prv 8:22-31/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (2a)/  
Rom 5:1-5/Jn 16:12-15



**MONDAY, June 9**

# MARY

Mother of the church

**THIS MONDAY**

## COME PRAY THE ROSARY

Administration Bldg. Patio  
June 9, 2025 - 7pm



Again this summer, the Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the second and fourth Mondays of June, July & August. The Immaculata group prayers will be prayed at 6:30pm and the rosary will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

### Excerpts from treatise on The Holy Spirit by St. Basil the Great

The Spirit is the source of holiness, a spiritual light, and he offers his own light to every mind to help it in its search for truth. By nature the Spirit is beyond the reach of our mind, but we can know him by his goodness. The power of the Spirit fills the whole universe...

Simple in himself, the Spirit is manifold in his mighty works. The whole of his being is present to each individual; the whole of his being is present everywhere. Though shared in by many, he remains unchanged; his self-giving is no loss to himself. Like the sunshine, which permeates all the atmosphere, spreading over land and sea, and yet is enjoyed by each person as though it were for him alone, so the Spirit pours forth his grace in full measure, sufficient for all, and yet is present as though exclusively to everyone who can receive him. To all creatures that share in him he gives a delight limited only by their own nature, not by his ability to give.

The Spirit raises our hearts to heaven, guides the steps of the weak, and brings to perfection those who are making progress...From the Spirit comes foreknowledge of the future, understanding of the mysteries of faith, insight into the hidden meaning of Scripture and other special gifts. Through the Spirit we become citizens of heaven, we are admitted to the company of angels, we enter into eternal happiness, and abide in God...



## PENTECOST

When I was a seminarian almost 20 years ago, a bank vice president taught us etiquette classes. She said, "Gentlemen, please make sure your breath isn't bad. Take some breath mints before you hear confessions, okay?" We nervously laughed because the proximity that makes breath noticeable (whether pleasant or not) can be a bit awkward.

When Jesus breathes on his Apostles (John 20:22), he must have been within inches of at least some of them. This closeness of his breath has a purpose: the purpose of forgiveness of sins. **"Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them"** (John 20:23). Why in the world would the almost uncomfortable closeness of his breath forgive sins?

In the Bible, breath is spirit or wind. It comes from above and makes that which is below to have identity. To not have a single identity is to be multiple, divided. The word "sin" comes from an ancient word that means "to split" or "render asunder." Sin divides us sinners and the world around us; our spiritual "breath" leaves us and our identity splinters. Only breath from above restores. For example, a shattered vase is rendered whole because the craftsman breathes the spirit of the vase back into it when he repairs it. A human being shattered by sin is made whole by the breath of God, breathed by Jesus through his priests. His breath alone forgives sins. It's always done with his gentle, loving closeness.

— Father John Muir ©LPi



## EVANGELICAL CHARITY

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL MINISTRY MEETING**  
Tuesday, June 10th - 6:00pm

The St. Vincent Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:00pm in church. Those interested in joining this ministry are welcome to attend the meeting.



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

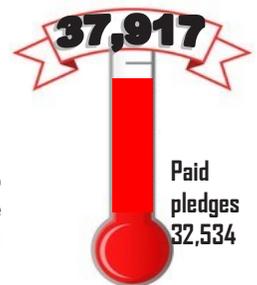
To make a pledge or contribute to CSA 2025 by mail, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided.

**Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN.**

Donations can be made electronically by visiting our website, [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net), and clicking the CSA donation link under the donations tab. For other optional ways to make a donation, please see "Other Ways to Give" on the pledge card.

Pledge cards are available at the parish office or church entrance for those who are not registered at St. Vincent Ferrer and would like to make a pledge or one time contribution.

**All funds received by the Archdiocese from St Vincent Ferrer contributors that are over the target are returned to St. Vincent Ferrer.**



## OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

Sunday: Pentecost Sunday  
 Monday: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church  
 Wednesday: St. Barnabas, Apostle  
 Friday: St. Anthony of Padua, Priest and Doctor of the Church  
 Next Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity; Father's Day

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## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

**"Whoever loves me will keep my word," Jesus tells his disciples, "and my Father.. will come to him and make our dwelling with him." We know what's at stake. We know what we have to do. So when the Father comes, will He make His dwelling with us?**

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## Do You Speak Stewardship?

If you are married, I'm guessing that you know the best way to break bad news to your spouse, whether you realize it or not. Maybe it's simply that you know not to talk about the budget after your wife's football team has lost. Maybe you know your husband will take the news that your sister is coming to stay a little easier if you tell him over his favorite dinner. We do the same thing with our children, our friends, our coworkers — we have all learned the language of the people we love.

The truth is the same in every language, but it's important for us to convey that truth graciously. That's what Pentecost teaches us. The gift of being able to speak in tongues afforded the Apostles a practical skill to spread the Gospel message, but it also served as a powerful symbol of the importance of effective communication. Evangelization can only happen when you're speaking in words a person is able, ready, and willing to hear.

Let's ask ourselves: what is the language we need to speak to share the truth with the person who is standing in front of us? Is it the language of quality time? The language of concern? The language of laughter and friendship? The language of authenticity, of plain talk and frankness?

The Holy Spirit gave the Apostles the ability to speak in tongues, and it seems miraculous when we read about it in the Gospels — but only consider that we all have this same ability, in a certain way. The Holy Spirit can and will show us how to speak the truth, if we only ask.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Acts 2:1-11

**Question:** The disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and able to speak in multiple tongues so that all the people could understand them. When do you feel the Holy Spirit present in your life?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17

**Question:** Paul assures us that as believers, the Spirit of God dwells in us. How ought the indwelling of the Spirit positively impact our day-to-day living?

**Gospel** Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26

**Question:** The resurrected Jesus sent out the disciples to forgive (or retain) sins. What has been your experience of the sacrament of Reconciliation?

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*...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**

**WHY USE INCENSE?**

**Question:** Why do we use incense at Mass?

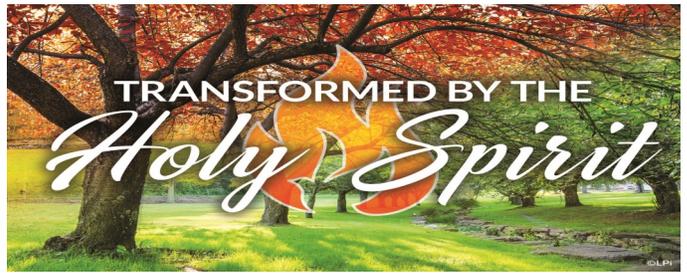
**Answer:** The use of incense in religious ceremonies and worship is a practice that predates Christianity, and which is also found in many other religious traditions today.

Incense, which is made from resin infused with aromatic spices and oils, is one of those fundamentally human symbols that incorporates more than one of our senses, helping us to reflect on realities that transcend the everyday details of our lives.

The use of incense in the Church’s liturgy — in the Mass, as well as in devotions to the Eucharist and the Liturgy of the Hours — is inspired by the use of incense in the Jewish tradition. In the writings of the Old Testament, we hear about incense being used in the worship of the temple, and Psalm 141 asks, “Let my prayer be incense before you; my uplifted hands an evening offering” (vs. 2). The image here is that, as the incense gently rises to heaven, our prayers also rise to God as something sweet and pleasant.

Another ancient use of incense that has also become part of our Catholic tradition is the idea that when we incense something, it’s because it is something special or sacred. This is why the Book of the Gospel is incensed during the Liturgy of the Word and the bread, wine, priest celebrant, and congregation are incensed at the presentation of the gifts. To this, we can also add the incensing of the Blessed Sacrament during eucharistic adoration and benediction, and the body of the deceased at the end of the Mass of the Resurrection (the Funeral Mass).

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

**The Jesus Prayer, Explained!**

The Jesus Prayer is a short invocation of mercy in the name of Jesus: “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”

The exact origins of the prayer are unclear, though it is often attributed to the tradition of Eastern Christianity, possibly via the Desert Fathers (early Christian ascetics who dwelled in Egypt). The prayer has been important to the traditions of both the Eastern Orthodox and the Eastern Catholic faithful. The text echoes the words of the publican in the parable from Luke 18:9-14, whose humble manner of prayer was praised by Jesus. Its short form and simple wording make it ideal for meditative prayer.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, in paragraph 2667, highlights the Jesus Prayer, saying that “by it the heart is opened to human wretchedness and the Savior’s mercy.”

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**Women’s Sacred Journey**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 14TH AT 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.

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** What year marked the first time that Catholics in the United States were allowed to receive the Eucharist in their hands?

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Answer: 1977

<b>Ministry Schedule</b>		
June 14/15, 2025		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	C McCarthy
Reader #1	T Riley	A Goll
Reader #2	P Miles	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	N Virga
	L Collins	A Goll
	T Pasiak	T Karolski
Greeters	L Collins	M McLaughlin
	R Bertolini	D McLaughlin
	R Pasiak	B Gutowski
	M Smith	T Lane
<b>Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of June 14/15, 2025</b>		
Bernadette Gutowski		

### GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

#### SERVANT OF GOD JOSEPH DUTTON 1843-1931

Ira Barnes Dutton, more commonly known as Joseph, the name he took after recovering from alcoholism in his adult life, was born in Stowe, Vermont on April 27, 1843, and served in the Union Army during the Civil War. After his time as a Union lieutenant, he successfully worked many different types of jobs before he converted to Catholicism on his 40th birthday and, later in life, became a lay member of the Secular Franciscan Order, often being referred to as Brother Joseph.

Shortly after his conversion in 1886, Dutton decided to start a new life. He went to the Hawaiian island of Molokai and offered himself in service to Father Damien De Veuster, who would later become St. Damien of Molokai, aiding those living with leprosy in government-mandated medical quarantine in a settlement on the Kalaupapa Peninsula of Molokai. Upon meeting Father Damien for the first time Dutton said, "My name is Joseph Dutton; I've come to help, and I've come to stay." He followed through with this promise and ended up serving this unique community for the remainder of his life.

He worked closely with Father Damien for two years before the priest's death. In 1889, before Fr. Damien died, he said of Dutton, "I can die now. Brother Joseph will take care of my orphans."

Through his written articles and letters detailing his life among those with leprosy on the island, Dutton was recognized and revered by many, including U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt. He was known to sign his letters with "Joyfully yours." Throughout the rest of his life, he continued to manage the Baldwin Home for Orphan Boys and Elderly Men, tending to the needs of those who were quarantined there, and spent the pensions he had earned at his previous jobs to help those sick and dying in his care.

After 44 years of service in Hawaii, Dutton died of leprosy in Honolulu on March 26, 1931, and is quoted as saying, before his death, "It has been a happy place — a happy life." In 2021 the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops affirmed their support for the advancement of his Cause of beatification and canonization on the diocesan level.

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### Leaving the Room

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I was a full-grown adult before I realized that Pentecost is known as "the birthday of the Church," and it only resonated with me because someone showed up to a church function with cake and candles. Leave it to buttercream frosting to drive home a theological reality I had been missing for 25 years.

I knew what Pentecost *was*, of course. It simply went over my head that, despite all the incredible, world-changing things that had come *before* the moment of Pentecost, prior to this day, the Apostles were just a group of guys in a room. It wasn't until Pentecost that they became the Church.

So what makes the Church...well, *the Church*, capital *C*? What makes it more than just a group of guys in a room?

It's true, they were a very special group of guys. They had the Truth — capital *T*. They had borne witness to Christ's miracles, to his life and to his passion and death.

But they were still in that room.

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they received graces and gifts that made them fit to carry out the Great Commission. The Truth wasn't enough, even with a capital *T*. They needed the Spirit — capital *S* — and more than that, they needed to receive it with the courage and faith necessary to do what needed to be done.

To get up and leave the room.

Because what good is any of it unless they leave the room? What does it matter, the tongues of fire and the miraculous bilingualism and, frankly, the coming of the Spirit, if no one ever hears about it?

The mission is what made them the Church. It's what makes *us* the Church. Without it, we're just a bunch of guys in a room.

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**Jubilee of Wedding Anniversaries Mass**  
 Archbishop Edward J. Weisenburger, Celebrant

Sunday July 27, 2025 11 a.m. The Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament

RSVP at [aod.org/jubilee-anniversaries](http://aod.org/jubilee-anniversaries)



8. The first sign of hope should be the desire for *peace* in our world, which once more finds itself immersed in the tragedy of *war*. Heedless of the horrors of the past, humanity is confronting yet another ordeal, as many peoples are prey to brutality and violence.

What does the future hold for those peoples, who have already endured so much? How is it possible that their desperate plea for help is not motivating world leaders to resolve the numerous regional conflicts in view of their possible consequences at the global level? Is it too much to dream that arms can fall silent and cease to rain down destruction and death? May the Jubilee remind us that those who are peacemakers will be called “children of God” (*Mt 5:9*). The need for peace challenges us all, and demands that concrete steps be taken. May diplomacy be tireless in its commitment to seek, with courage and creativity, every opportunity to undertake negotiations aimed at a lasting peace.

*Excerpt from Spes Non Confundit, the papal bull of St. Francis for the Jubilee Year 2025*

**To support St. Vincent Ferrer with a financial contribution scan the code below to connect to our [tithe.ly](http://tithe.ly) giving site.**



In honor of the Jubilee Year of Hope, all married couples in the Archdiocese of Detroit are invited to the Jubilee of Wedding anniversaries Mass on July 27, 2025 at 11am at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament.

Whether you are newly married or married more than 60 years, this is a beautiful opportunity to celebrate and bless your marriage. Join us for a reception on the Cathedral ground afterward.

**RSVP by July 18 at [aod.org/jubilee-anniversaries](http://aod.org/jubilee-anniversaries)**

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING MAY 31 / JUNE 1, 2025**

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	11		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,977.47	792.47	32,046.23
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	673.00	201.00	1,449.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	130.00	(1,513.00)	(34,174.21)
Bequests				
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days:				
CSA 2025 target 37,917.00				Paid 32,534.00

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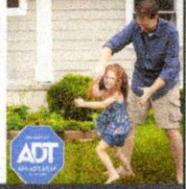
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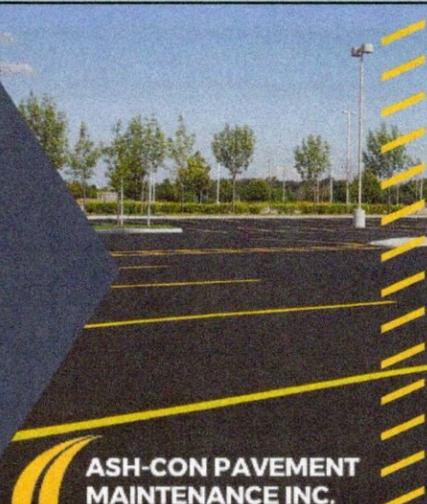
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