



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025 † TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

Death is the great equalizer. Throughout life different experiences arise that serve as opportunities to rethink our priorities and the manner of our way of life. Sometimes it simply comes with the maturity of our years. It may be the reception of a great blessing in one form or another. It may come in a time of crisis, loss, serious illness, or the death of a loved one. Different events, great or small, can serve as an awakening of the soul that leads to a conversion of heart. It is typical that we create our own course in life in the manner of our liking. Without much thought our priorities rise to the surface, and we claim and follow those things that are most advantageous to our interest and wants.

As professed Christians, do we allow the death and Resurrection of Jesus to impact our manner of life? The call of the Christian life is to model our lives on the life of Jesus in justice, mercy, and compassion. Merely professing Christ as Lord is not an automatic open door to the promise of heaven. If we talk the talk of the Christian gospel we must by necessity walk the walk of loving our neighbor as we love ourselves. To profess love for God is too live in a manner of the Divine way. Jesus is the Master who has shown the way.

Consider the life of Amos. Amos lived in the Southern Kingdom of Israel. He was of the lower class, a shepherd and dresser of sycamore trees. As a man of faith, Amos aligned his life with the life of God. He knew the Hebrew scriptures and the primary call of justice in care of the poor. Pained in conscience regarding the plight of the poor in the Northern Kingdom, God calls Amos to be a prophetic voice against the wanton luxury of the rich against the crippled life of the poor. Just reading his description of those who live in excessive abundance should stir the heart of each of us who seek to follow the way of the Lord. His words are a compassionate warning that one day their riches would be their fall. In fact, historically at this time, Assyria overtook the Northern Kingdom of Israel. Those first led into exile were the leaders of that time. Their excessive greed and absence of compassion for the poor, and their empty worship of God led to their demise. 'Therefore, now they shall be the first to go into exile, and their wanton revelry shall be done away with.'

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus is a direct parallel to the first reading. Remember it is a parable for the purpose of alerting the religious leaders of their misalignment with the ways of God. The parable can

feel too real because it confronts us with the ways of the world today.

It is not a sin to be wealthy. It is sinful to be wealthy and blindly ignore the suffering poor around you and do nothing. It is a common rationalization to claim wealth as a blessing of God's favor and personal approval. Similarly, it was commonly thought that the poor were suffering punishment for their sins. Both views are ignorant and dismissed by Jesus. Those who have gained great wealth often do so off the backs of the poor.

Willingly blinded by the excess of his daily comforts, Dives knows Lazarus is at his door but ignores his plight as if he were not there at all. In the parable, the rich man is not given a name. To give him a name would make it easy to place all blame on him. Remaining nameless forces us to realize how the parable may be reflected in our lives. The name Dives was later made up to ease the tension of the story. Dives is a word that means 'a man of wealth.'

It was not the wealth of the rich man that kept him out of the bosom of Abraham. It was his refusal to see and respond to the needs of Lazarus suffering at his front door. After death, notice that Dives suddenly knows the name of Lazarus. He directs Abraham to send Lazarus to bring him a cup of cool water. Dives still treats Lazarus of no account except to serve his needs.

What is the takeaway here? Justice, charity, and compassion are non-negotiable in the Christian life. The wealthy of the world are gaining wealth while those with middle or lower-income status have less. The challenge is to hear the Word of God and put it into practice in our lives. Lost in his comfort, Dives refused to accept the ways of faith failing to show compassion to his neighbor. Now in torment, he expects Lazarus to serve his needs.

The Resurrection into the life of heaven will have nothing to do with our bank accounts. It will have everything to do with how we have responded to those in need. This is not a guilt trip trying to squeeze money out of people. It is not about the amount of money given; it is about the love and compassion we offer others in need because we seek to put the Word of God into practice. If you have few material goods to share, then the greatest gift is your prayer, compassion, and solidarity with those who suffer with little hope for resolution. Be at peace. Love your neighbor as yourself. If you are in critical need, please let someone know.

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

Contact Information

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721
Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

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

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
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

Mass INTENTIONS

MONDAY, September 29, 2025

9:00am Mass: Hudy & Simmons Families req. by Mary Ann Simmons

TUESDAY, September 30, 2025

8:00am Mass: Deanna (for health) req. by Family

WEDNESDAY, October 1, 2025

8:00am Mass: Kenny, Jr. (for health) req. by Family

THURSDAY, October 2, 2025

8:00am Mass: Tony Szeliga† req. by Jeanette & Family

SATURDAY, October 4, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Women's Sacred Journey Prayer Group req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Mark Esper† req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

SUNDAY, October 5, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends

Dennis Tye† req. by Mary Beth & Bill Hochstetler

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Jessie Giszczak (Birthday Blessings) req. by Bernadette Gutowski



SATURDAY, OCT 4 9:00AM

Bring your pets!
In honor of St. Francis of

Assisi, patron saint of animals, Fr. John will bless your pets. Meet in the Herbert St. parking lot.

ALSO, the weekend of Oct. 4/5 we will be accepting donations of pet food, toys, used towels, blankets, bleach, paper towels and no clump cat litter.

Readings for the Week

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Sunday: Am 6:1a, 4-7/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1b)/1
Tm 6:11-16/Lk 16:19-31

Monday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv 12:7-12ab/Ps
138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 4-5/Jn 1:47-51

Tuesday: Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk
9:51-56

Wednesday: Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk 9:57-
62

Thursday: Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12 (458)/Ps 19:8, 9,
10, 11/Mt 18:1-5, 10

Friday: Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk
10:13-16

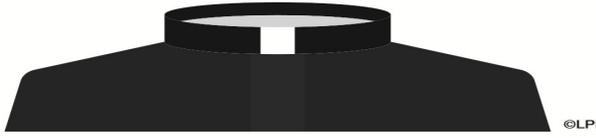
Saturday: Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/
Lk 10:17-24

Next Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
(8)/2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

Thank You Father John

for your prayerful guidance, dedicated ministry, and the love and sacramental life you have provided to our faith community and the People of God in our Archdiocese. We also thank Br. Bob Malloy, the Capuchin priests, Fr. Paolo, Fr. Enno, and the PIME Missionary Priests who have ministered to the St. Vincent Ferrer community. We also remember with gratitude all of the priests who have ministered to us throughout our entire lives. May our Heavenly Father continue to bless all of the men called to His priestly ministry.

SEPTEMBER 28, 2025



Priesthood Sunday

ST. JOHN VIANNEY

“THE PRIESTHOOD IS THE LOVE OF THE HEART OF JESUS. WHEN YOU SEE A PRIEST, THINK OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.”



Whenever we interact with our priests, do we see them as human and frail like the rest of humanity? Or on the other hand, do we see them as supermen, able to withstand all the stresses and strains of being human? I hope you see your priest as very human. Quite possibly, even more human than most of us. Why? Because they not only have their own struggles being human, but they accompany us in our humanness too. This Priesthood Sunday, turn the tables. Attempt to be the listener to the human side of your priest. Do not automatically tell him your troubles; begin by asking him what is going on in his life. Thank him warmly for giving up so much to spend his life in service to others. Try it. You might be surprised to find out your priest is just like you!

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Prayer for Priests

Lord God, most holy, we approach you in gratitude for your holy ordained priesthood. You have called these men to be set apart and to shepherd your people, as you shepherd your entire church. We pray for them in their daily work. Grant to them an increase in spiritual gifts and grace, so they may be prepared for the tasks at hand. Lead them not into temptation and protect them from the grasp of the evil one. It is through the sacraments they confer that we encounter the divine in a real and profound way. May your church never lose sight of these, your special sons, and may we, the body of Christ, never fail to cherish the gift of their lives, which they have freely given to you and your holy church. We ask this in the name of Jesus, your Son. Amen.

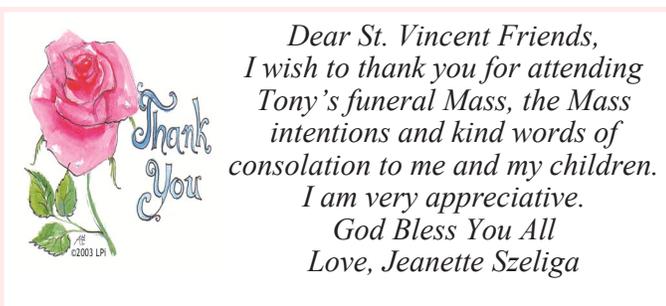


Pray for **REMEMBER** *in your prayers*

...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



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Am 6:1a, 4-7

Question: The prophet Amos is critical of the Israelites living in luxury while ignoring the social decay surrounding them. How can we avoid such insensitivity to the pain and suffering of others?

2nd Reading: 1 Tm 6:11-16

Question: Paul encourages Timothy to be a strong and faithful leader, focusing on the return of Jesus and the goal of eternal life. Who encourages you in your faith life?

Gospel: Lk 16:19-31

Question: Jesus forewarns the Pharisees about the great reversal in the afterlife awaiting the self-centered rich and the desperately poor. With whom could you be generous this week?

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SNACK BAG COLLECTION September 27/28 & October 4/5

On Saturday, October 18th our parish will be participating in an Archdiocesan outreach day which involves our hands-on efforts to serve the needs of local homeless, food deprived, and other unmet needs of our brothers and sisters whom Jesus identifies with: "When I was hungry." Our first collection request for this project will be items that will be placed in snack bags to be delivered to Our Lady of LaSalette Outreach.

ITEMS NEEDED: individual serving sizes of cookies, cheese & crackers, fruit snacks, granola bars, and juice boxes. We will be collecting these items on the weekends of September 27/28 and October 4/5. Your contributions can be placed on the tables in the back of church or at the parish office during the week. Thank you for your always generous response.

PET FOOD & SUPPLIES COLLECTION

October 4 & 5 (in honor of St. Francis)
 & October 18 (Mercy in Action Day)

We will be collecting the following items for the No Kill Welfare Animal Shelter on John R in Madison Heights:

Puppy and Dog food - dry and canned
 Kitten and cat food - dry and canned
 No clumping cat litter
 Dog & cat treats
 Dog & Cat toys
 55 gallon Trash bags
 Bleach
 Used towels & blankets
 Paper towels



Observances of the Week

Monday: Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
 Tuesday: St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor of the Church
 Wednesday: St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church
 Thursday: The Holy Guardian Angels
 Saturday: St. Francis of Assisi
 Next Sunday: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday

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Children's Faith Formation Classes begin this Monday Sept. 29th at 6:15pm in church.



Classes are held on Mondays from 6:15pm to 7:30pm for children in grades 1-8. If you have any questions about our program, or have children you need to register, please contact Matthew at 646-369-8619 or matthew@stvincentferrer.net

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

Can Divorced Catholics Take Communion?

Question:

Can a divorced Catholic receive holy Communion?

Answer:

Unfortunately, too many people today — Catholics and non-Catholics alike — mistakenly believe that divorce separates one from the Communion of the Church and that divorced persons may not receive Communion. However, as the Church has communicated in a number of places, the issue at hand is not the reality of divorce, but is more often the reality of re-marriage outside of the Church (such as in the case of a Catholic who was previously married within the Church, divorced, and remarried without receiving an annulment).

Divorced persons are called to live chastely as single people and to observe the same call to avoid sin as anyone else who desires to receive the Eucharist. Beyond this, however, Pope Francis has reminded us that the healing power of the Eucharist can be especially significant for those who have “endured separation, divorce, or abandonment ... divorced people who have not remarried, and often bear witness to marital fidelity, ought to be encouraged to find in the Eucharist the nourishment they need to sustain them in their present state of life.” (*Amoris Laetitia*, no. 242) Moreover, he continues, “The local community and pastors should accompany these people with solicitude, particularly when children are involved or when they are in serious financial difficulty.” (*AL*, no 242)

As Pope Francis has also reminded us, the Eucharist is “not a prize for the perfect,” but “a powerful medicine and nourishment” (*Evangelii Gaudium*, no. 47). Because we all stand in need of healing and wholeness, the Church invites all who seek to live their faith in integrity and devotion to come and receive the grace offered in the Eucharist.

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Women's Sacred Journey

**SATURDAY, OCT. 4TH AT 9:00AM
FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
SVF SCHOOL BLDG.**



Women's Sacred Journey group invites all women to join them in praying and reflecting on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required.

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

MORNING OFFERING, Explained!

There are many variations of the Morning Offering, but all share the same purpose: to begin each day by offering oneself to God, along with all the experiences, struggles and blessings that the day will bring.

The ancient Israelites practiced the *bikkurim* (“first fruits”) as described in Deuteronomy, chapter 26. This was a ritual by which the first fruits of the harvest were offered back to God in a sacrificial act of gratitude and obedience. The theology behind the Morning Offering is similar: giving to God the first moments of each day.

The most traditional form of the Morning Offering, attributed to Fr. François-Xavier Gautrelet, begins “O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day, for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart...” A full version of this text can be found at usccb.org/prayers/morning-offering.

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Ministry Schedule

October 4/5, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	D Tourville
Reader #1	T Riley	A Goll
Reader #2	D Tourville	D Tourville
EME	P Miles	A Goll
	T Riley	P Allen
	M Simmons	M Black
Greeters	Volunteer	B Turchin
	P Miles	D Vu
	R Juska-Svoba	P Rarus
	M Smith	B Gutowski

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Oct 4/5, 2025
Robin Silverest

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. ROSE-PHILIPPINE DUCHESNE 1769-1852

Rose-Philippine Duchesne was born on August 29, 1769, in Grenoble, France, to a wealthy family that was deeply committed to their Catholic faith. From a young age, Rose-Philippine felt called to religious life and aspired to become a member of the Society of the Sacred Heart. However, her family was opposed to this decision, and it was not until she was 18 years old that she was able to join the order.

In order to escape her family's plans for her, she convinced an aunt to accompany her on a visit to the Visitation of Holy Mary religious order's monastery. Once there, she immediately requested admission and was accepted, leaving her aunt to return home without her and to break the news to her family. She made her final vows in 1789, just as the French Revolution was beginning to sweep the country.

During the revolution, many religious orders were disbanded, and religious persecution was rampant. However, Sister Rose-Philippine refused to abandon her faith or her calling to serve others. She continued to work in secret, often risking her life to provide aid and comfort to those in need. During the French Revolution's Reign of Terror, however, she was forced to move home. Determined to not be discouraged, she lived according to the Rule of her congregation and served her family, and those religious who had been imprisoned, to the best of her ability during that time.

Inspired by a missionary spirit Sister Rose-Philippine accepted an invitation to set up schools for Native American and French children in the diocese of Louisiana. In September of 1818 the first Sacred Heart school outside of Europe was opened in St. Charles, Missouri. The first novitiate would be opened the next year in Florissant, Missouri. Life on the frontier was fraught with hardship, from extreme cold to a shortage of resources, including food, shelter, and clothing. Despite these obstacles, Sister Rose-Philippine opened schools and orphanages, taught young girls how to read and write, and ministered to the sick and the poor.

It was not until Rose-Philippine was 72 years old that her wish to serve the Native Americans was granted. The Jesuit head of a mission to open a school for the Potawatomi in Sugar Creek, Kansas insisted that she join. Though ill and frail she stayed with the Potawatomi for a year, spending long hours in contemplation which earned her the nickname, Quahkah-ka-num-ad, "Woman-Who-Prays-Always."

She died on November 18, 1852, at the age of 83. On July 3, 1988, Pope John Paul II declared Rose-Philippine Duchesne to be a saint. Sister Rose-Philippine was known for her kindness, her compassion, and her unwavering faith. She inspired many others to follow in her footsteps, and her legacy lives on today in the work of the Society of the Sacred Heart and other religious orders that continue to serve others around the world.

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Snow Days and Second Chances

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Yesterday morning, my kids were playing outside in the snow, and I decided to take advantage of the quiet house to make a few important phone calls.

Fool. I forgot Murphy's Law of Parenting, which dictates that as soon as you dial a phone number, a bomb of irritation and neediness explodes within the heart of your loudest child. Sure enough, as soon as the person on the other end of the line picked up, my son was at the back door, whimpering loudly. Horror of horrors, he had snow in his boot.

I gestured to the phone. He whimpered more loudly. I mouthed and mimed threats. He threw his boot at me. I gave him The Look. He started to scream.

Well, needless to say, the phone call didn't go well, and my son's snow day was cut short. He begged for a second chance, but I explained to him that life doesn't always give you second chances. The phone call was over. Ruined. I couldn't get it back.

But that's when I remembered that moms have a superpower: creating second chances where none had existed before. So I told him that if he could be quiet while I made the rest of my calls, he could go back outside.

My son is young right now. I give him lots of second chances because second chances help him learn. Second chances are the training wheels of life.

I dread the day when the training wheels come off, and I can't save him from his bad decisions. I think every parent does.

The parable of the rich man and Lazarus highlights a reality that we often wish to ignore: at some point, we will run out of chances, and it's not because God tires of giving them to us. It's because a truly endless supply of chances would strip us of our free will. It would deny us the right of being taken at our word — and God respects us too much to do that.

My son saved his snow day. It's a good reminder: take the second (and third and fourth) chance. Don't wait for the next one.

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The rich man had a chance, every day of his life, to choose righteousness. But righteousness wasn't convenient for him. He discovered too late that the only time we have to follow God is now. Here. This moment. Will we take our chance?

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Please note: "Philippine Duchesne and the first RSCJ became dependent on the forced labor of enslaved persons during their initial years in North America. This practice was entrenched in the economy and civil society of Missouri and Louisiana and was supported by Catholic Church leaders. Today we know that complicity in the institution of enslavement denied the dignity of people of color and was sinful. The Society is working humbly to acknowledge our history with enslavement, to build relationships with the descendants of our enslaved persons, and to work with the descendants towards racial equity, and the end to systemic racism in our institutional structures." —*Society of the Sacred Heart*



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

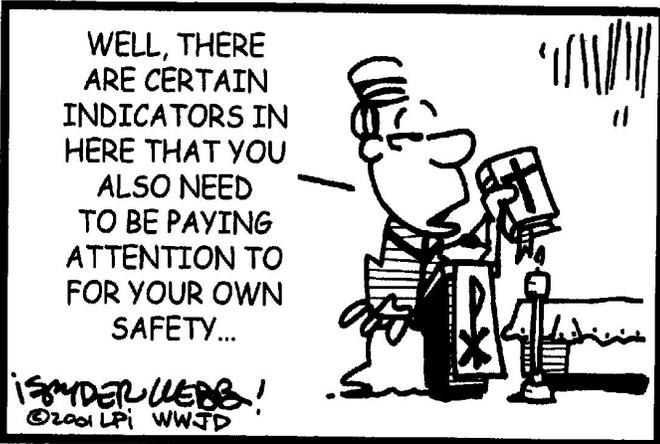
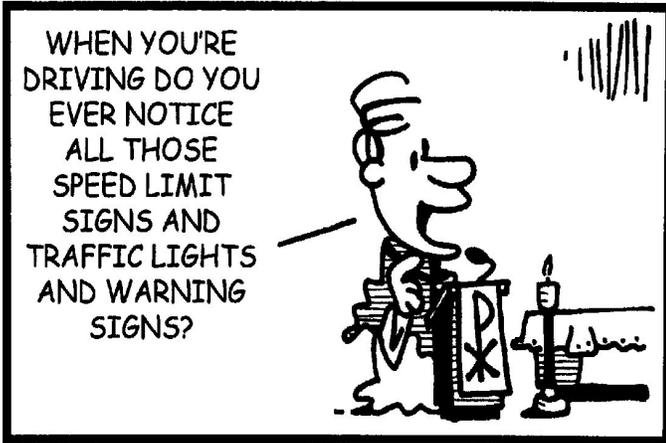
730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

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.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING SEPT.20/21, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	103		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$5,669.72	484.72	5,519.46
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	336.00	(136.00)	(1,062.50)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	105.00	(1,568.00)	4,544.50
Bequests		100.00		775.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		165.00		195.00
Holy Days: All Souls		10.00		70.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,103.50				Paid 61,122.50

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