



## *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community*

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

**JANUARY 18, 2026 + SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **From The Pastor**

Amazing people are just people who do amazing things. Heroic people are just people who do heroic things. Famous people are just people who accomplish something that brings them fame. Prophets and biblical figures are just people who do things that reveal God. Every person gives witness to something. A person's witness may have value with a lasting impact leading to fame or glory. The witness of other people is often subtle, understated, drawing little attention. Every life bears some kind of witness to who they are, what they stand for, believe in, or commit themselves to.

Today's readings offer us the witness of three biblical figures that have changed the world: Isaiah, John the Baptist, and Jesus the Christ. None of these figures sought world fame or fortune. God called each to play a key role in bringing about God's plan of eternal salvation. Each heard a call from God, grasped what they heard, then acted on what had grasped them. As a young man, Isaiah was in the Temple of the Lord when he experienced a vision of the Divine that changed his life. He hears the call to serve as a Prophetic voice for God. His yes to the call became a foundation for those of his own time, as well as prophesying the coming of the Christ seven hundred years later.

Isaiah is the servant of God who reveals God's desire to claim a people as his own, all who would come to believe in the work of God to be accomplished in the Christ to come. God's call and invitation to faith is for everyone, all who would say yes to his love through lives grounded in justice, peace, and mercy. The call of God through Isaiah was a call to all humanity in the Prophetic revelation of the coming of the Christ.

John the Baptist was the final Prophet who would prepare the way and give witness to the presence of Christ when at last he came. The witness of John is undeniable and effective in pointing out Jesus as the Christ. John is the model servant. He humbly understands his life and work are not for or about himself. He readily points all to Jesus. All who followed John as a Prophet of God are now told to follow Jesus as the One who is to come.

All those accepting a call from God are given some form of revelation. A call from God is an action of God for an intended purpose. This is true for everyday people like you and me as well as for those who have a call of biblical proportion. John the Baptist is a

prime example. Only by the revelation of God does John see and understand that Jesus is the Anointed Son of God. John can only speak what is revealed to him.

"Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." The people to whom John was speaking would understand the meaning of the words. In the long history of offering blood sacrifice to God in atonement for sin, Jesus himself would become the Lamb of sacrifice that forgives all sin. John continues, "A man is coming after me who ranks ahead of me because he existed before me." It is revealed to John that Jesus preexisted in God who now comes into the world. John is not only pointing to Jesus, he is also revealing the identity of Jesus for all who will see and accept it. John confirms it was the Holy Spirit who revealed this to him. "I did not know him, but the one who sent me...told me; On whomever you see the Spirit descend and remain, he is the One who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God." The call and the work of John is now fulfilled.

What does this say to us? Every Christian is called to serve in a great or small way to help bring about the Kingdom of God. Many may not feel or believe it, but it is there. Your personal profession of faith is one expression of your call to give witness to Christ. How you live that out in love, service, and Christian virtue gives witness to the living presence of Christ in the world.

Who or what reveals God to you? Is it a person, an experience, prayer, service, or the love others give you? What makes your Christian faith real for you? For the attentive believer with a desire to know and serve the Lord, the Holy Spirit should be perceivable. It may be an intuition, it may be a perception, a little feeling inside to do something, or avoid something. It may be a word or action of another person, an experience, or an interruption. Anyone who loves the Lord can learn to perceive the action of the Holy Spirit.

How do you give witness to others that leads or points them to Jesus? It is not always religion and piety. It is more often kindness, a listening ear, a loving word, or an act of forgiveness. You may not get your name in the bible, but you are a living word of God. Be Christ for others in any way you can. With love and sincerity, simple is best.

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

# 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**



**MONDAY, January 19, 2026**

8:00am Mass: Frank Bugaiski† (26th R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

**TUESDAY, January 20, 2026**

8:00am Mass: Mary Guaiana† req. by Mary Jane Guc

**WEDNESDAY, January 21, 2026**

8:00am Mass: Jim McCown† (10th R.A.) req. by Judy McCown

**THURSDAY, January 22, 2026**

8:00am Mass: Ria Palm† req. by Mary Jane Guc

**SATURDAY, January 24, 2026**

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Mary Guaiana† req. by Dominic & Rosemary Lopez  
Edward Heffner† req. by Corrine McCarthy  
Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

**SUNDAY, January 25, 2026**

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

# Readings for the Week

**January 19, 2026**

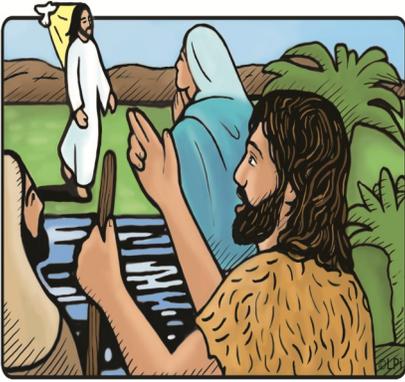
- Sunday: Is 49:3, 5-6/Ps 40:2 and 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10/  
1 Cor 1:1-3/Jn 1:29-34
- Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21  
and 23/Mk 2:18-22
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/  
Mk 2:23-28
- Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,  
9-10/Mk 3:1-6
- Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a,  
10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
- Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/  
Mk 3:13-19
- Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3,  
5-7/Mk 3:20-21
- Next Sunday: Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor  
1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

**AOD RESTRUCTURING PLANS**  
For information or questions contact any person below or visit: [restructuring.aod.org](http://restructuring.aod.org)

**Primary Person of Contact:** Debbie Tourville

**Key Parish Leaders:**

Steve Orloski	Tom Karolski
Angie Maynard	Corrine McCarthy
Linda Collins	Judy McCown
Mike Kairis	Linda Yolkiewicz



## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

It's common to hear belief in Jesus and the Church mocked as blind faith and credulity. But in reality, it is deeply human and

rational. Think about it: we rely on the testimony of others constantly. I trust chemists who certify the safety of toothpaste and cleaning products. I trust engineers when I use a microwave or drive over a bridge. Why? Because they have studied and seen what I have not, and their testimony proves itself in daily life. That kind of trust is not irrational; it is how human knowledge works.

In today's Gospel, John the Baptist declares: **"Now I have seen and testified that he is the Son of God" (John 1:34)**. That is the language of an eyewitness. It invites us into a very human act: trusting someone who has directly encountered something — or Someone — we have not yet fully seen ourselves.

The Church's faith is built on this kind of reliable sight-based testimony. The Apostles did not make abstract claims. They saw, followed, suffered for, and proclaimed Jesus Christ. Over centuries, their witness — carried in Scripture, in the lives of the saints, and in the sacramental life of the Church — has proven dependable. We come to know its truth by assenting to it, by living and studying it, praying with it, trusting it.

Faith in Christ is not a childish leap into the dark. It is a step into the light of testimony that proves itself over time.

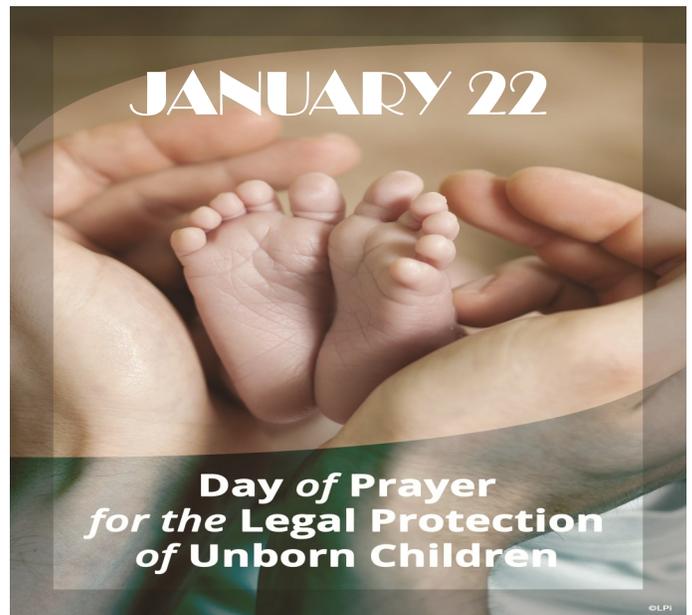
— *Father John Muir*  
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## Evangelical Service Corner

### PRAYER BLANKET & CARDS for SHUT-INS MINISTRY MEETINGS

Thursday, January 22, 2026  
6:00pm - Parish Hall

The Prayer Blanket Ministry and Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministry will meet this Thursday, September 25, 2025 in the church social hall from 6-9 PM. All are welcome, children as well as adults. No artistic talent is required.



*January 22, 2026*

This day is considered a day of prayer and penance. The USCCB offers the following ways to observe this day at their website:

### "How to Participate"

Not sure how to observe this day of prayer and penance? Pick from the ideas below or offer some other prayer or sacrifice that you feel called to do.

Go to Mass

Abstain from meat

Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet

Fast

Pray a decade of the Rosary

Give up TV and movies for the day

Offer A Prayer for Life to Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament

Sacrifice some of your free time to do a small act of service for someone else"

"In addition to our efforts to protect human life in law, we must redouble our efforts to serve women facing unexpected or difficult pregnancies, offering them the compassionate support they need to lovingly welcome the gift of their children. We must do whatever we can in every sphere to ensure that life is welcomed, and mothers are supported."

From the January guide at [respectlife.org/prayer-and-action](http://respectlife.org/prayer-and-action), an initiative of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

### Walking With Moms in Need

*Walking with Moms in Need* is a local initiative which partners Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and the Archdiocese of Detroit in an effort to help women facing difficult or unexpected pregnancies. For information on how to help or how to get help visit:

<http://www.aod.org/walking-with-moms-in-need>

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Is 49:3, 5-6

**Question:** Isaiah teaches that God chose Israel to reveal His glory and bring salvation to the world. Why do you think God uses people to do His will?

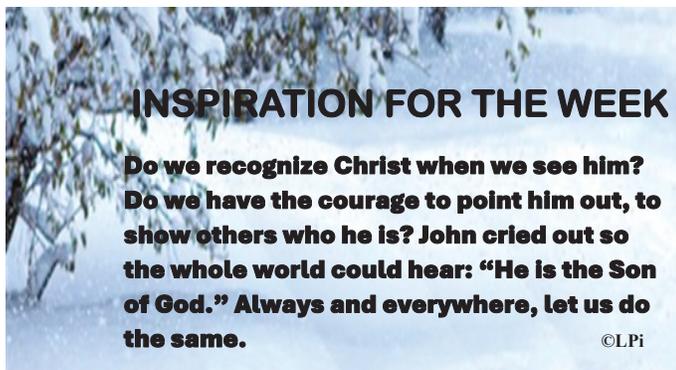
**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 1 Cor 1:1-3

**Question:** Paul opens his letter to the Corinthians with a plea for unity and holiness of all believers. Where do you see your faith community unified and holy?

**Gospel:** Jn 1:29-34

**Question:** John the Baptist testifies to others that Jesus is the Son of God who will baptize with the Holy Spirit. With whom do you talk about Jesus?

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### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

**Do we recognize Christ when we see him? Do we have the courage to point him out, to show others who he is? John cried out so the whole world could hear: "He is the Son of God." Always and everywhere, let us do the same.**

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*...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*

## NO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Can you imagine what kind of response I would get if I asked my three children, "Who would like to volunteer to clean up the kitchen after dinner today?" Six eyeballs staring at me like I had two heads! If I couch my request in terms of volunteerism, I have suggested that they don't have any real ownership in this matter. Perhaps they do sometimes think that their mother and I are simply hired hands to take care of them, but rest assured, I have not received a paycheck for services rendered lately.

When you and I give a donation of blood, we volunteer our time and blood to the Red Cross. The Red Cross does not employ most of us, nor do we own a part of the Red Cross. We can only volunteer ourselves for the cause.

As parishioners we are part of a parish family. We belong to our parish community. We do not visit on a Sunday morning, since we cannot visit a place that is home. The call of the body of Christ occurs in every parish and our response should be that of the psalmist, "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will." Real stewardship never counts the cost and never asks for volunteers. We step forward because we belong to something greater than ourselves and the head of that community is Jesus. After dinner at my house, someone needs to clean up the kitchen. In your parish community, someone needs to respond to the call of Jesus. In both cases, no volunteers are needed. We will rely on family instead.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

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## Observances of the Week

Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Monday: Martin Luther King Day

Tuesday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr

Wednesday: St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children

Friday: St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin

Saturday: St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

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## 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.



## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### INSTRUCTIONS ON RECEIVING COMMUNION

**Question:** How many times a day can a person receive communion?

**Answer:** To find an answer to this question, we need to turn to the Church’s Code of Canon Law. Here we read, “One who has received the blessed Eucharist may receive it again on the same day only within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates ...” (no. 917). This tells us that the standard answer would be that we can receive communion twice in a day.

Having said that, we also want to be sure that we pay attention to the entire instruction. The phrase “within a Eucharistic celebration in which that person participates” is important. It means a) that we always have to think of receiving communion as being within a celebration of the Mass and b) we have to be participants in that celebration – we can’t simply show up “in time” for communion.

So, when would this rule apply?

For example, if you attend Mass on a Saturday morning and then take part in the Sunday Vigil Mass on Saturday evening, you could licitly receive communion at both celebrations. Or, another example, if you receive communion at a wedding or funeral Mass, you could also receive communion at a daily Mass or Sunday Vigil celebrated on the same day. We always want to be sure that we observe the rules for fasting from food and drink before receiving the eucharist (see Code of Canon Law, no. 919).

We should also remember that the Code of Canon Law instructs that anyone who is in danger of death or seriously ill may also receive communion a second time (no. 91, §2).

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

### PEACE, *Explained!*

Peace. There may be no other word in the English language, writes Msgr. Stuart Swetland in Catholic Answers, “more susceptible to sloganeering, and thus misunderstanding.” But what is peace, in the context of Catholic virtue?

The peace of God, writes Paul in his Letter to the Philippians, “surpasses all understanding.” (Phil. 4:7) Peace is both a fruit of charity (CCC 1829) and a fruit of the Spirit (CCC 1832). Our modern Catholic understanding of peace is derived from the Hebrew concept of *shalom*, or wholeness, and it refers not just to an absence of violence (mandated by the fifth commandment) but to a personal reconciliation with one’s Creator. Peace is a spiritual effect of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (CCC 1496).

Our search for interior peace in our hearts parallels the historic struggle of mankind to realize peace in the world by practicing justice. “When we hear the Gospel, dear brothers and sisters,” said Pope Benedict, “we learn to build peace on the truth of a daily life inspired by the commandment of love.”

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## Ministry Schedule

January 24/25, 2026

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	D Tourville
Reader #1	M Simmons	A Goll
Reader #2	T Riley	D Tourville
EME	M Simmons	A Goll
	T Pasiak	D Gray
	R Pasiak	M Waskowski
Greeters	J Ballantine	T Lane
	P Miles	P Rarus
	R Pasiak	B Gutowski
	T Pasiak	J Ballantine

**Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Jan. 24/25, 2026**  
Corrine McCarthy

## Women’s Sacred Journey

**SATURDAY, JAN. 24TH - 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.



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## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### SAINTS OR SINNERS?

**Question:** Our prayer group has been reading the lives of some saints, and we were struck by how some of them thought they were such sinners. Why would someone so holy think they had such serious sin?

**Answer:** Professional athletes practice the fundamentals of their sport over and over again, reaching for better form, consistency, and performance. They focus on the basics, review past performances, and visualize greater success. Practice makes better, if not perfect!

Spiritual masters such as the saints also looked for perfection. They practiced their faith in the search for holiness, grace, and virtue. Through sacraments, prayer, study, good works, and penance, they raised their level of awareness and their sensitivity to the presence of God, the demands of the Gospel, and the workings of the Holy Spirit. They examined their consciences daily, reviewing the day for moments of failure and times that they could have been more virtuous in one way or another. They resolved to do better, be more attentive, and alert!

Therefore, anything that would distract them or interfere with their relationship with God would be like a small black spot on a bright white wall — you can't miss it! The great saints were aware of sin and the presence of evil because they were so tuned into the struggle between good and evil that was fought in their own lives, hearts, and souls.

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## BEHOLD THE LAMB

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

“Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.”

Be honest. When the priest or deacon read this line from the Gospel today, did your brain finish it with: “Blessed are those who are called to the supper of the Lamb”? (Mine did. And then I almost blurted out: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.” Because it’s Sunday morning, and I’m tired.)

We hear the words of John the Baptist every Sunday in the *Agnus Dei*. If you have been Catholic since childhood, the words of this rite are probably ingrained in your memory, like a groove worn across a wooden floor by the scratching of an often-used chair. That’s the beautiful thing about our liturgy: it gets inside of you, and it doesn’t leave. I’ve never met a Catholic, however long-fallen-away, who did not recall the responses of the Mass.

When the priest says or chants the *Agnus Dei*, he is showing us the Host — the most ordinary-looking thing you ever did see. Nothing interesting about it whatsoever. Nothing that would make a person give it a second glance.

John the Baptist recognizes Jesus when he sees him, though there is nothing extraordinary-looking about him. There is nothing that would make a person give Jesus a second glance, if that person expected redemption to come in a loud, aggressive show of power.

And this is how Jesus comes to us today: veiled in the ordinary. He is in the people who are easiest to miss, the easiest to ignore, the easiest from whom it is to turn away.

Consider what the world could look like, if an instinct to love and reverence those people were as deeply ingrained in us as the beautiful words so easily on our lips: “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul will be healed.”

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**MARTIN  
LUTHER KING, JR.  
Day**

**January 19**  
**OUR LIVES  
BEGIN TO  
END THE DAY  
WE BECOME  
SILENT ABOUT  
THINGS THAT  
MATTER.**

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**



# World Marriage Day

A day when St. John Paul II gave his apostolic blessing.

**Sunday, February 22, 2026 @ Penna's of Sterling**

2:30-6:30 pm (doors open at 2:00 pm) Dinner at 3:00 pm followed by Speakers & Dancing  
**Penna's of Sterling, 38400 Van Dyke Ave., Sterling Heights 48312**  
 Music by: Rennie Kaufmann & his daughter Esther

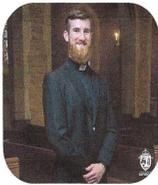


## Fr. Adam Nowak

Fr. Adam Nowak currently serves as Priest-Secretary to the Archbishop and Vice Chancellor for the Archdiocese. Ordained to the priesthood in 2019, he is presently pursuing a Ph.D. in Ethical Leadership from St. Thomas University. In his free time, Fr. Nowak enjoys both domestic and international travel, always eager to explore new places and experience different cultures. A gifted homilist, Fr. Nowak looks forward to sharing his insights on building a strong, Christ-centered marriage. His presentation promises to be both engaging and inspiring — an experience no couple will want to miss.



## Fr. Derik Peterman



Fr. Derik Peterman was also ordained in 2019. He is currently serving as the Pastor at St. Anne Parish in Warren. Fr. Peterman loves to immerse himself in God's beautiful landscapes through backpacking and canoeing trips. He is looking forward to sharing his thoughts on building a marriage that can weather the storms of modern life while remaining focused on God.



By January 1 - \$95/couple; after January 1 - \$105/couple  
 Table Reservations \$450 (5 couples per table)

On-line registration & payment: [WorldMarriageDay.org](http://WorldMarriageDay.org)

For questions about table reservations: Email Gary/Denise at [worldmarriageday@yahoo.com](mailto:worldmarriageday@yahoo.com)

For general questions: Rich/Fran 586.979.0192 or [waldenluv2@wowway.com](mailto:waldenluv2@wowway.com)

**ADVANCED REGISTRATION REQUIRED BY FEB 12, 2026**



## 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. Mary Magdalen

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030

WEDNESDAY - Noon

SATURDAY - 4:00pm

SUNDAY - 10:00am -

### St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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

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



Donate Online



## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JAN. 10/11, 2026

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	82		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$4,957.83	(227.17)	8,629.45
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	1,014.00	542.00	784.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	*1,937.67	264.67	(11,414.66)
Bequests		170.00		2,117.00
AOD Collections:				
Christmas		105.00		32,214.98
Holy Days:		25.00		5,173.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,278.50				Paid 67,892.68
* includes 1,817.67 CSA refund				

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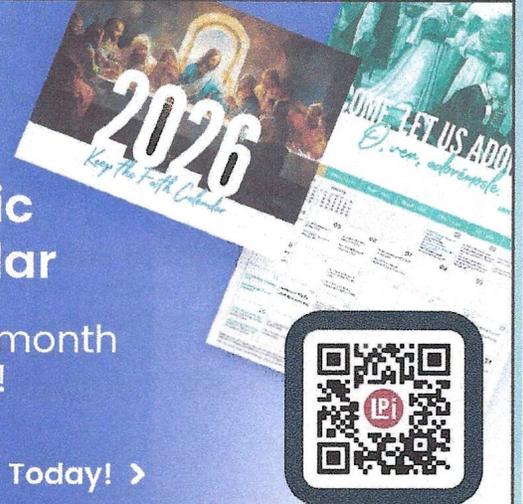
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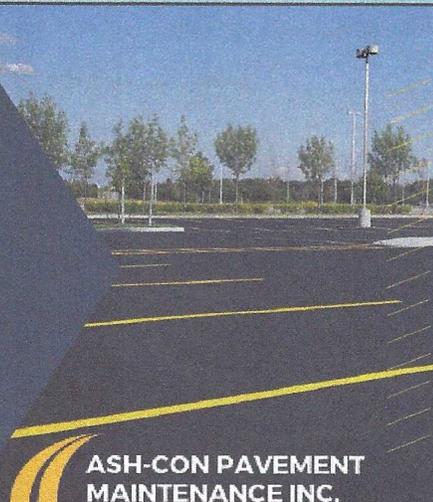


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