

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

MARCH 1, 2026 † SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

From the Pastor

Hidden in plain sight, God can be hard to find. The truest, most real things in life can take the greater part of our lives to realize and accept. Love is a mystery that befuddles most of us. Suffering is impossible to understand and even harder to quietly accept. God in the Incarnate person of Jesus, whom we profess as the Christ, is the essence of love realized through the suffering of the Cross. With faith in the surrendered obedience of love, Jesus commits himself to the redemption of the Cross.

Today we ponder the mystery of the Transfiguration. The Transfiguration reveals Jesus in his glorified self while in the presence of the leading disciples, Peter, James, and John. Biblical tradition interprets this event as a confirmation of the identity of Jesus as he seeks to prepare the disciples for his suffering and death. It is a miracle of revelation to strengthen the disciples against the trauma and shock of the Lord's Cross.

To understand what the Transfiguration means, and how we might recognize it in our own lives, Peter is the best place to start. The Transfiguration takes place between the first and second prediction of the Lord's suffering and death. With great fear and resistance, Peter and the other disciples do not understand why Jesus would be killed. Peter rebukes the Lord, 'God forbid that any such thing should happen to you.' With a harsh rebuke, Jesus responds, 'Get behind me, you Satan.' We can only imagine the confusion and fear in Peter and the others.

Peter does not and cannot understand Jesus, yet he loves him and increasingly believes him. Yet this rebuke must have stung him deeply. Still, Peter stays; he does not sulk and move away. This setting with all its emotion sets the scene that deepens the need for the Transfiguration.

It is not clear if Jesus knew this event was about to happen. Did Jesus transfigure himself, or was it the work of the Father? Something happened between the Father and the Son to bring forth this revelation. The event was intended to strengthen the disciples in the coming trauma of the Cross, however in his full humanity, Jesus must have also been consoled in the confirmation of the Father's glory revealed in him. Jesus himself is blest and made secure in his impending decision to accept the reality of his death.

The disciples needed help. The Transfiguration was a gift to them in preparation for the mystery of the Cross that bears the fruit of universal redemption. Some gifts are hard. Peter and the others were terrified, falling on their faces in fear, while at the same time knowing they were in the presence of the Divine. Stupefied, not knowing what to say, Peter cannot resist saying something. Knowing he is in a divine moment, Peter recovers enough to say, "Let me build three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." The scene closes with Jesus calling them to "Rise, and do not be afraid" with the caution to not tell anyone of what they had seen.

God, love, and suffering are a mystery, but they are very real and present in our daily lives. Mature love changes a person, it transforms. Mature love learns to obey and surrender. The love in Jesus leads to the obedient surrender of himself to the Father's love. It meant his death, but it fulfilled and satisfied his deepest longing to be one with the Father in a common will for the good of all.

At most weddings I say, "love is a suffering." On more than one occasion, I have been told I should not say that on such a perfect and beautiful day. It is exactly what I should say. The young bride and groom do not yet know this in the bliss of their wedding day love, but for their marriage to last, they will need to learn it. Love can only mature in the surrender of one for the other. This is a process that is often painful and regularly resisted. The surrendered obedience of love mirrors the reality of the Cross. Something of the self is surrendered for the sake of the other to bring about a greater good.

It is the same in the life of a priest. Like any married couple or parents, the priest must surrender and give himself to all that is asked of him in the service of his vocation for the good of others. Similarly painful and equally resisted at times. Those who do surrender find a greater peace, revived energy, with inspired hope in the good that is accomplished. Love bears its fruit.

To accept the suffering love calls for and the self-giving it demands opens the eye to the glory and the beauty of God's presence. God, in love and suffering transforms and the light of its glory sustains.

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

Live Streaming of the Following:

Daily & Weekend Masses

Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45am to Noon

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 Motolea, 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, March 2, 2026

8:00am Mass: Janine Kairist† (13th R.A.) req. by Mike Kairis Family

TUESDAY, March 3, 2026

8:00am Mass: Jason Bertolini† req by Corrine McCarthy

WEDNESDAY, March 4, 2026

8:00am Mass: Stefanija Juska† (18th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

THURSDAY, March 5, 2026

8:00am Mass: Pat King† (1st RA.) req. by Daily Mass Friends

SATURDAY, March 7, 2026

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Jason Bertolini† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Patsy Kelley† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

SUNDAY, March 8, 2026

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

Doug Evans† req by Family & Friends

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

William Olszewski† req. by Family

Living & Deceased Members and Families of Fr. Heary
Knights of Columbus Council

Readings for the Week

March 1, 2026

Sunday: Gn 12:1-4a/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9
Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20/Ps 31:5-6, 14, 15-16/Mt 20:17-28
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19, 20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

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
Angie Maynard
Linda Collins
Mike Kairis

Tom Karolski
Corrine McCarthy
Judy McCown
Linda Yolkiewicz

Lenten Evening Mass

This Wednesday, March 4th
at 7:00pm



Charitable Giving

Each Wednesday evening before the Mass, there will be a brief explanation of the work of the charity that we will be supporting that week. The information will also be on our website.

March 4 to March 10 we will accept donations for St. Raymond-Our Lady of Good Counsel Parish. St. Raymond Parish was merged with Our Lady of Good Counsel in Detroit in December of 2025. Their Christian Service Committee works to help struggling families in the parish by providing home essentials, food, clothing, and toys.

Donations can be put in envelopes, marked for the charity, and dropped in the collection baskets at any Mass. Donations can be made online thru our website or by using the QR code on page 7.

On Tuesdays during Lent,
Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament will follow the 8am
morning Mass until noon.

*Stop in and spend some time
in His Presence!*



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"Go forth," God told Abram. We hear that message again in the Transformation: go forth. We cannot always remain where we are comfortable. We cannot always remain where things are simple. We must go forth.

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**Friday,
March 6th
at 7:00pm
in church and
livestreamed**

Evangelical Service Corner

CCSEM Senior Food COLLECTION

MARCH 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, Spaghetios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards, in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable food, from: Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

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



When I sit down to answer emails or write a Gospel reflection or return a phone call, I sometimes wonder: Does any of this humdrum work matter? Maybe you ask the same thing about your daily labor. Today's Gospel, the Transfiguration, offers a surprising answer.

Jesus leads Peter, James, and John up a mountain. There, **"his face shone like the sun face and his clothes become white as light"** (Matthew 17:2). That detail regarding his clothes is worth considering.

We know Jesus' body is inseparably united to the divine nature. But his clothing? That's something made by human hands. It's an artifact. And yet it shines with the same uncreated light. What does this detail mean? The early Church noted that Adam and Eve's first act after the Fall was to make clothing. This clothing symbolizes all human labor that supports our dignity. In Jesus' glorified garments, we see not just the redemption of our body, but of human effort to protect and uplift human dignity.

Parents, your family is your work. Baristas, plumbers, nurses, accountants — your labor, your emails, your phone calls, your spreadsheets — can all become radiant when offered to God in love. The question isn't just do I believe in Jesus' glory, but do I believe he can share it with the work of my hands?

Lenten Challenge: Identify the "artifact" you are making to uplift the dignity of others: your job, your home, your relationships. Consciously bring it to the Lord this Sunday at Mass. Offer it to share in His glory. It will begin to shine.

— Father John Muir
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March is Colon Cancer Awareness Month

March is colorectal cancer month. This is a reminder for people age 45 and older to get screened. Time to have a conversation with your doctor about the benefits and risks for you. It's important to know that colon cancer under the age of 50 is on the rise. It is the second most common cancer and cause of death. Most people do not have any symptoms, so screening is important. There are many ways to screen such blood in stool and DNA testing, but the gold standard is colonoscopy. The benefit of colonoscopy is that when they are in there, they can remove polyps that can be precancerous.

—The American Cancer Society recommends screening starting at age 45 with yearly stool tests and colonoscopy every 10 years or sooner depending on your results. You would continue regular screening through age 75. For people 76-85 talk with your health care provider if continued screening is right for you.

—If you have symptoms, there would be changes in bowel habits that last for days, blood in stool or from rectum, black stool, cramping or pain in abdomen, weakness, fatigue, and unintended weight loss.

-Risk factors include family history, history of polyps, Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, hereditary cancer syndromes, and previous cancer treatments to abdomen and pelvis.

—Prevention includes healthy diet and exercise, not smoking, and screening.

Health behavior is determined by your personal beliefs or perceptions about colorectal cancer. Education, listening, advocacy, and prayer can improve this perception. If you need more information, I will have a poster out at the next donut and BP day March 8, 2026. I believe you got this!
 Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

For additional information on colon and many other types of cancer visit American Cancer Society website: <https://www.cancer.org>

Observances of the Week

- Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent
- Tuesday: St. Katharine Drexel, Virgin
- Wednesday: St. Casimir
- Saturday: Ss. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
- Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

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The 2026 Right-To-Life Baby Shower, has come and gone. The beautiful blankets, outfits, onesies, diapers and all the other necessities have been delivered.



I always say how very grateful the women who run these two places are when I deliver the gifts to them, but let me tell you some of the people who benefit by your love and generosity: teens without any family support, who decided NOT to get an abortion; grandparents or maybe other family members raising babies who were abandoned; parents who lost everything in a fire; a father whose wife died giving birth to their child. The reasons are sometimes more than we could ever imagine.

You, this St. Vincent Ferrer family, are the answer to prayers for many of God's newest, little angels. You are the hope of many mothers, fathers, grandparents, etc. that there will be help and people who care. Thank you again for your love and generosity that keeps this ministry going.

Love-Peace & Hope, Rorie Grant

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, floods, wars, 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:

Michelle Waskowski
 Dolores Bail
 Rosemarie Tye
 John Turchin
 Martha Kehoe
 Nancy Sadowski
 Phyllis Cottrell
 Ronald Ploskonka
 Baby Fletcher Etkin
 Lloyd Shonts
 Wayne Heffner

Jessie Giszczak
 Jean Pietraszewski
 Jeanette Szeliga
 Dick & Ellen Verduyn
 Higgins Family
 Jerry Korwin
 Carolyn Bree
 Barb Sullivan
 Mark Carlisle
 Jim Smith

To be added to the prayer list or remain on it after 4 weeks, please call the office at 248-542-8720.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What language is it generally believed the text of the New Testament was originally written in?

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Answer: Koine Greek (also known as Hellenistic Greek)

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Gn 12:1-4a

Question: Trusting in the Lord, Abram is obedient to the directive to leave his land and home. When have others had to place their trust in you?

2nd Reading: 2 Tm 1:8b-10

Question: Paul instructs Timothy to draw on the strength God gives us when facing hardships. Can you think of a difficult time when you relied on God’s strength to help you?

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9

Question: In the transfiguration of Jesus, Peter, James, and John are fearful when they hear God’s voice speak from the cloud. As the season of Lent continues, what are some fears you are facing?

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

VIOLENT CONFLICTS

Question: What is the Christian attitude towards violent conflicts?

Answer: In the Beatitudes, Jesus teaches us “Blessed are the peacemakers” and to “love your enemies.” All human beings are made in God’s image and likeness. We are one human family — brothers and sisters despite what divides us. Christians have the obligation to prioritize peaceful means to resolve conflicts. War wreaks a toll on a nation. Civilians bear a disproportionate burden of this cost during the war itself and as the nation rebuilds. However, those in authority have the obligation to protect the innocent.

During the gradual fall of the Roman Empire, theologians began to theorize that war could be just if it was a defensive measure of last resort. The “Just War Theory” was later expanded by St. Thomas Aquinas, who also included moral obligations during the war itself, including the protection of civilians. Those in public authority have the obligation to carefully examine their motives, agendas, and rationale for violent force. Should a cause be just, those who fight and defend under such circumstances must be valued and honored. They deserve our support both during and after the war.

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Women’s Sacred Journey

**SATURDAY, MARCH 7TH 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.



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

Self-Control, Explained!

Love. Joy. Anger. Desire. Fear.

These are just a few of what are called the “passions” of humankind, and in order to understand self-control, we must first understand the passions. Our passions are neither good nor bad — it’s all in how we interact with them.

Enter the virtue of self-control.

Self-control flows from the cardinal virtue of temperance, and it’s really all about boundaries. Passions only become problematic when we allow them to control us. Through self-control, a gift of the Holy Spirit, we avoid surrendering too much of ourselves to our passions.

“When regulated by reason, and subjected to the control of the will, the passions may be considered good and used as means of acquiring and exercising virtue,” we read in *The Catholic Encyclopedia*. “The sensitive is given to man by God, and therefore its acts have to be employed in His service.”

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Ministry Schedule

March 7/8, 2026

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Simmons	P Allen
Reader #2	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	M Black
	M Simmons	N Virga
	T Pasiak	P Allen
Greeters	J Ballantine	D Vu
	T Oparka	B Gutowski
	N Oparka	T Lane
	M Smith	B Turchin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of March 7/8 2026
Jennifer Ballantine

Three Tents

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

You guys, I was *such* a good Catholic at the National Eucharistic Congress.

Mass every day? Check. Rosary every day? Check (and check — we said a lot of rosaries). Deep thoughts and deep conversations about God with total strangers? Check. Hours in adoration reflecting on the state of my soul? Check.

When I went to Indianapolis in the summer of 2024 to cover the NEC for our archdiocesan newspaper, I knew it would be a fun and spiritually rich experience. But I didn't expect that it would make me think differently about my whole life (and afterlife). And when people ask me why — "What happened in Indianapolis that changed you?" — I can only tell them this: I spent time with God.

Of course, I do all these things in my regular life at home, too. I try to be a good Catholic here. But good grief, it's a lot harder. In Indianapolis, I didn't have a calendar full of appointments and to-do lists that filled me with dread. I didn't have the world crowding around me, grasping at my attention and my will.

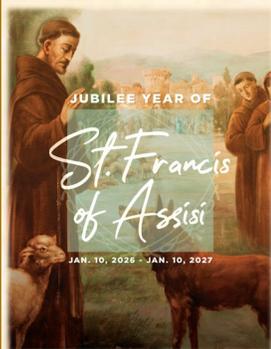
Indianapolis was the mountain, and if I could have, I would have built three tents.

So I understand Peter's feelings at the Transfiguration. He's thrilled — he sees it all clearly now. Here is the fullness of Truth, revealed in all its glory, and he's ready to start bringing groups of tourists up to see it. He's ready to bring people to Christ. But in the blood-soaked, fear-filled days to come, Peter will realize that it's not his job to bring the world to the Truth. His job is to bring the Truth into the world.

What a tragedy it would be, if Truth only lived on the mountaintop.

So build three tents, strong and durable shelters for the Truth to dwell. But build them in your heart. And then, the Transfiguration won't be just an event, something that happened at a certain time and a certain place. It'll be a reality that lives within us all. And we will bear it with us wherever we go.

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JUBILEE YEAR OF SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI

January 10, 2026 to
January 10, 2027

Pope Leo XIV has called for this extraordinary Jubilee Year with St. Francis as a model of charity, zeal for the Faith and peacemaking, that Catholics may grow as disciples in following Christ.

A Plenary Indulgence (see "Requirements to Obtain a Plenary Indulgence" below) is the full remission of all temporal punishment and is available by visiting any Catholic church connected to St. Francis of Assisi for any reason.

The chapel sites below qualify as Jubilee Year of St. Francis of Assisi places of pilgrimage.

St. Joseph Chapel & the Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48341

St. Bonaventure Monastery Chapel & The Solanus Casey Center
1780 Mt. Elliott Detroit, MI 48207

Requirements to Obtain a Plenary Indulgence

Primary Requirements

- visit any Franciscan conventual church/place of worship or any place in the world named after St. Francis of Assisi or connected with him
- devoutly participate in prayer or reflection and pray for charity, harmony and peace among peoples
- conclude your visit by reciting: The Our Father, The Creed and Invocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, St Francis, St Clare and Saints of the Franciscan family.

Spiritual Requirements (ideally fulfilled the same day but allowed within 20 days before or after the pilgrimage)

- Go to confession
- Participate in Mass and receive the Eucharist
- Recite at least one Our Father and one Hail Mary for the Intentions of Pope Leo XIV

Homebound Provisions (for elderly/sick & caregivers)

- spiritually join in the jubilee celebrations
- offer prayers, pains or sufferings to God
- must intend to fulfill spiritual requirements as soon as physically able

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

Gilles LeBlanc

Please remember him and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



Daylight Savings begins next Sunday, March 8th. Move clocks forward one hour next Saturday evening, March 7th.



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 find a Catholic church offering fish dinners on Fridays during Lent visit: www.fishfryfinder.org



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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING FEB. 21 /22, 2026

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240			
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 1,635.12		
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	180.00		
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00			
Bequests		112.00		
AOD Collections: Church in Central & Eastern Europe		25.00		
Holy Days:				
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,278.50				Paid