

CHRISTMAS  
SONS

# NATIVITY

*of the Lord*



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**ST. VINCENT FERRER CATHOLIC CHURCH**

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071 - 248-542-8720 [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

Reverend John C. Esper



*“Let us go, then, to Bethlehem to see this thing that has taken place,  
which the Lord has made known to us.”* Luke 2:15

## From the Pastor

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Those with lives built on faith in God and directed in love will have less trouble perceiving the signs and the presence of God around them. Those who live self-directed lives of their own design for the sake of their own interests will struggle with faith often missing the evidence of God in or around them. In a faith centered person directed in love, times of fear will not overwhelm them even in the most radical circumstance. The self-directed person absent of faith, in a time of fear or threat, will be more easily overwhelmed, leading them to poor decisions that may cause a calamitous result.

In the eighth century, Ahaz was king of Judah in Southern Israel. During his reign, he was under threat by the Assyrian army. In fear, resisting the call of Isaiah the Prophet, Ahaz makes his own plan to defeat the Assyrians. God tries to rescue Ahaz who refuses to turn to God, preferring to trust in his own design. God invites Ahaz to ask for a sign, but Ahaz refuses. God persists by giving the sign: ‘a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall name him Emmanuel.’ With little faith or trust, Ahaz rejects God’s call with disastrous results. Despite our resistance, God will not allow his will to be thwarted.

Prophetically, the Virgin is Mary, and the Son is Jesus, our Emmanuel. Consider the scene. Joseph and Mary, deep in love, plan to marry. Both are fully committed in faith. By the action and sign of God their faith is tested, but not their love. Confused and unknowing, Mary says yes to the birth of a Son through the Holy Spirit. Wretchedly torn, Joseph makes the decision to divorce quietly. Trusting his faith, he accepts a change of heart through a sign given by God in a dream. Love conquers fear and social chattering. In love, Joseph trusts a sign from God beyond his personal feelings of hurt and doubt.

God uses the rich bond of love held by Mary and Joseph. Their love was a powerful bond only made stronger by the faith and trust they held in God. In a time of fear and confusion, unlike Ahaz, Mary and Joseph clung to their love for each other and their love for God. Directed in faith, centered in love they rightly perceive and trust the signs given them by God.

We are a few days before Christmas and the celebration of God coming to us in Christ. Is your faith and love in the right place, or are you driving the bus?

### THE SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

Merry Christmas! May every good gift and blessing in the birth of Christ be yours. Through the birth of the Child Jesus as Christ and Redeemer everything is different in the heavens and on earth. Jesus is the Light of the world and there is no darkness that can overcome the light of truth revealed in this love.

Given the tension and disorder in the world today, you might ask: what is so different in the world since the birth of Christ? At face value, much has stayed the same; war, poverty, hatred, hunger, prejudice, and every other form of human disorder. We are clearly a work in progress. Yet, everything is different.

Through the Infant Christ, God enters our wounded and broken world. For the baptized and those committed to the Christian way, Christ is born in us. Through the birth of Christ, we are already in God and God is already in us. The world is ruled by the Prince of Darkness, and the Evil one often has his way in the world, giving the impression that darkness rules. This is the lie of sin.

The life of God flows through the Incarnate Christ into those who seek to follow His way. In Christ we become people of the Light, and Christ who is the Light of the world defeats the power of darkness through the surpassing power of love. We are both recipients and agents of this love. As we receive the love of Christ through the gift of redemption that heals, forgives, and liberates us from sin and death, we become agents of light and love in the world.

Today is a day of deep joy and celebration built on gratitude for the love God has personally given us in the Lord Jesus. Families will gather, gifts will be shared, fellowship will take place at the table, and bonds of love will be built and renewed. There will also be toys fought over, milk spilled, feelings hurt, or loud disagreements heard. Some will be alone and left out, while others overdo the cheer. But at the end of the day, Christ will still be born into our world and in our hearts. Messes will be cleaned up, hurt feelings will mend, and broken toys fixed. Why? Because the light of Christ is with and in us and any trial that weighs us down or throws us off our peace cannot surpass the love of Christ born into our world. Feel the love, share it warmly, thank God for Jesus, and be Jesus for others. One day, in the love we worship and adore in the Christ child, the perfection of heaven will come. A very blessed and Merry Christmas to 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 of the Following:**



Daily & Weekend Masses

Adoration on Tuesdays  
8:45am to 10:00am

Rosary on Thursdays  
following 8:00am Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

*Welcome and Merry Christmas*

*Fr. John Esper and the staff of St Vincent Ferrer wish you blessings of peace, love and joy this Christmas Season.*



**The Parish Office will close at Noon on December 24th and will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026.**

# 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 Parish Office 248-542-8720**



**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Wednesday, December 24, 2025 - 4:00pm & 9:00pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Thursday, December 25, 2025 - 9:00am

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Saturday, December 27, 2025 - 4:00pm  
Sunday, December 28, 2025 - 9:00am

**MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - HOLY DAY**

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 4:00pm  
Thursday, January 1, 2026 - 9:00am



Anointing of the Sick

**HEALING MASS NEXT SATURDAY**

**DECEMBER 27, 2025 - 4:00pm**

Fr. John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass.

Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.

# Readings for the Week

**December 21, 2025**

Sunday: Is 7:10-14/Ps 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 (7c,10b)/  
Rom 1:1-7/Mt 1:18-24

Monday: 1 Sm 1:24-28/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7,  
8abcd/ Lk 1:46-56

Tuesday: Mal 3:1-4, 23-24/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10  
and 14/Lk 1:57-66

Wednesday:(Morning) 2 Sm 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16/  
Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 and 29/Lk 1:67-79

**Christmas Eve:** Is 62:1-5/Ps 89:4-5, 16-17, 27, 29  
(2a)/Acts 13:16-17, 22-25/Mt 1:1-25or  
1:18-25

**Night:** Is 9:1-6/Ps 96:1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13 (Lk 2:11)/Ti  
2:11-14/Lk 2:1-14

**Christmas Dawn:** Is 62:11-12/Ps 97:1, 6, 11-12/Ti  
3:4-7/Lk 2:15-20 **Day:** Is 52:7-10/Ps  
98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6 (3c)/Heb 1:1-6/Jn  
1:1-18 or 1:1-5, 9-14

Friday: Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6  
and 8ab, 16bc and 17/Mt 10:17-22

Saturday: 1 Jn 1:1-4/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Jn  
20:1a, 2-8

Next Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5  
(see 1)/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Mt 2:13-  
15, 19-23

## Prayer REQUESTS

...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



**MONDAY, December 22, 2025**

8:00am Mass: Margaret & Joseph Sanocki† req. by  
Sanocki Family

**TUESDAY, December 23, 2025**

8:00am Mass: Mary Guaiana† req. by Marie Bessler

**WEDNESDAY, December 24, 2025 CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4:00pm Mass:** Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends

Gigi Cooper† req. by Linda & LeRoy Proszkowski

Kathy Boguslawski† req. by Bob Boguslawski

John & Tresa Lamerato† req. by Meg & Sam Lamerato

Ray Family req. by Meg & Sam Lamerato

Neil Repke† req. by Barbara & Family

Patrick Peake† req. by Alexis Peake

Elizabeth Schamante† req. by Alexis Peake

Inga Gelement† req. by Alexis Peake

**9:00pm Mass:** William Olszewski† req. by Family

Mary Guaiana† req. by Dominic & Rosemary Lopez

Jessica Magri† req. by Kim Magri & Family

Robert Lebioda† req. by Kim Magri & Family

Michael Magri† req. by Kim Magri & Family

**THURSDAY, December 25, 2025 CHRISTMAS**

9:00am Mass: Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Paul Gorcyca req. by Mary Jo Gorcyca

Janet Trabucchi† req. by Family

Robert Shaner† (Memorial Birthday) req. by Barb Shaner

**SATURDAY, December 27, 2025**

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

Rev. Thomas Espert† (8th R.A.)

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Tony Szeliga† req. by Jeanette & Family

**SUNDAY, December 28, 2025**

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

Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends

Mary Guaiana† req. by Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Milagrus Sunga† req. by Family

## ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

We **WILL NOT** do a parish wide mailing of contribution  
statements. If you would like a copy of your 2025  
contributions for income tax purposes, please fill out a  
request form found at the church entrance and drop it in  
the collection basket, Or call the parish office at 248-542-  
8720 after Jan. 5, 2026.

**Please make request by January 16, 2026.**

## Women's Sacred Journey

**SATURDAY, DEC. 27 - 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.


**MEMORIAL FLOWER DONATIONS**


<b>In Memory/Honor of</b>	<b>Donated by</b>	<b>In Memory/Honor of</b>	<b>Donated by</b>
My Dad	Miss Maria Adragna	The Ray Family	M/M Samuel Lamerato
Dolores Eslava, Tranquilino, Crispulo "Rudy" & Rodrigo Bince	Mrs. Benedicta Anderson	Stanley & Millie Sova	M/M Gary Lentini
Cindy Bertolini	Mr. Ron Bertolini	Jessica Magri	M/M Richard Magri
Don Bessler	Mrs. Marie Bessler	Robert Lebioda	M/M Richard Magri
Fred Biber	Mrs. Erna Biber	Michael Magri	M/M Richard Magri
Klein Family	Mrs. Erna Biber	Felix & Veronika Malolepszy	Mr. Jerome Malolepszy
Aurelio Escobar & Olimpia Bautista	M/M Manuel Bionson	Wayne Maynard	Mrs. Angela Maynard
Louis Bionson & Obedencia Bernas	M/M Manuel Bionson	Cathy & Richard McCarthy	Ms. Corrine McCarthy
Gerald, Helen & Rosemary Black	Dan & Maureen Black	Deceased members of Perry & McCarthy Families	Ms. Corrine McCarthy
Edward & Patricia McHugh	Dan & Maureen Black	Deceased Karis Family	Judy McCown & Mike Kairis
M/M Rayond Blizinski	M/M Kevin Blizinski	Members	Judy McCown & Mike Kairis
Kathy Boguslawski	Mr. Robert Boguslawski	Deceased McCown Family	
Richard & Helen Brzezinski	M/M Dennis Brzezinski	Members	
Walter & Ann Wiktorski	M/M Dennis Brzezinski	Deceased Members of	
Donald Bush	Ms. Kathleen Bush	McLaughlin Family	M/M Duane McLaughlin
Richard Collins	Mrs. Linda Collins	Deceased Members of	
Michael De Rubeis	Mrs. Sue De Rubeis	Ostrom Family	M/M Duane McLaughlin
Gregorio Sr., Dominador, Edgardo		Anthony S. Milko	Mrs. Janice Milko
Gregorio, Jr., Anastasio, Heide & Caridad Diano	Ms. Asteria Diano	Joseph & Mary Novak	Mr. Joseph Novak, Jr.
Honorata Villarba, Petra Palenzuela	Ms. Asteria Diano	Gary & Albert Novak	Mr. Joseph Novak, Jr.
Donna Dietrich	Mr. John Dietrich	All Deceased Family & Friends	M/M Timothy Oparka
Frank & Catherine Dietrich	Mr. John Dietrich	Frank & Janet Minish	M/M Stephen Orloski
James and Trudy Dietrich	Mr. John Dietrich	Linda & Al Panek	Ms. Barbara Panek
Doug Evans	Mr. John Dietrich	Sharon & Agnes Panek	Ms. Barbara Panek
Family & Friends	Mary Ann Evans	Debra Millsap	Ms. Barbara Panek
Flack & Miller Families	Mary Ann Evans	Patricia Allen	Ms. Barbara Panek
John & Stella Gadowski	M/M Paul Flack	Members of the Giardina Family	Richard & Antoinette Pasiak
Mary Ann & Walter Machota	Ms. Patricia Gadowski	Members of the Pasiak Family	Richard & Antoinette Pasiak
Matthew Machota	Ms. Patricia Gadowski	Gigi Cooper	LeRoy & Linda Proszkowski
Aro J. Gallerani	Ms. Patricia Gadowski	SSG Jason Plumb	LeRoy & Linda Proszkowski
Guc & Kutchev Families	Mrs. Genevieve Gallerani	Dean Mroz & Dale Morz	LeRoy & Linda Proszkowski
Gerald Gutowski	Mrs. Mary Jane Guc	Frances Przekaza	Mr. Leonard Przekaza
Leonard & Eleanore Vertel	Mrs. Bernadette Gutowski	Clara & Joseph Rarus	Ms. Phyllis Rarus
Edmund & Helen Gutowski	Mrs. Bernadette Gutowski	Mary Ann Rajoo Paulson	Daniel & Bernadette Ravary
Sr. Melanie Chateau	Mrs. Bernadette Gutowski	Neil Repke	Mrs. Barbara Repke
Sr. Dorothy Balabuch	Mrs. Bernadette Gutowski	Joe & Joan Rickle	M/M Joseph Rickle
Michael Higgins	Mrs. Bernadette Gutowski	Tom & Dorothy Peacock	M/M Joseph Rickle
Dr. & Mrs. S. Grace	Mrs. Krystyna Higgins	Tommy Peacock	M/M Joseph Rickle
Maggie Iapalucci	George & Gail Iapalucci	Deceased Riley Family Members	M/M Thomas Riley
Stefanija & Pranas Juska	George & Gail Iapalucci	Deceased Fletcher Family Members	M/M Thomas Riley
Elena & Marcus Maulding	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	Robert J. Shaner	Mrs. Barbara Shaner
Jonas, Jonana & Rimgaudas Svoba	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	Robert P. Abratowski	Mrs. Barbara Shaner
Milda Svoba-Walters	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	Stella & Louis Flanz	Mrs. Mary Ann Simmons
Kristina Maulding Lempicki	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	The Smith Family	M/M Martin Smith
Valentina, Rimas & Rimantas Labieka	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	The Gulli Family	M/M Martin Smith
Jonas Vytautas Ruzgys	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	The Tucker Family	M/M Martin Smith
Parishioners of St. Anthony	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	The Burgess Family	M/M Martin Smith
Lithuanian Church	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	Marlene	M/M Jeffrey Swanson
Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer	Ms. Regina Juska-Svoba	Tony Szeliga	Mrs. Jeanette Szeliga
Mary Lou Stema	K of C Auxiliary 7239	Edward & Jean Lebioda	Mrs. Jeanette Szeliga
Mike Kapolka	Mrs. Helen Kapolka	Anthony, Genevieve & Regina Szeliga	
Elizabeth Wyskiel	Mrs. Helen Kapolka	Pedro & Leonora Tagalicud Sr.	Mrs. Jeanette Szeliga
Dianne Karolski	Mr. Thomas Karolski	Henry Tagalicud, Sr.	Ms. Fely Tagalicud
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Mitchell & Rita Gniewek	M/M Arthur Kreska	Stan & Jean Mieczkowski	Mrs. Jeanne Tomasko
Family & Friends	Mrs. Ann Kresowski	Parents and grandson	Ms. Frances Vettraino
John & Tresa Lamerato	M/M Samuel Lamerato	Virga & Miceli Families	M/M Francesco Virga

## MEMORIAL FLOWER DONATIONS

In Memory/Honor of	Donated by
Deceased members of Yolkiewicz Family	M/M Stanley Yolkiewicz
Deceased members of Celmer Family	M/M Stanley Yolkiewicz
Deceased Members of the Zukowski Family	Lawrence & Theresa Zukowski
Deceased Members of the Mankowski Family	Lawrence & Theresa Zukowski

### General Flower Donations

M/M Bill Majewski  
Mrs. Helen Szczerba  
Mr. Tom Szczerba  
Mr. Raymond Van Hall  
M/M Donald Vu  
M/M Ryan Vu



**Thank you to all who made Christmas flower donations in memory or honor of loved ones. Your contributions help to beautify our worship space. The Christmas flower contribution total was \$ 1,854.00.**

## Observances of the Week

Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent  
Tuesday: St. John of Kanty, Priest  
Wednesday: Christmas Eve  
Thursday: The Nativity of the Lord  
Friday: St. Stephen, First Martyr  
Saturday: St. John, Apostle and Evangelist  
Next Sunday: The Holy Family

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## Call Ahead

Father John was nervous when he cast Jimmy, the middle school class clown, as Joseph in the annual Christmas pageant. His fears were realized when Jimmy decided to do a little improvisation by pulling out his cell phone in the pageant's opening scene.

The astonished priest, who was narrating, asked, "What are you doing with your phone?"

Jimmy smiled and replied, "This year I'm phoning that inn to make a reservation!"

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## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Is 7:10-14

**Question:** Seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesies to King Ahaz that a virgin would bear a son and name him, Emmanuel ("God is with us"). When have you felt close to God this Advent season?

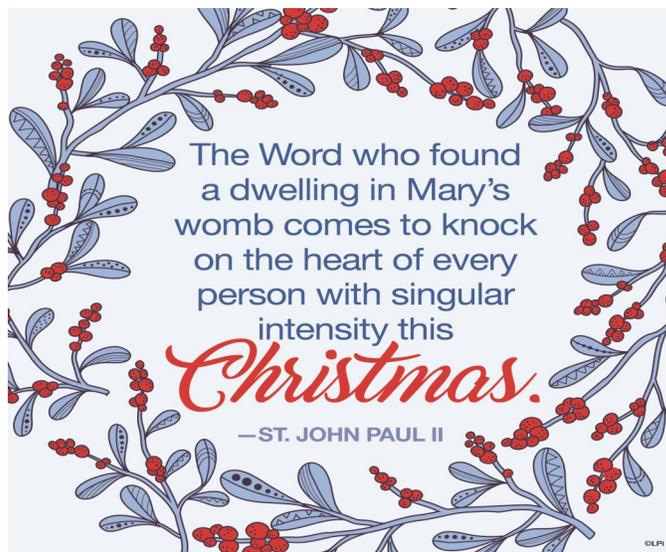
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Rom 1:1-7

**Question:** Paul instructs the Roman Christians that they are "called to be holy." What do you see as some of the steps toward growing in holiness?

**Gospel:** Mt 1:18-24

**Question:** We hear how Joseph struggled initially with the news of Mary's pregnancy. How do you discern making difficult decisions?

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<p>Learn about some unique Christmas traditions from around the world!</p>	<p><b>VENEZUELA</b></p> <p>Every year, roads are closed to traffic in the city of Caracas to let people participate in <i>las pantinatas</i> — "the skating" where everyone roller skates to Christmas Mass.</p>	<p><b>GERMANY</b></p> <p>Starting in the 16th Century, Germans hide a pickle somewhere within the branches of their Christmas tree. Whatever child finds it receives a gift!</p>	<p><b>NEW ZEALAND</b></p> <p>On the island, Christmas trees look a little different. Residents use the native pōhutukawa tree, with its bright crimson flowers, as their symbol for Christmas.</p>



**Rising from the Ashes  
Revival July 22, 2026**

God is calling the Church of Detroit to renewal and revival. This is not just a catch phrase; it is a commissioning from the Lord and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Rising from the Ashes is a Eucharistic centered experience of prayer, teaching and praise to God. We will learn from four wonderful speakers, raise our voices in praise with wonderful musical artists, encounter the full breath of the Church and witness to Christ in a Eucharistic procession. To learn more about the revival, to order tickets and to become a sponsor go to [risingrevival.org](http://risingrevival.org).

**INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

Sometimes we want God's instructions to be clear and precise — like the angel in Joseph's dream. But Joseph's understanding was only as strong as his devotion to God's will. If we give our lives to God as Joseph did, we will know what he asks of us.

©LPi

**Ministry Schedule**

December 27/28, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	C McCarthy
Reader #1	J McCown	D Gray
Reader #2	T Riley	C McCarthy
EME	J McCown	A Goll
	M Kairis	D Gray
	R Pasiak	M Waskowski
Greeters	J Ballantine	T Lane
	P Miles	D Vu
	R Pasiak	B Gutowski
	T Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba

**Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Dec. 27/28, 2025**  
Bernie Turchin

— SAINT BEDE —

**HE WHO IS THE BREAD  
OF ANGELS IS LAID DOWN  
IN A MANGER,  
THAT HE MIGHT FEED US,  
AS IT WERE THE SACRED ANIMALS,  
WITH THE BREAD OF HIS FLESH.**



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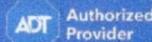
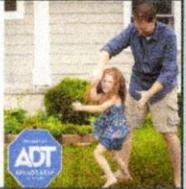
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