

## *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community*

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

**JUNE 22, 2025 † THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST**

### **From The Pastor**

The celebration of the Holy Eucharist is the central action of our Catholic life that conveys to us the living presence of the Lord Jesus. The themes of the Eucharist are common and well known to active Catholics. On this feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, how do we honor the Lord as well as enrich our faith in the reception of this wonderful Sacrament?

To know what the Eucharist is and how to participate in Mass is not enough. Simply knowing and practicing becomes routine and the mystery and power of this sacred moment can be dulled. The Eucharist is a living relationship initiated and offered by God through the Lord Jesus. As God offers himself to us in the person of Christ, our response is one of living faith with a personal commitment to surrender ourselves into what God is giving us.

In the offering of the Body and Blood of Jesus on the Cross as the definitive act of our redemption, God creates a new and final covenant to all who will believe and accept the truth of what is offered. The Lord's sacrifice on the Cross is the culmination of a long history preparing believers to realize and accept the ultimate gift of God himself in the person of the Lord Jesus. All that precedes the sacrifice of Jesus prepares the believer to realize the mystery God has prepared through generations as he forms a people as his own.

As early as Abraham obeying God in offering the sacrifice of his son Isaac, God prepares us for the sacrifice of his Son for the sake of all. Isaac is spared, as the obedience of Abraham is honored as trustworthy faith. As Moses leads the Israelites out of slavery through the desert, God provides manna, bread from heaven, to sustain them. Hearing their cries for food and water, God confirms his fidelity by providing all they need that they might grow confident in his provident care. As the Jewish people offered blood sacrifices of bulls and goats and lambs in worship of God, for the forgiveness of sin, and ritual purity, God perfects their sacrifice with the blood of the Lamb of God. The blood of the flesh of animals failed to engage the hearts of the people in the worship of the living God. This early covenant is perfected and fulfilled in the Blood of Jesus to establish a new relationship with God that calls for the giving of our hearts and all that we are to God who freely gives himself for our sake.

Jesus is the fabric and the food that sustains our lives in God and God's life in us. How do we make this more personal as we celebrate this wonderful feast?

The Body of Christ can be thought of in three ways. First, Jesus in his personal body/self. The man Jesus whom we acclaim as Christ. Second, Jesus in the host consecrated at Mass from simple bread and wine. Thirdly, we ourselves are the Body of Christ, the living Body of believers who profess and give witness to Jesus in the world. Personally consider each of these in your life.

Consider your faith in Jesus. What is your favorite image of the Lord? What attracts you to Jesus? His patient and personal love for others? His mercy? His miraculous power to heal, forgive, restore, and welcome the broken and the lost? What in Jesus makes you love him? How does Jesus feed you and secure you with hope despite the troubles that you encounter?

What does the Mass mean to you? How do you think about the Eucharist as you prepare to receive the Lord in Holy Communion? Is the Real Presence of Jesus real for you? Do you accept and believe that Jesus is present in his person and his life given us in this Sacrament? Think back to Holy Week. Did you share in the Mass of the Last Supper? How did you feel about receiving Holy Communion on Good Friday after we read the Passion of the Lord and reflected on his Crucifixion?

What does the Body of Christ mean to you and do you consider yourself an active part of it? The Eucharist is never singular. It is always in communion with others as we share as a community of believers the Body and Blood of Jesus. How do you see yourself as a Eucharistic person? How does your love, generosity, friendship, service, charity, or self-giving feed and enrich the lives of others? Do you feel Jesus in your life in an active way?

The Eucharist is the food of love. It comes as a direct and personal promise of Jesus himself. Jesus promises to be with us always. This is most true in the sacrifice of the Mass. When we receive the Eucharist, it becomes most itself when we share ourselves with others in love, mindful of the Lord who so dearly loves us. See you at the table. Let your love become food for others.

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 23, 2025

8:00am Mass: Deceased Members of St. Anthony Lithuanian Church req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

### TUESDAY, June 24, 2025

8:00am Mass: Kristina Maulding (9th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

### WEDNESDAY, June 25, 2025

8:00am Mass: Lawrence Orlando† req. by Sheryl Brown

### THURSDAY, June 26, 2025

8:00am Mass: Bishop Michael Byrnes req. by Fr. John

### SATURDAY, June 28, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Edmund Gutowski† (52nd R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Margaret Withorn† req. by Family

### SUNDAY, June 29, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends  
Jo Kronbach† req. by Susan Kronbach  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by 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 22, 2025

Sunday: Gn 14:18-20/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 (4b)/1  
Cor 11:23-26/Lk 9:11b-17

Monday: Gn 12:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20 and  
22/Mt 7:1-5

Tuesday: *Vigil:* Jer 1:4-10/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab,  
15ab and 17/1 Pt 1:8-12/Lk 1:5-17  
*Day:* Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab,  
14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80

Wednesday: Gn 15:1-12, 17-18/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7,  
8-9/Mt 7:15-20

Thursday: Gn 16:1-12, 15-16 or 16:6b-12, 15-16/  
Ps 106:1b-2, 3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 7:21-29

Friday: Ez 34:11-16/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/  
Rom 5:5b-11/Lk 15:3-7

Saturday: Gn 18:1-15/Lk 1:46-47, 48-49, 50 and 5  
3, 54-55/Mt 8:5-17

Next Sunday: Acts 12:1-11/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2 Tm  
4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19

**THIS MONDAY  
COME PRAY THE ROSARY**

**Administration Bldg. Patio  
June 23rd - 7pm**



The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary the Monday at 7:00pm. 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.

*The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ*

A Catholic friend of mine occasionally says, “The Eucharist is not a noun. It’s a verb.” In so saying, he is making the point that the Eucharist isn’t simply Jesus’ bodily presence given to us in holy Communion. It also manifests the dynamic pattern by which Christ actively loves and saves us. He teaches us to cooperate with that pattern. This Eucharist actually embodies four verbs: Jesus takes, blesses, breaks, and gives. Let’s consider each one.

He **takes**: Do we acknowledge that we are totally in God’s hands? Do we receive everything in our lives as a gift, and act responsibly with it?

He **blesses**: Do we actively reflect that Jesus makes us holy in our baptism? Do we embrace our bodies and souls as temples of God, worthy of love, peace, and joy?

He **breaks**: Do we run from failure and disappointment, from getting old or being ignored? Are we too worried about getting hurt or sick? Do we embrace our sufferings with confidence?

He **gives**: Are we willing to make our lives a gift for others? Are we confident that we will always have enough love to give to others, that God will always provide enough for us? Do we rejoice in giving away what we have to others, expecting nothing in return? This is the dynamic life the Eucharist empowers us to live. —Father John Muir

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**EVANGELICAL CHARITY**

**PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY MEETING  
THURSDAY, JUNE 26TH**

The Prayer Blanket Ministry will meet Thursday, June 26, 2025 from 6 to 9pm in the church social hall. The Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministry will NOT BE meeting. Please note that this will be the last Prayer Blanket meeting until September. In September both the Prayer Blanket and Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministries will resume. If you have any questions please call Renee Hauzie, Prayer Blanket Ministry Coordinator, at 586-718-6371.

Blank squares that need to be decorated for use in making our prayer blankets will be available in the church during the summer. Decorated squares can be returned in the basket near the chapel. Your help is needed to decorate squares over the summer to be used in this ministry in the fall.



**Anointing of the Sick**

**HEALING MASS  
NEXT SATURDAY**

**JUNE 28, 2025 - 4:00pm**

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



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 Church.**



**ANNUAL PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION**  
**NEXT WEEKEND - JUNE 28/29**  
**"Be a Sign of Mercy"**

This annual collection is used to support the evangelical and charitable work of the Holy Father throughout the world. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Envelopes for this collection can be found at the church entrances or donate online through our website or QR code.

**Checks must be payable to  
 St. Vincent Ferrer Church.**



*...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*

***Women's Sacred Journey***

**SATURDAY, JUNE 28TH 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.

*Celebrating Congratulations to*  
  
*Juliana Todd*  
*and*  
*Colin McDowell*  
*who exchanged*  
*wedding vows on*  
*Saturday, June 14, 2025*  
*in the presence of Reverend John Esper.*  
*May God richly bless them in their*  
*new life together.*

**SACRED VESSELS**

Have you ever paid attention to the purification of the sacred vessels after Holy Communion? If you haven't, I highly recommend doing so this Sunday. See the care with which the priest handles the chalice and the paten, pouring water into them to cleanse any loose particles of the Body and Blood of Christ. Observe the loving reverence he uses in wiping them dry with a special purificator. It's a ritual unto itself, and a powerful moment for reflection.

These vessels begin as earthly objects. They are made by human hands. There is nothing special about them — not until they go about the work for which they have been created. Until they contain the Body and Blood of Christ, they are only ordinary objects. But after they have carried within them the Eucharist, they are never the same. They will always be special and deserving of special care.

That's why partaking of the Eucharist is, for us, an evangelical undertaking. It is both a transformation and a declaration. When we accept this tremendous gift, we are proclaiming what we believe, and we are accepting the grace to follow through on that commitment.

When we are receiving the Eucharist, it is not possible for us to be passive. We become the vessel. We carry Christ into the world with us.

But do we act like it? Do we treat ourselves — our bodies, our souls — with the same respect as the priest cleansing the chalice? Do we treat one another with the reverence we would reserve for a sacred object? When we look at another person with anger or irritation or envy, do we acknowledge the change that we have willingly undergone by receiving Christ's Body and Blood into ourselves?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### SIGN BEFORE THE GOSPEL

**Question:** I have been going to Mass for years and have always wondered: why do we make the three signs of the cross before the Gospel?

**Answer:** Certainly, many people go to Mass or other devotions, doing and saying things out of habit or reverence and not really understanding the reasons behind some of these things. But everything we do has a meaning or purpose that helps us to worship better, proclaim our beliefs, or focus the attention of the people on something that has a greater importance or significance. A review of the meaning of various gestures and practices can help us have a deeper appreciation for what we do.

There is a little prayer that goes with the three crosses before the Gospel: “May the words of the Holy Gospel be on my mind, on my lips and in my heart.” In standing to hear the Gospel, we acknowledge that Jesus is present, and the words of the Gospel are addressed to us. All of the gestures and special postures we adopt before the Gospel are intended to help us prepare for hearing the Word as well as act on it. The incense, the Alleluia, the deacon or priest, and the special dialogue and announcement that introduces the Gospel help us focus our attention on the Good News we are about to hear. The three signs of the cross show our desire and good intention to hear and live the Gospel.

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## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Gn 14:18-20

**Question:** In reaction to the thanksgiving meal of bread and wine, Abram generously gave Melchizedek a tenth of his possessions. What could you give back to God this week out of gratitude?

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading 1 Cor 11:23-26

**Question:** Paul tells us from the very beginning the early Church celebrated the Eucharistic meal as a remembrance of Jesus’ death and as central to our faith. How does the Eucharist strengthen your faith?

### Gospel Lk 9:11b-17

**Question:** The miracle of the feeding of the 5,000 underscores Jesus’ desire to feed us. What do you find yourself hungry for today?

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### St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

*Janet Van Elslander*

*John Ventimiglio*

*Dennis Tye*

Please remember them and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

## Ministry Schedule

June 28/29, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	D Tourville
Reader #1	M Kairis	J Kosnak
Reader #2	J McCown	P Allen
EME	J McCown	M Waskowski
	M Kairis	Pallen
	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
Greeters	R Bertolini	N Oparka
	L Collins	B Gutowski
	P Miles	R Juska-Svoba
	M Smith	T Oparka

**Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of June 28/29, 2025**  
Frank & Nina Virga

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

### MARIAN CONSECRATION, *EXPLAINED*

Marian consecration, the act of consecrating oneself to Jesus through the intercession of his Blessed Mother, is actually rooted in the words of Jesus himself when he beseeched the Apostle John to look upon Mary as his mother (John 19:27) and to “take her into his own home.” He was actually instructing us all to do likewise — to “behold your mother” and take Mary into our hearts, for wherever she is beloved, Christ is known and praised.

St. Maximilian Kolbe described Mary as “the stairway to Heaven.” Marian consecration, therefore, could be likened to climbing the stairs. Different formulas exist for spiritual development in preparation for the consecration, based on the writings of saints like St. Louis de Montfort, and there are different prayers for the act of consecration. However, there is no “right” way to consecrate oneself to Jesus through Mary, so long as the ultimate goal is closeness to Christ and the glorification of God.

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## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

### Servant of God Michelle Christine Duppong (1984-2015)

Michelle Christine Duppong was born on January 25, 1984. She grew up in a Catholic family who made their living farming and ranching in the rural community known as Haymarsh in western North Dakota. Like all her siblings, she frequently helped the family around the farm, always doing her part from gardening, to herding the sheep and feeding the bottle lambs. From a young age she was intensely interested in her faith but, as she matured, Michelle was not content with simply learning about her faith, she wanted to live it fully and help others do the same. Besides being in numerous extracurricular Church and school activities as a teenager, she was a pro-life advocate, praying at abortion facilities and participating in Right to Life marches.

In her college years at North Dakota State University ...Michelle continued to grow in her faith and spiritual life... After completing her degree in horticulture in 2006, Michelle's desire to bring others closer to her dear Lord was realized by becoming a missionary with FOCUS, seeking to evangelize college campuses, by giving students a chance to learn about Catholicism as well as opportunities to practice their faith together...

... Her passion for evangelization and her ability to connect with young people made her a highly effective missionary, and she was loved by the students she worked with.

In 2012, Michelle discerned that God was calling her to another evangelization ministry, and she accepted the position of Director of Adult Faith Formation for the Diocese of Bismarck... she coordinated many significant events such as the first THIRST conference and made herself available to perform outreach faith instruction to parishes within the diocese. Some of her simple, yet inspiring, diocesan podcasts can be found on the website, [bismarckdiocese.com](http://bismarckdiocese.com), under News>Presentations/Talks>Parish Formation Series, as well as her writings known as the *Run to Win* column for the Dakota Catholic Action publication, in the years of 2013-2015.

On December 29, 2014, Michelle was unexpectedly diagnosed with Stage 4 abdominal cancer, which began a year-long journey that brought many joys in the midst of sorrows and great suffering. She received everything with a docile spirit, praying that the Lord's will be done and trusting in His Providence for her future. She never asked, "Why me?" . The beautiful soul of Michelle Duppong, 31, passed from this life on Christmas Day, 2015, at the home in which she was raised, surrounded by her loving family.

... Her legacy continues to inspire and guide those who seek to live out their faith daily and make a difference in the lives of others. Her simple life showed that heroic virtue and sanctity is for everyone.

Michelle Christine Duppong's cause for canonization was opened in June 2022 by Bishop Kagan, and she was named a Servant of God on All Saints Day, the same year.

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Note: Article has been edited for space

## As the Day Was Drawing to a Close

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

It isn't uncommon for me to get to the noon hour only to realize that I haven't yet eaten anything that day.

It drives my husband crazy. He was raised by a bunch of Italian women, so he can't help but think three meals ahead. And don't get me wrong, I love food — I literally dream of donuts. But some days, I'm just so busy and I keep putting it off until I realize how weak I feel, how light-headed. And I think to myself: *Stupid, you've done it again.*

This is what comes to mind today, on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, as I read the Gospel account of the miracle of the loaves and fishes.

I think of hunger, distraction and the poor planning of those who pride themselves on being capable.

"As the day was drawing to a close," it is written — that's when the disciples finally realized that 5,000 hangry people is not an ideal situation.

I wonder, did Jesus roll his eyes when they came to him, and think, "Finally"? At any point he could have pulled out a fish and said a blessing. But he waited for them to ask. He waited for them to realize how badly they needed it.

Sometimes we forget that we *need* the Eucharist. It's not just a nice thing to have, a sweet act of devotion, a sacramental item that bolsters our faith. The Eucharist is none of those things. The Eucharist is the food without which we will die. The Eucharist is something we must seek out. Remember: the day is drawing to a close.

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## OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

- Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- Tuesday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
- Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Saturday: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary; St. Irenaeus, Bishop, Martyr and Doctor of the Church
- Next Sunday: Sts. Peter and Paul, Apostles

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## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What does the celebrant say at the conclusion of each Mass?

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**Answer:** "The Mass is ended, go in peace."

**INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Five loaves and two fish: a measly portion of food for such a large crowd of people. But we must remember that it doesn't matter what the size of our offering is. If we only lay it before Christ, he will take it and make it a mighty bounty.

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**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***

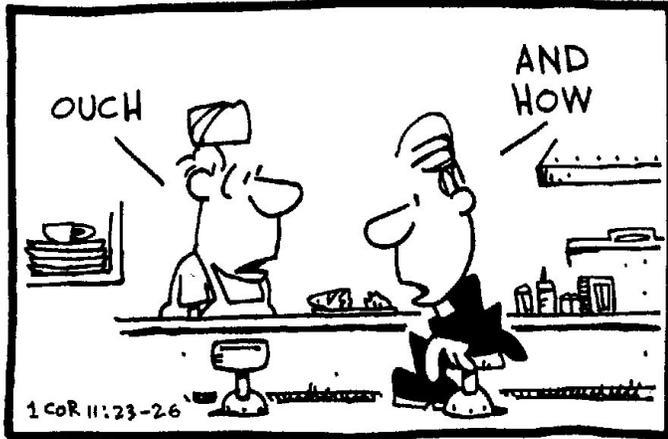
730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am

WED - 12:10pm



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



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JUNE 14/ 15, 2025**

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	97		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,064.21	(120.79)	32,116.18
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	296.00	(176.00)	1,518.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	434.00	(1,239.00)	(36,825.21)
Bequests		50.00		3,816.80
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days:				
CSA 2025 Pledged 50,678.00				Paid 41,818.00

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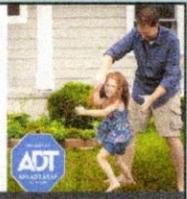


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