



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

AUGUST 31, 2025 + TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

What makes God humble? What allows Jesus to be so freely self-giving in the love and service of others? Why is humility an essential Christian virtue?

The theme of our readings today is humility. What better place to start than with God? To understand the humility of God is to accept and believe in the nature and identity of God. As the Supreme Being, God is Almighty. In the human sense, we tend to perceive God as having and getting everything God wants, when he wants it, and how he wants it. In our limited and vulnerable human nature this perception comes naturally. It is why we are slow to trust God, holding on to fears of unworthiness or sin that may lead to punishment. A punishing God is a contradiction to the nature and essence of God whom we profess to be the essence of unchanging love.

To say God is Almighty understands that God is unlimited, unmerited, freely given self-surrender. This is the humility of God. God has no need or desire to protect, defend, or promote the Divine power. God has no ego to defend, no goods to protect, no ego to promote for the sake of self-importance. God is love; an endless wellspring of the flowing waters of love that give life.

Jesus, whom we profess as the Christ, is the incarnate, human example of Divine humility. Humanly, Jesus had an ego; a strong and focused ego that was free to be vulnerable to serve freely, as well as to be secure against the attacks and rejection of others. Jesus was the fullness of humility in his freedom and desire to relate to and include all persons. Jesus chose to live among the poor, the rejected, the sinners, and the sick. He was equally free to love and interact with the rich and the powerful without becoming defensive or needing to egotistically defend his person, words, and actions.

How could Jesus so freely and boldly do this? Being free from sin, Jesus had no inner divisions, no self-rejection, or shame to hide or defend against the accusations and false judgements cast upon him. Secure in the Father's love, Jesus was the perfect agent to reveal and make the Father's love present in the world. This does not mean Jesus did not feel the emotional pain of rejection, hatred, or the shame of our sin cast on him, as well as the surrender of his life on the Cross. This is the not so hidden humility of Jesus that revealed his glory. The glory of Jesus was a surrendered glory that revealed the undefeatable love of our heavenly Father. Thus, the fruit of our redemption.

What does this mean for us who are not free from sin? This is the purpose and the point of today's readings. Dining with the Pharisees, Jesus comments on those seeking the places of honor. This is the action of a weak ego, dependent on the praise of others to create an image of self-importance. Jesus is not referring to table manners. The point is humility in the interest of love and respect for others who are equally worthy of dignity and respect.

How does a person grow in mature humility? The basic ground of humility is to see and accept reality as it is, rather than living behind a mask created by the ego that presents a false persona. Short answer? Know yourself. Love and accept yourself as you are. God does. Be honest with yourself; both the good and the less good. The parts of ourselves that we reject and try to hide are left behind and remain undeveloped. The ego remains ever vigilant to not expose what we consider the weak and undesirable parts of us to others.

This is the meaning of inviting to the table those who are unable to repay the favor. In the parable, the poor, the crippled, the lame and the blind are those parts of the self that have been rejected and uninvited to have a place at the table. To be humble and loving of self is to do the inner work of loving, healing, and accepting those parts of the self that we would rather reject and leave unseen.

God rejects no one. Consider the story of the Dives the Rich Man, and Lazarus the beggar at his door. The Rich Man hides behind his wealth and daily splendor, while the part of himself he rejects, Lazarus sore covered and hungry remains at the door unseen. No humility here. Excessive pride, hiding behind wealth and comfort is blind to the inner self begging to be seen and accepted with love. We all have this in one way or another. This is not the sinful self, but the rejected self that begs to be allowed at the table.

This is the humility of God modeled in the life of Jesus, the Divine humility. In the purity of love, Jesus accepted and brought every sin, shame, and rejection of ours to the Cross. Consider sitting at table with yourself one day and see what the silent inner voice may want to say. Humble self-love and acceptance win the day and sets the whole person free to be an image and example of Jesus for the good of the world. This takes bold courage to do but sets free the hidden love on the inside begging to be seen and heard.

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 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, September 1, 2025 LABOR DAY

9:00am Mass: Fr. John (Birthday Blessings)

TUESDAY, September 2, 2025

8:00am Mass: Maureen & Jeff (Wedding Blessings) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, September 3, 2025

8:00am Mass: Rick Waligora† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

THURSDAY, September 4, 2025

8:00am Mass: Hudy & Simmons Families req by Mary Ann Simmons

SATURDAY, September 6, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Linda & Tom Wagner req. by Jean & Mike Pietraszewski

SUNDAY, September 7, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Lorraine Kuczborski† req. by Stanley and Family
Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

August 31, 2025

- Sunday: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 (1a)/Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a/Lk 14:1, 7-14
- Monday: 1 Thes 4:13-18/Ps 96:1 and 3, 4-5, 11-12, 13/Lk 4:16-30
- Tuesday: 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/Lk 4:31-37
- Wednesday: Col 1:1-8/Ps 52:10, 11/Lk 4:38-44
- Thursday: Col 1:9-14/Ps 98:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 5-6/Lk 5:1-11
- Friday: Col 1:15-20/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 5:33-39
- Saturday: Col 1:21-23/Ps 54:3-4, 6 and 8/Lk 6:1-5
- Next Sunday: Wis 9:13-18b/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 (1)/Phlm 9-10, 12-17/Lk 14:25-33

KING OF KINGS



Bring Your Children
or Grandchildren

FRIDAY - SEPT. 12TH
7:00PM - NO COST
Admin Bldg.

Sign up in back of church
or call the parish office at 248-542-8720
to let us know how many will be attending.

To register for upcoming events:
Sign up in back of church or call the
parish office at 248-542-8720.

DEMENTIA AND HOMELIFE

TUESDAY, SEPT. 16TH - 7-8:30PM

PRESENTER: MARIE SANKUER

CERTIFIED DEMENTIA PRACTITIONER & PARISH MEMBER

PRACTICAL TIPS

- Safe transfers within the home
- Wandering
- Everyday furniture and stairs
- Everyday helping. Watch your back!
- Disposables & reusables
- Name tags and other visuals
- Noise and speed!
- Blinds, curtains, lights
- Going out
- ER, Hospital—what to take with!

OBSERVATIONS

- Pain - Mood - Temp
- Intake & Output
- Declines and losses...vision - hearing - balance
- Meds and Over the Counters
- Attachment/Detachment
- Grief - theirs, yours, the family's

ASK FOR RESOURCES

Encourage abilities or they will be gone to early

- Pain Scale** handout
- 3 E's** of dementia care handout
- ⇒ Environment
- ⇒ Emotions
- ⇒ Energy

Registration fee of \$10
Register by Friday, September 12th
at the parish office - 248-542-8720



Monday
September 1st

LABOR DAY
MASS
9:00am



*On your birthday, September 1st, and
throughout the coming year may...*

The LORD bless you and keep you!

The LORD let his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you!

The LORD look upon you kindly and give you peace!

(Num 6:24-26)

With love and gratitude from your SVF family

Intergenerational Healing Mass

Tuesday, September 9th—7:00pm

Rev. John Esper - Celebrant

Intergenerational healing involves understanding how
the wounds and sins from previous generations can
affect individuals in the present.

The liturgy of the Mass does not change except for an
extended period of petitions. The petitions are intended
to identify and bind the various bondages caused by
generational sin in order to heal any spiritual, physical
or mental maladies that have been passed down.

Anointing of the Sick is not part of this liturgy.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What word did Jesus call God the
Father when he was praying?

©LPi

Answer: Abba



...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

OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: Labor Day
 Wednesday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
 Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day



The Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (formerly Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults RCIA) is a means within the Roman Catholic Church created to lead adults who are not yet baptized, or who were baptized in another Christian tradition, into full communion with the Catholic Church. It is also for adults who were baptized and did not complete the remaining sacraments of Initiation, Eucharist and Confirmation. If you or someone you know is interested in beginning this journey of faith, please contact Matthew in the Parish Office or email him at matthew@stvincentferrer.net

All are invited to celebrate the birthday of Our Blessed Mother Mary Monday, September 8th

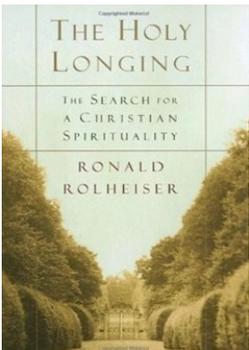
COME PRAY THE ROSARY

**Administration Bldg. Patio
September 8, 2025 - 7pm**



Join the Immaculata Prayer Group in honoring our Blessed Mother with a bouquet of rosaries on her birthday, September 8th.
 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. No rosary? We will provide one. Don't know the prayers? Come and learn.

Wednesday Morning Breakfast Book Study
The Holy Longing
 by Fr. Ronald Rolheiser



"In *The Holy Longing*, Ronald Rolheiser probes the question "What is spirituality?", cutting through the misunderstanding and confusion that can often surround this subject with his trademark clarity. Using examples and stories relevant for today, and with great sensitivity to modern challenges to religious faith, he explains the essentials of spiritual life, including the importance of community worship, the imperatives surrounding social action, and the centrality of the Incarnation, to outline a Christian spirituality that reflects the yearning and search for meaning at the core of the human experience." (summary found on Amazon.com)

The Wednesday Morning Breakfast Book Study begins September 24th in the Administration Bldg. following the 8:00am Mass. This study will end in late November or early December. Each class will offer a time for teaching, reflection and sharing. A small breakfast is available. Free will offering.
 Sign up on the sheet in back of church to register or call the Parish Office at 248-542-8720 to let Debbie know you plan to attend.

Vaccination Reminder

The COVID-19 and flu season will be upon us soon. Please discuss with your physician your individual need for vaccines and if they are safe for you. The trend for COVID-19 infection is increasing in 34 states, with Michigan being one, as of August 12th 2025. Praying for the blessing of good health for you all.
 Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

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

CAN WE CHEW GUM AT MASS?

Question: Does chewing gum break the fast before Communion?

Answer: If you look in Canon Law or in the Catechism, there is no mention of chewing gum. I guess it does not rate the attention of the universal church! The Church requires us to fast for one hour before we receive the Eucharist. Basically, we are to refrain from food and drink, not including water or medicine. There are also exceptions for people who are ill. Overall, the fast is intended for us to prepare ourselves to receive the Eucharist and in some small way to literally as well as spiritually hunger for what we are about to receive. Chewing gum, while not really food, does at least break the spirit of the fast. Besides that, it is a distraction and rude. What do you do with the gum when it is time to receive Communion? People have actually come to the altar chewing away, oblivious to what they were doing or Who they were receiving. At best, it is distracting and irreverent. At worst, it adds a barrier to giving our best to receiving God's best.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which grotto located in France is visited by millions of pilgrims every year? ©LPi

Answer: Lourdes

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

IMAGO DIVINA, Explained!

Imago divina (Latin for “divine image”) is an extension of the ancient practice of *lectio divina* (“divine reading”). *Imago divina* is, in a sense, praying with one’s eyes, or using the medium of artwork to assist in lifting the mind to God.

Believers have always connected with the divine through visual representations of faith. This can be seen in the frescoes that adorn the walls of the catacombs, in the glory of Rococo architecture, and in the stained glass windows of a simple country church. “Art is capable of making visible our need to go beyond what we see and it reveals our thirst for infinite beauty, for God,” said Pope Benedict in 2011.

In practicing *imago divina*, just like with *lectio divina*, the faithful “read” (or view), reflect, respond and rest with the image, inviting the Holy Spirit to move them accordingly.

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Our Childhood Faith Formation/Religious Education program is scheduled to begin on Monday, September 29th at 6:15 p.m. in church. Classes are held on Mondays from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for children in grades 1-8. If you have any questions about our program, or have children you need to register, please contact me at **646-369-8619** or matthew@stvincentferrer.net

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29

Question: Sirach speaks of the virtue of humility and the wisdom of knowing one’s limits. Can you think of a time when you needed to depend on others?

2nd Reading: Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a

Question: The author of Hebrews speaks of our direct access to God through the new covenant established by Jesus. How might we take advantage of such a gift?

Gospel: Lk 14:1, 7-14

Question: With the parable of the wedding banquet, Jesus teaches the Pharisees to be open and even inviting to the poor and marginalized. How might you exercise this virtue in the coming week? ©LPi

**AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE
HEALING CHRIST**

**A Manresa Silent Healing Retreat
Friday to Sunday - September 12-14**

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

Directors:
Fr. John Esper &
Debbie Tourville



Weekend schedule:

Registration, Friday 5:00pm
(Dinner 6:30pm)

Closure of Retreat: Sunday at Noon

A nonrefundable deposit of \$50 is required
for this retreat

You may register on line at www.manresa-sj.org
For more information call 248.644.4933

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

VENERABLE TERESA FARDELLA DE BLASI
1867-1957

Teresa Fardella was born on May 24, 1867, in New York to parents of Irish and Sicilian nobility. The family moved to Trapani, Italy when she was two years old. At age 11, her Irish mother passed away and Teresa was sent to an Italian boarding school that her aunt supervised. Early in life, Teresa had a deep faith and loved the Lord. She wanted to become a sister and consecrate her life to Jesus in service of the Church, but, at age 16, her father forced her into marriage instead. She became the wife of Italian military officer Raffaele De Blasi.

For Teresa, being married to an officer meant lots of traveling and moving. As her husband was assigned to different cities, Teresa lived her faith by focusing on serving the poor wherever they landed. Often, she would seek out children and adolescents living on the street and provide care for them, trying to lift them out of poverty.

In 1896, while living in Mantua, Italy, she organized her efforts and founded the Poor House of Saint Joseph, to help serve those in need there. A few years later she saw the need to form a women's religious order to staff and care for the Poor House. To meet this need, she founded the Poor Daughters of the Crowned Virgin. Although she was wealthy, Teresa found value in living alongside those she served and often forwent the luxuries she was originally accustomed to. She frequently proclaimed, "Love gives the courage to do all things well!"

Despite her being the foundress of these institutions, Teresa's husband was, again, transferred — this time back to Trapani where Teresa grew up — and she was forced to accompany him. She moved back to Trapani, leaving her work in Mantua behind her, trusting the care of the Poor House to the Poor Daughters. While in Sicily, though, she continued to organize charitable work. When Teresa's husband died in 1937, she devoted herself even more deeply to these works of mercy.

Following her husband's death, she officially entered the religious institution she founded. She professed her vows as a Poor Daughter of the Crowned Virgin and finally was able to realize her dream of becoming a sister. She passed away in Trapani on August 26, 1957, at the age of 90 after a long life of charity and love for the poor. She was proclaimed Venerable by Pope Francis on November 9, 2017.

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What Did You Expect?

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Moms have a lot of jobs, and it's usually the case that none of them pay very well.

My work as a chef? Zero compensation, and my clientele are very rarely pleased with my efforts. My role as a teacher, a maid, a chauffeur, a therapist — same deal. Ironically, these jobs consume so much of my time that I am constricted in my work as a writer — the only sphere where I do actually garner any earnings.

It is so easy to grumble about all of this, and I do it all the time. Because despite the fact that I know better, I expect repayment for my good deeds. Deep in my soul, I expect it.

That's a huge problem.

In my defense, I don't think this is a very uncommon thing. I think, if we're being really honest, we all expect "payment" for being a good person. We want God to give us what we ask. We want people to treat us a certain way. We want our day to go smoothly. We expect these things as a matter of course; we feel entitled to them, and we become grumpy when we are denied them. *I worked so hard. I gave so much. What was it all even for?*

But what if we expected absolutely nothing?

When you hold a banquet, Jesus said, invite those who cannot return the favor. Give not just without the expectation of repayment, but without the possibility of it.

Think about that for a minute. What does that even look like — no possibility of payment?

I know what that looks like in my own life. It's giving more to the literal poor, yes, but it's also giving more — and more happily, more lovingly — when I cook and clean and drive and write and console. It's not lamenting that no one appreciates me — it's actually hoping no one does.

It's learning to love the lowest place at the table. Because in the lowest place, we are closest to God.

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Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6TH 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.



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“When you hold a banquet, invite the poor,” Jesus instructs. “Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.” Each of us has our own banquet to offer, our own gifts to share. Who will we invite?

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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

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030

SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Mary Magdalen

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.



Ministry Schedule		
September 6/7, 2025		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	T Riley	J Kosnak
Reader #2	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz
EME	R Pasiak	A Goll
	T Pasiak	T Karolski
	T Riley	M Waskowski
Greeters	T Pasiak	B Turchin
	Volunteer	M McLaughlin
	Volunteer	Volunteer
	J Ballantine	D McLaughlin
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Sept 6/7, 2025		
Mary Jane Guc		

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING AUG. 23/24, 2025

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	102		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$5,532.02	347.02	2,743.21
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	327.00	(145.00)	(976.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	40.00	(1,633.00)	(11,864.00)
Bequests				175.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		10.00		10.00
AOD Collections: Gaza		1,270.00		1,506.00
AOD: Propagation of the Faith		50.00		50.00
Holy Days: Assumption		60.00		929.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,103.50				Paid 60,847.50

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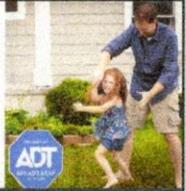
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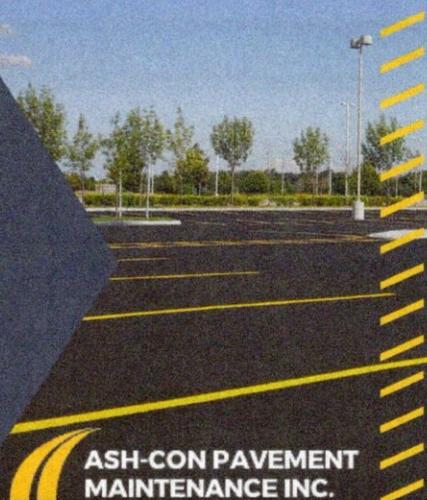
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