



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 + FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

The Beatitudes in today's gospel are often referred to as the Ten Commandments of the New Testament. This is not exactly the case. Centuries before the time of Jesus, God gave Moses the Ten Commandments to initiate Israel in a covenant of personal commitment. God was beginning to form a people as his own, revealing the Divine wisdom to a desperate and wandering people whom he rescued from the oppression of slavery.

The Ten Commandments express an essential yet basic structure of what it means to know, believe, and seek to follow in the Divine way. The first three commandments refer directly to God. First, God is One, God is the Lord beside whom you shall have no other gods. Secondly, God is to be honored. You shall not misuse or take the name of the Lord your God in vain. Thirdly, God is to be worshiped and revered. You shall keep holy the Sabbath. The last seven commandments are directives for the stability and right order of society; basic directives that establish righteous living consistent with the dignity of God's nature and will. The commandments are an essential, and undeniable formation that leads to the wisdom of a deeper relationship with God. The Ten Commandments are timeless. They will never go out of style because they hold the basic truth for those who seek the Divine way.

The Beatitudes go beyond the basics of obeying laws in fear of punishment or the loss of heaven. The Beatitudes reflect the heart of God. The life of Jesus embodies the fulfillment of what the Beatitudes express. Jesus commends these gospel attitudes to the disciples and all who seek to follow in his name. More than a religion of law keeping, Jesus initiates the Kingdom of God that invites all believers to know and live in the heart of the Master for the sake of transforming the world.

The words of the Prophet Zephaniah in the first reading set the stage. 'Seek the Lord, all you humble of the earth, who have observed his law; seek justice, seek humility.' Late in the Old Testament period, Zephaniah reflects the tone of the Beatitudes of Jesus. Those who seek God will find God. Those satisfied with following rules and being on the right side of wrong will not realize all God is offering us. The Beatitudes draw us more deeply into the mind and the heart of God's humility and justice. They not only invite us but intentionally call us to share the

life of God through the heart and example of Jesus. Notice the personal nature of the Beatitudes are well beyond the directives of the Ten Commandments.

The first Beatitude sets the tone as the foundation of the others. To be poor in spirit reveals the heart of God and what it means to mature in the Divine way. What does it mean to be poor in spirit? In the frame of the world this is not going to be popular or inviting. To be poor in spirit is to recognize and accept that I am dependent on God. If I hope to follow the way of God, it will not be my own doing. To learn and live the Beatitudes is to embrace a spirit of surrender. It invites us to humbly realize that the work of God will only be accomplished by the grace of God. As human beings on our own, we are dependent on God's grace to serve his purpose. Jesus is the image and reality of humble obedience who willingly surrenders his freedom and independence to fulfill the will of the Father.

Challenging as it may seem, those who love God and desire to serve God will surrender to the invitation. No longer a rule-based directive of law, the Beatitudes engage a heart of love that seeks the justice and mercy of God. Accepting our humble dependence on God, the Beatitudes mirror the work and the life of Jesus. Mourning is not only the sadness of death and loss, but also the grief of sin and disorder in the world. Meek is not weak. Meek is a stance of nonviolence that seeks unity and peace. Hunger for righteousness is living in right relationship with God and others.

Mercy is the charity of divine justice. The clean of heart are single-hearted in their desire to be agents of the gospel. Peacemakers know the peace of God and engage others with the same. The persecuted are those strong in the truth accepting the risk of rejection or harm. Those insulted or persecuted bearing the rejection of the world will know the joy of standing with God against the lies of the world. Heaven, oneness with God is the reward.

If you desire to seek the way of God, God is already seeking you. It is a beautiful thing. Relax. Accept. It means God's love is coming to you and through you into the world. Who does not want to do that? I do want too.

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:

LIVE
STREAMING

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



MONDAY, February 2, 2026

8:00am Mass: Daniel Sanocki† req. by Sanocki Family

TUESDAY, February 3, 2026

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

WEDNESDAY, February 4, 2026

8:00am Mass: Edward Heffner† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

THURSDAY, February 5, 2026

8:00am Mass: Jane McKay (Birthday Blessings)

SATURDAY, February 7, 2026

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Robert P. Abratowski† req. by sister, Barb Shaner Richard Malolepszy† req. by Tom & Margaret Sinagoga Cecilia Reisner† req. by Robyn Reisner Georgine Koerner (for health) req. by Family Baby Fletcher Etkin and all babies in NICU Care req. by Terri Riley

SUNDAY, February 8, 2026

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Richard Malolepszy† req. by Beth Bieszke Living and Deceased Members and Families of Fr. Heary Knights of Columbus Council

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

Readings for the Week

February 1, 2026

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a
Monday: Mal 3:1-4/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Tuesday: 2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/ Mk 6:1-6
Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13
Friday: Sir 47:2-11/Ps 18:31, 47 and 50, 51/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday: Is 58:7-10/Ps 112:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Cor 2:1-5/Mt 5:13-16

AOD RESTRUCTURING PLANS

For information or questions contact any person below or visit: 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

Intergenerational Healing Mass

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - 7:00pm
 St. Vincent Ferrer Church
 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.

ALL ARE WELCOME

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A priest I know was once falsely accused of a terrible crime. The claim was wild and easily disproved, but for a while, it didn't matter. In the atmosphere shaped by the abuse crisis of the early 2000s, the public assumption was guilty until proven innocent. His name was dragged through the mud, and his ministry placed on hold. I had the privilege — and the burden — of walking closely with him during that time.

He was angry. He was confused. He felt abandoned and deeply disoriented. The last thing on his mind was the words of Jesus in today's Gospel: "**Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you falsely because of me ... Rejoice and be glad**" (Matthew 5:11-12). Rejoice? He felt anything but.

And yet... something holy slowly grew in him. Not overnight, and not without pain. But as the truth came to light and his name was cleared, I watched him become more Christlike — more patient, more compassionate, more detached from human approval.

Maybe you haven't faced something so dramatic. But where do you feel judged? Misrepresented? Overlooked? Maybe someone else got the credit or the promotion. Maybe someone you love isn't getting their due. In those moments, the Cross of Jesus is near. When we feel accused, that's when we ask him for the grace not just to endure, but somehow, mysteriously, to rejoice and be glad.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Blessed are the poor, the meek, the persecuted. These are radical words in a world that insists the opposite: blessed are the wealthy. Blessed are the forceful. Blessed are the comfortable. Do we have what it takes to be radical?

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Annual Baby Shower

February 14/15

Supporting moms and babies served by Wee Care and Madison Family Planning

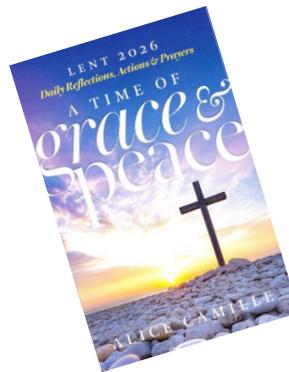
Items Requested — Bring unwrapped

diapers (all sizes)
 diaper bags
 burp pads
 quilts/blankets
 receiving blankets
 outfits
 brush/comb sets
 rattles
 light-weight sleepers
 nail clipper sets

baby wipes
 wash cloths
 layettes
 pacifiers
 bottles
 shampoo
 body wash
 socks/booties
 bibs
 onesies

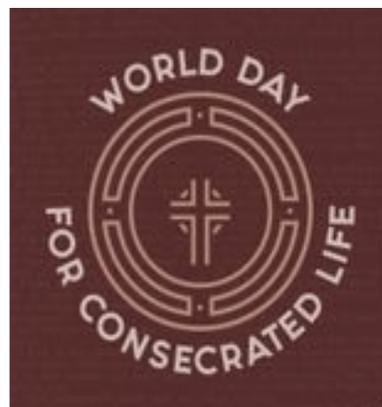
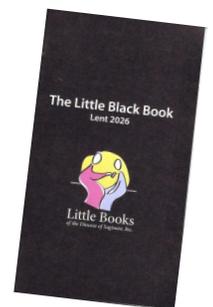


LENTEN REFLECTION BOOKLETS



are available in back of church this weekend.

A donation of \$2.50 is asked to defray the cost.



On this day, the Catholic Church celebrate the contributions of religious sisters, brothers, and priests — people who "consecrate their life to Jesus."

Consecrated Life



Evangelical Charity

CCSEM Senior FOOD COLLECTION FEBRUARY 7/8

Items requested:

Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like: Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including: Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards, in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable food, from: Kroger, Meijer, Walmart No cash or checks.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Next Sunday, Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality



- ...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

"To the Catholic Community of St. Vincent Ferrer,

Thank you for helping us help others. Thank you for your generous gifts for our neighbors in need - 40+ families with 135 kids for Christmas. These families have requested help in the past 10 months from our Christian Service. Most have no church ties and will experience the inside of a Catholic Church for the first time.
Sincerely, St. Raymond OLGCC Christian Service"

Uncontrolled High Blood Pressure- The Silent Killer



Blue Cross reported, half of all adults living in the United States have high blood pressure or are prescribed medication for it, but only 25% have it under control. It's known as the silent killer because many have no symptoms of elevated blood pressure.

Health professionals consider your blood pressure to be elevated if it is between 120/80 mmHg and 129/80 mmHg and high when it is 130/80 mmHg and greater. A "normal" blood pressure is less than 120/80 mmHg.

Hypertension can develop slowly over time because of a variety of factors. Risk factors that are outside of our control: increasing age, family history, and race (higher in black people).

Risk factors for hypertension that are within our control: Diabetes, being overweight, smoking, unhealthy diets, sedentary lifestyle, stress, lack of sleep, and drinking too much alcohol.

Hypertension is a risk factor for heart disease and stroke. You could develop heart failure, kidney disease, pregnancy complications, cognitive decline later in life.

High blood pressure is more common as you age but it can occur in younger people as well. Please make sure you are following up with your regularly scheduled wellness visits for screening. Also, once a month your Parish Nurse checks blood pressures at donut and coffee Sunday.

May your body find healing with faith and medical advice.

Angela Maynard,
Faith Community Nurse

The Immaculata prayer group invites you to join our prayer gatherings on Monday nights. The group was started in May of 2018 by Deacon Francis Xavier Chau and continues gathering each Monday night from 6:30pm to 7:30pm to pray the most Holy Rosary and special prayers to the Blessed Mother. During the summer we sometimes gather on the Admin building patio while most other times we pray online by doing a Zoom meeting. We can accommodate cell phones, tablets or computers using WI-FI access and all can participate as they are able, when they are able. If you are interested in joining us in prayer, then you will need to contact Jane McKay at jbischmc@hotmail.com by giving your email address with permission to send you the meeting link each Monday. God bless you!

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Vocation or Calling

Question: Can you explain what we mean by a vocation or calling? I have heard this term used in many different contexts and am not sure what it means. Does it apply to religious life?

Answer: A vocation or calling refers to a spiritual experience whereby a person senses within oneself the closeness of God and what he is asking in one's life. It is a realization of what one's part in God's plan could be. Vocation comes in all kinds of ways. Some are as dramatic as St. Paul's, being knocked off his horse, blinded, and hearing God's voice. Others are less dramatic, often occurring over time through little events and personal interests. Others happen in a hurry, accompanied by great spiritual insight or conversion. We often think that this applies to religious vocation, but in fact, every Christian has a vocation, a calling to serve others in and through the church. Whether married or single, religious or lay, we are all called to live out our baptismal commitment to preach and teach the Gospel message. Each of us has our role to play in God's plan, and we become coworkers with God in the work of redemption. With a little confidence, a willing spirit and God's grace, we can and will respond to his unique call.

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VIRTUES, EXPLAINED! CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

Kindness, Explained!

In the modern lexicon, the quality of “kindness” is often equated with politeness — but real, virtuous kindness is so much more. Virtuous kindness is a way of seeing others through the eyes of God.

God is not polite — God is kind, and His kindness is abundantly evident in all of creation. It was suspicion of this divine kindness that precipitated the fall of Adam and Eve (CCC 214), and it was this un-failing kindness that facilitated our own adoption as God’s children, conformed to the image of His son (CCC 257).

Also known as benevolence or beneficence and derived from the theological virtue of charity, kindness is a fruit of the Holy Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and is a central theme in the famous parable of the Good Samaritan. In practicing kindness and seeking the good of another without prejudice or condition, the Samaritan reflects God’s own plan of loving kindness for us.

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Women’s Sacred Journey

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH -
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.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

Question: Zephaniah speaks of a “remnant” of Israel who will live humbly and seek justice. Are there people in your life who live this way?

2nd Reading: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13

Question : Paul describes members of the Corinthian church as foolish, weak and despised. How would you characterize your faith community?

Gospel: Mt 5:1-12a

Question: Jesus begins his “Sermon on the Mount” with the many ways that people are blessed. What do you consider your biggest blessing?

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Ministry Schedule

February 7/8, 2026

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	T Riley	P Allen
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	M Black
	R Pasiak	N Virga
	T Pasiak	P Allen
Greeters	J Ballantine	M Mclaughlin
	T Oparka	D McLaughlin
	N Oparka	T Lane
	M Smith	R Juska-Svoba

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Feb. 7/8 2026
Mary Jane Guc

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

Venerable Henriette DeLille

Henriette DeLille was born on March 11, 1813, in New Orleans. She was the daughter of a French father and a Creole mother who was of African descent. As a free person of color, Henriette grew up in the French Quarter, an area that was deeply divided by race and social class.

As a young woman, Henriette was deeply affected by the suffering of slaves and the poverty that surrounded her. She was also drawn to the Catholic Church and its teachings of love, mercy, and justice. She was inspired by the example of St. Francis Xavier, a Jesuit missionary who had traveled to India and Japan to spread the Gospel. Henriette decided that she, too, would become a missionary, but she faced many obstacles along the way.

One of the biggest challenges was the racial discrimination that was widespread in the Church at that time. Many white Catholics believed that black people were inferior and not fit to receive the Sacraments. DeLille refused to accept this injustice and began to work with a group of like-minded women to establish a religious community.

In 1835, Henriette and her friends founded the Sisters of the Presentation, a community who dedicated themselves to the education of children from marginalized populations, the care of the elderly and the sick, and the spiritual needs of their community. Henriette served as the leader of the community and took on the name Sister Mary Therese, although everyone continued to call her Mother Henriette. She worked tirelessly to raise funds, recruit new members, and expand the reach of their mission. In 1842 the Congregation changed its name to the Sisters of the Holy Family.

Over the years, the Sisters of the Holy Family became a powerful force for change in New Orleans. They opened schools and orphanages, established nursing homes and hospices, and provided spiritual guidance to those in need. Henriette's leadership and vision were instrumental in the growth and success of the community, and she became widely respected and admired for her work.

In 1862, during the American Civil War, Henriette died. The congregation attributed her passing to her difficult life of service. In 1988, Henriette DeLille was declared a Servant of God by the Catholic Church, which recognized her lifelong commitment to the service of others and her exemplary life of holiness. In 2010, Pope Benedict XVI recognized her heroic virtues and declared her to be Venerable.

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Henriette DeLille bravely committed her life to the instruction of free and enslaved children and adults in New Orleans, founding the Sisters of the Holy Family. She is the first native-born African American whose cause for canonization has been officially opened by the Catholic Church!

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What Stays the Same

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Somewhere, there is a monk whose life is very quiet and who devotes long hours to prayer. And somewhere there is a nun, cloistered in a life of contemplation, who speaks very little except to God.

Somewhere, there is a father whose days are filled with noise, who hasn't finished a Rosary in years because he keeps falling asleep. Somewhere there is a mother whose voice is weak with giving direction and offering counsel.

Somewhere, there is a teenage girl with much to say, but few people to listen — fewer, at least, than she would like.

Somewhere there is a woman who holds a positive pregnancy test in one hand and a phone in the other, and somewhere there is a man on the other end of that phone who waits for her to speak.

In the Beatitudes, Jesus utilizes a literary device called *anaphora*. Both as a reader and a writer, I love anaphora. It's a clean, unfussy way to communicate a point. By repeating the same word or phrase at the beginning of successive clauses, you're basically saying the same thing over and over again, just a little bit differently each time. Those small differences tease at your audience's brain, gently highlighting the consistencies.

Discipleship is a lot like anaphora. It's the differences — those little aberrations from person to person, life to life — that so beautifully illustrate what remains the same across the broad spectrum of what it means to live out the Beatitudes.

Me. You. The monk. The nun. The father. The mother. The lonely girl. The man and woman who decided their own future without realizing it. How similar we all are in sin. How similar we all are in potential. How different we look to the world.

And yet, how wondrous it is that we are all offered the same hope: "Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in Heaven."

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Countercultural Then and Now

Sometimes I wonder what this world will look like when my children get to be my age. Everything seems to be changing so rapidly and much of that change doesn't seem to be for the good. I do think in some ways the Church is experiencing resurgence and a strengthening, but it will have to be in the face of an increasing culture of atheism and selfishness.

Of course, I bet my parents wondered the same thing when I was a child. As much as things change, they remain the same. When Jesus gave his Sermon on the Mount, I would guess some parents there were having the same kind of worries. But Jesus proposed a way of life in the beatitudes that was countercultural then and is countercultural now.

In his book, *Life of Christ*, Fulton Sheen said this: "The Sermon on the Mount is so much at variance with all that our world holds dear that the world will crucify anyone who tries to live up to its values." Living a stewardship way of life means bringing the beatitudes into our daily lives in a profound way. However, it also means living in a way that others may not understand or they may even turn away from us because of it. But with the reward in the end being the kingdom of heaven, the choice is really a matter of life and death, *eternally* speaking.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI



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

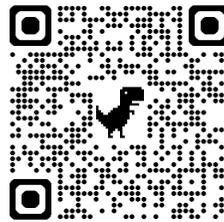
MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am

Observances of the Week

- Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
- Tuesday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
- Thursday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
- Friday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
- Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day

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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 JAN. 24/25, 2026

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	59		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$2,974.21	(2,210.79)	6,317.28
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	531.00	59.00	593.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	150.00	(1,523.00)	(14,359.00)
Bequests		89.00		2,261.00
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days:				5,208.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,278.50				Paid 68,000.88

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2026 Catholic Calendar

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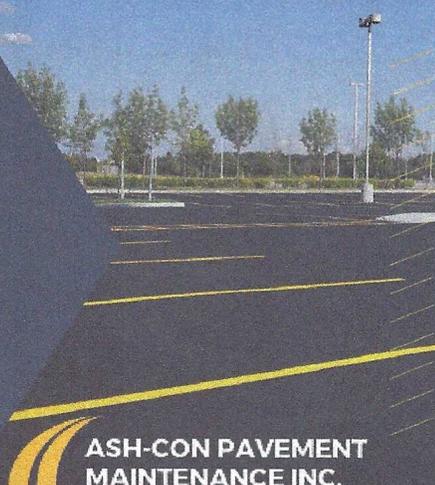


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