



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

AUGUST 17, 2025 † TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

While on vacation, rather than reprint an article from a previous year, I thought I would review with you several items of interest in our parish life.

I mentioned a few weeks ago that one of our parishioners needs a kidney transplant. Michele Waskowski is actively looking for a compatible donor to revive her kidney function. This is a perfect opportunity for us to reach out and make a difference for someone in our community in need. I trust by now you have seen the flyer for this appeal. Please add your prayer support for Michelle in this effort. If you are personally able and willing to donate, please follow the information on the flyer sheet. If it seems appropriate, by word of mouth, you may interest a compatible person in this possibility.

On another topic, you must know by now that St. Justin parish is now closed. The closing Mass was Saturday, July 19th. St. Mary Magdalene remains open as an active parish and worship site. Please pray for this time of transition for the community of St. Justin. They have been merged for some time, but the closing of a parish is always a loss. Please pray that most will join the St. Mary Magalene community or an active parish of their choice. It is essential that we pray and support the continued faith of those in this kind of transition.

At St. Vincent Ferrer, I am noticing a significant decrease in the number of Mass intentions. This typically means there are fewer people asking for personal Mass intentions. Two points of interest. Mass intentions are a source of income for the parish. Personal Mass intentions ask for a ten-dollar donation. Much more important is the powerful impact of grace received in this manner. To offer a Mass for the intention of another gains the grace of the power of our redemption for the person prayed for. Most often intentions are for those who have died, the ill, or another kind of need. Mass intentions should be specific rather than generic, but a wide range of personal or spiritual needs can be effectively petitioned through the sacrifice of the Mass. One might pray for world peace, justice, an end to war, or other social ills. There is no more powerful offering than the sacrifice of the Mass.

Although it is not necessary, it is even more personal to attend the Mass of your intention.

This further gives me the opportunity to invite and encourage a greater participation at our weekday Masses, Monday through Thursday. On a fuller day, there can be as many as thirty or so at Mass. On less well attended days, there are as few as seven or eight. The weekday Mass group is an essential and powerful part of every parish. Those who make it a practice to attend daily Mass are not only blest in their personal faith and devotion to God, they are also praying for the rest of the parish and the larger Church. I hope this little nudge may encourage or inspire you. Your presence, prayer, and participation help strengthen parish life as well as to bring the grace of Christ more fully into the world. Please consider the opportunity. We begin at 8am and are rarely over forty-five minutes. Let God make your day!

On Tuesdays, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place for about an hour. To be honest, there are usually five or six faithful ladies who remain for this prayer. In a parish with as many retired people as we have, I want to encourage you to consider the impact this practice could have on your faith experience. Further, your prayer for the active and critical concerns in our country and many other nations around the world is sorely needed.

On Thursdays, the Rosary is said after the conclusion of Mass. As you well know, the Rosary through the intercession of the Blessed Mother is powerful, having been prayed across the generations in times of social, political, moral, and economic need. Please add your voice and your heart to this faith building opportunity of prayer.

Hoping the summer is a blessing for you as we give God thanks for the goodness of creation, the beauty of the earth, and the grace of vacation time. Wherever you are, God is present. Make gratitude a ready and regular part of your daily prayer.

God bless you 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

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 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
Matthew Zinser, 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



MONDAY, August 18, 2025

8:00am Mass: Jay Botsford† req. by Family

TUESDAY, August 19, 2025

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

WEDNESDAY, August 20, 2025

8:00am Mass: Catherine Brown† req. by Family

THURSDAY, August 21, 2025

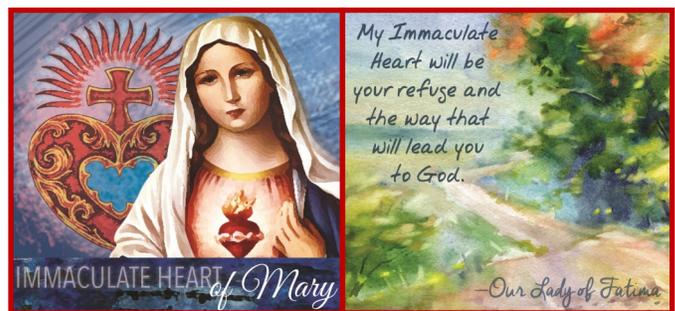
8:00am Mass: Jerry Gutowski† (3rd R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

SATURDAY, August 23, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Pranas Juska† (34th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba
Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

SUNDAY, August 24, 2025

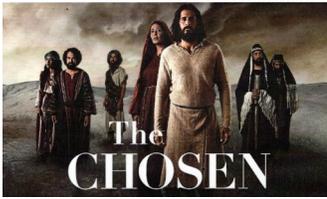
9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Maria Maiorana† req. by Virga Family
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

August 17, 2025

Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/
Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53
Monday: Jgs 2:11-19/Ps 106:34-35, 36-37, 39-40,
43ab and 44/Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: Jgs 6:11-24a/Ps 85:9, 11-12, 13-14/Mt
19:23-30
Wednesday: Jgs 9:6-15/Ps 21:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Mt
20:1-16
Thursday: Jgs 11:29-39a/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Mt 22:1-14
Friday: Ru 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/Ps 146:5-6ab,
6c-7, 8-9a, 9bc-10/Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: Ru 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17/Ps 128:1b-2, 3,
4, 5/Mt 23:1-12
Next Sunday: Is 66:18-21/Ps 117:1, 2 (Mk 16:15)/
Heb 12:5-7, 11-13/Lk 13:22-30



**This Wednesday
August 20**

1:00 - 3:00pm

Admin Bldg.

Final episodes of Season 5 of the TV Series will be shown followed by discussion

All are welcome.

—SAVE THE DATE—

DEMENTIA AND HOMELIFE

Tuesday, September 16th

7:00 to 8:30pm

Presenter: Marie Sankuer

Certified Dementia Practitioner & Parishioner

DETAILS IN FUTURE BULLETINS

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

GREGORIAN CHANT, *Explained!*

Gregorian chant is an ancient form of sacred music used in liturgical worship and prayer. Defined by a monophonic (meaning a single melody without harmony or chords), unaccompanied song, this type of chant focuses the singer's mind on the content of the prayer being sung, which makes it uniquely suited for use in the Mass.

Dating to the first millennium, it derives its name from Pope St. Gregory the Great, though scholarship is unclear on when exactly this type of chant originated. Prior to the Second Vatican Council, it was standard to use Gregorian chant in the Roman Rite Mass. *Sacrosanctum Concilium*, the Constitution on Divine Worship promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1963, asserts that Gregorian chant is "specially suited to the Roman liturgy...(and) should be given pride of place in liturgical services."

©LPi



CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Thank you to all who have made pledges and one time contributions to Catholic Services Appeal 2025.

We continue to accept donations. To donate, visit our website or contact the Parish Office. Excess funds are being returned to St. Vincent Ferrer Church and are being used toward our budget deficit.

20th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

During my baseball career, my best coach often said, "You shouldn't be worried if I yell at you. Be worried if I don't. If I stop pushing you, it means I don't think you have any more potential." He demanded a lot, and I knew it meant he saw that I could be something special on the baseball field.

Jesus says some demanding words to us this week. "Do you think I have come to establish peace on the earth?" he asks, "No, tell you, but rather division" (Luke 12:51). He wants you and me—in fact, all the earth—to participate in the luminous glory of God. That's why he speaks of himself as a divine arsonist. Divine fire is like a good coach: it demands the removal of all that obstructs the achievement of the lofty goal.

How is your life demanding right now? That inconvenient family situation, the unfair boss at work, the kids who reject their parents' wishes, the nagging health issue? Maybe things would be more peaceful devoid of these seemingly arbitrary difficulties. But for us who believe in the one who comes to set the earth of fire, we should be much more worried if he stops demanding so much from us. In fact, let's thank him for it. He sees how glorious we can become.

— Father John Muir
©LPi



**Stay Connected with Our Catholic Faith
Sign Up for**

***Detroit Catholic* free e-newsletter**

Looking for a trusted source of Catholic news delivered straight to your inbox? Detroit Catholic offers free daily or weekly email editions featuring insightful coverage of local, national, and global Catholic issues and events. I join Archbishop Edward Weisenburger in encouraging every parishioner to subscribe, which is quick and easy:

Visit: detroitcatholic.com/subscribe

Enter your email address and choose the daily and/or weekly edition

That's all it takes to start receiving this excellent—and completely free—source of Catholic news.

Stay informed, stay inspired.

OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

Sunday: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Tuesday: St. John Eudes, Priest
 Wednesday: St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
 Thursday: St. Pius X, Pope
 Friday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Saturday: St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
 Next Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

©LPI

Set the Earth on Fire

My wife can get so invested in a sporting event where one of her favorite teams is playing that she sometimes must leave the room due to the stress. That is heavy-duty investment! I remember her on the sidelines for our son's soccer games or our daughter's lacrosse games. Her emotions were intense, and she cheered loudly for her children. She never yelled at a referee because it wasn't about them. It was about wanting to see her children, or her favorite team, achieve something great. Her passion was fueled by love and her connectedness to something or someone.

When we look at our Church, we need to see greater passion. Sometimes that passion is there, but many times, we approach our discipleship as just another aspect of who we have become. It needs to be more than that. As we call ourselves Christian, we need to "put on Christ" so that a world in need sees not us, but Jesus. By being serious about our discipleship and living as transformed Everyday Stewards, we bear witness to the power of Jesus Christ.

Jesus said in Luke 12, "I have come to set the earth on fire." Those words sound pretty emotional to me! If we are to be like him, then we need to set the earth on fire. We need to be bold and proclaim the Good News without apology. By our actions of love and justice, we need to show the world that with the Body of Christ on earth, it is not business as usual. Surely our emotions about these things should trump the emotions we have about a sporting event. We need to ask ourselves what truly sets *us* on fire.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

©LPI

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10

Question: One of the court officials, Ebed-Melech, pleaded for Jeremiah to be rescued from a muddy cistern. How might you help a friend or colleague this week?

2nd Reading: Heb 12:1-4

Question: The author of Hebrews encourages his community to focus on Jesus as a way to stay strong and hopeful. Can you think of a time when your faith in Jesus helped you through a challenging circumstance?

Gospel: Lk 12:49-53

Question: Jesus forewarns his disciples that even families will be divided over his words. Growing up, how did your family deal with tension and conflict?

©LPI



...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, , 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

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: In what form did the Holy Spirit appear to the Apostles during Pentecost?

©LPI

Answer: Tongues of Fire



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



Queenship of Mary

Question: Why do we have a feast for the Queenship of Mary?

Answer: For many of us, the language of kings and queens may seem like they belong to history or

a medieval movie. Royalty have absolute authority over a kingdom and their subjects, a concept that is foreign to many of us today. While Jesus doesn't rule a political kingdom, we honor and recognize him as the King of Kings, Lord of Heaven and Earth. To God alone belongs absolute authority over all of existence.

We may think of queens as the spouse of the king, but there is another key relationship: the king's mother. In Biblical history, we see instances where the mother of the king is given due as a queen herself, complete with a throne! Mary's guiding influence over her Son is seen most notably in the Wedding Feast at Cana. Mary is not Queen on her own merit. She is "full of grace" and "blessed" in "all ages" because of the reign of her Son. ©LPI



Decorating Prayer Blanket Squares

Calling all artists, crafters, and creative people. The Prayer Blanket Ministry will resume again the 4th Thursday of September. We are in need of decorated squares for the blankets. Please find the precut fabric squares in a basket under the crucifix on the Herbert side entrance of the church. There are instructions in the basket as well. You can use markers made for fabric, embroidery, or iron on decorations. The decorated squares can be placed in the basket marked "Decorated Squares." May God bless you for your service.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus tells us that he has come to set fire to the earth. What can we give him as kindling? Let us look into our souls and see where the fire of Christ can be ignited, and pray that our souls may be consumed by its life-giving

Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, AUG. 23RD 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.

Traveling Vocations Chalice

Families and individuals are needed to host the Traveling Vocations Chalice for a one week commitment. Prayers come with the chalice. Please sign up at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert St. entrance.

Ministry Schedule		
August 23/24, 2025		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	R Pasiak	R Grant
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	T Pasiak	M Waskowski
	R Pasiak	A Goll
	P Miles	R Grant
Greeters	R Juska-Svoba	B Turchin
	N Oparka	M McLaughlin
	P Miles	D McLaughlin
	T Oparka	P Rarus
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Aug 23/24, 2025		
Gene & Sally Bosetti		

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

**BLESSED JAMES ALFRED MILLER
1944-1982**

Blessed Brother James Miller, martyred in Guatemala at age 37, was born September 21, 1944, in Wisconsin. Ordained to the Lasallian Christian Brothers in 1969, his first assignment was as a teacher at Cretin High School in St. Paul, Minnesota. During the three years he was there he taught Religion, English, Spanish, and coached the school's soccer and football teams. Despite his success at Cretin, his deepest desire was to serve the poorest of the poor as a missionary educator.

Eventually the Lasallians sent him to Nicaragua where he served for 19 years. During his time in the country, he supervised the construction of ten new rural schools, helped build an industrial arts and vocational complex, and worked with the Nicaraguan Somoza government on education initiatives. During his time as director of a school in Puerto Cabezas he increased the school's population of students from 300 to 800!

In 1979, when the Sandinistas revolution began in Nicaragua, the Lasallians recalled him to the United States for his own safety. Despite his displeasure at this reassignment, he returned to Cretin High School in St. Paul as a teacher but longed to go back to the mission field, writing to his superiors, "I am anxious to return to Latin America." By 1981 his order would grant his request and send him to a new country, Guatemala, where he taught English, Religion, and Guatemalan art to secondary students at a Lasallian Brothers school in Huehuetenango. He also established relationships with local families, often the poorest of the poor, teaching job and leadership skills to native adults.

On the afternoon of February 13, 1982, while out fixing a school fence post, Brother James Miller was murdered. He was shot several times by three men and died instantly in broad daylight in plain view of many of his students. His assassins were never caught. Some claim his murder may have been because of his order's work to prevent the government from illegally and forcibly conscripting native men into the military. His death came during a time when other priests and religious figures were also being assassinated in Guatemala. The Brother James Miller Fund was established after his death to continue his work for the poor and oppressed and in 2018, Pope Francis approved a decree recognizing Brother Miller as a martyr.

©LPi



This past week I have been reading a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. I admit I didn't know much about Francis going into the book, but I always had this image of him as a hippie — an easygoing nature-lover who sang about peace and let animals climb on him.

I'm not sure where that caricature of Francis came from, but since I've been reading this book I've come to see that it's not true at all. He was a lover of nature, yes. A poet who sang of God's peace, yes. And I'm sure he let a few animals climb on him from time to time (he did live in a hut in the woods).

But St. Francis of Assisi wasn't the lost fourth member of Peter, Paul and Mary. He was a man on fire. He was a man burning.

Francis walked around barefoot and slept on the ground. He abandoned a life of wealth to embrace the material poverty that Christ experienced. He embarrassed his family and they disowned him. When his father would encounter Francis in the streets of Assisi, he would curse him.

Sometimes we get this idea that Christianity is a comfortable, cozy thing. We give our lives to Christ, and we expect to feel instantly satisfied, happy, safe and warm. But the saints knew better.

The saints knew that Christ had not come to wrap us in a warm blanket. Christ has come to set us on fire. And though fire is often seen as a sign of death and destruction, it is also the precursor of new life.

Think of a field of native plants and how it benefits so richly from a controlled burn — an action that clears away detritus and releases nutrients back into the soil.

If we let Christ set fire to our lives, what would that fire burn away? What dead and festering undergrowth in our souls would be consumed by the flames? What promise of future holiness would sprout from beneath the ashes?

©LPi

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



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

Mark Esper

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



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

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030

SUNDAY - 10:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

St. Mary

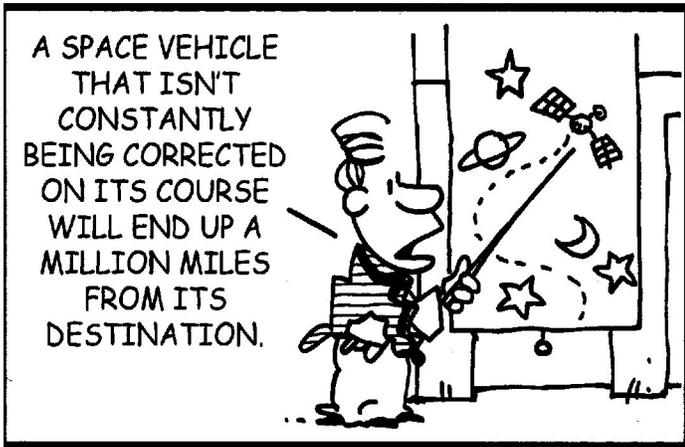
730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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

WED - 12:10pm



**T
A
K
E
N
O
T
E**

**BEGINNING SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 20, 2025**

**NEW CONFESSION TIMES AT
SHRINE OF THE LITTLE FLOWER!**

Saturday Confessions will be heard immediately after the 8:30am Mass until the last confession and no later than 10:15am.

Confessions at 3pm on Saturdays will end.

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 AUGUST 9/10, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	241	94		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,849.22	(335.78)	2,351.77
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	384.00	(88.00)	(637.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	185.00	(1,488.00)	(8,836.00)
Bequests		70.00		70.00
AOD Collections: Missionary Cooperation Plan		545.00		2,579.00
Holy Days: Assumption		25.00		139.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 68,978.50				Paid 60,797.50

HOPCROFT FUNERAL HOMES

**Proud to Be Family
Owned and Operated**

David Hopcroft, Owner
Alex Hopcroft, 3rd Generation

248-585-7770

hopcroft1948@yahoo.com | hopcroftfuneraldirectors.com
31145 John R. Road • Madison Heights, MI 48071

BOB DOWNEY PLUMBING ALL TYPES OF PLUMBING REPAIRS

- Sewers Cleaned Electrically
- 24-Hour Service
- Visa/MC/Disc Accepted
- 10% Senior Discount



Services:
Toilets • Faucets • Water Heaters
Sewers and Broken Water
Lines Dug Up

Parishioner Discount
Licensed Master Plumber

586.775.2441

Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.

Individual and Small
Business Tax Returns

Home: **(248) 589-2077**

Cell: **(248) 808-4353**

1835 Windemere
Madison Heights, MI 48071

**5% Donation to
St. Vincent De Paul upon any
new completed return.**



www.BandBcollision.com
919 S Main St • Royal Oak

Michigan Irrigation

Complete Lawn Sprinkler Service

Now Scheduling
Turn-Ons

**NOW
HIRING!**

Residential • Commercial • Lake Pumps

www.michiganirrigation.com

DISCOVER MasterCard VISA **248-969-9080**



LICENSED & INSURED
MASTER PLUMBER

WaterWorkPlumbing.com

Senior Discounts **313-558-8757**
24 Hr. Emergency Service

\$20 OFF ANY SERVICE

ADT-Monitored Home Security

Get 24-Hour Protection From a Name You Can Trust

- Burglary
- Flood Detection
- Fire Safety
- Carbon Monoxide



SafeStreets

833-287-3502

LET'S GROW YOUR BUSINESS

Place Your Ad Here
and Support Our Parish!

**CONTACT ME
Judee Nelson**

jnelson@4LPi.com
(800) 477-4574 x6319

UNITED

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

Since 1955

Sales • Service • Installation
All Makes & Models



FREE ESTIMATES

313.366.1140

Turn to the experts

www.unitedheatingcooling.com



SUPPORT
OUR
PARISH



**EDWARD SWANSON & SON
FUNERAL HOME**

**Sarah Suba
FUNERAL DIRECTOR**

30351 DEQUINDRE ROAD
MADISON HEIGHTS, MI 48071
1 BLOCK SOUTH OF 13 MILE

248.588.5120

**Ash-con is a name you can trust.
Providing Parking Lot Maintenance
To Southeast Michigan Since 1992**

- Asphalt Repairs
- Catch Basin Repairs
- Crack Sealing
- Parking Lot Sealing
- Parking Lot Signs
- Parking Lot Striping
- Pavement Marking
- Pot Hole Repair & Patching

Proud to maintain the parking lot for SVF.

(586) 979-8330 • ASHCON.NET



**ASH-CON PAVEMENT
MAINTENANCE INC.**

**SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS!**



R-D-F-W

For ad info. call 1-800-477-4574 • www.4lpi.com

15-0824