



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

APRIL 19, 2026 † THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

From The Pastor

On Easter Sunday, I shared various aspects of the joy realized in the Resurrection of Jesus. Easter is the pinnacle of the Christian year that proclaims new life after death. The Resurrection confirms our redemption through the forgiveness of sin with the promise that Jesus will always be with us. Where Jesus has gone, we will follow.

How do we grasp and retain this flush of joy after the Alleluias have finished ringing in our ears? It is a stirring moment of grace, hope, and inspiration, but how do we retain this peaceful bliss through the everyday journey of life? It must be remembered that the Resurrection of Jesus first demanded an unjust and undeserved death on a Cross. Only out of death can new life come forth.

Joy is a gift of God. Joy is a spiritual movement we cannot create for ourselves or for others. After the feast of Easter Sunday, as we return to the rhythm of daily life, everything in the world remains unfinished and not looking much like anything is new. The problem with Easter is that it seems to just come and go like one more thing in the world. Easter is more than a one-day rush of joy. It is a way of life in the mud and grit and everything else between our first breath to our last. The joy of the Resurrection comes from living life with love despite or because of all the losses, hurts, and failures life brings us.

Joy is an essential and powerful human experience that helps us realize that more is going on than what meets the eye. Joy comes from the soul, that inner part in us where God dwells, so that precisely in the mud and grit of life, joy can still happen when things are at their worst. Like Jesus on the Cross. Joy is powerful because it stirs our awareness of God when the effort, pain, and failures in life seem to overtake us. Moments of joy renew our strength against the contradictions of sin and grace, the light and darkness, and the good and evil of life. These things cannot be avoided. The joy of Easter reminds us of the larger truth of divine love that in the end will bring wholeness and unity. In the gift of joy, we can recover from the losses, failures, and disorder we encounter because of the new life given us in the Resurrection of Jesus, the Divine Son. Love heals. Mercy revives. The Holy Spirit animates new life.

This is the perfect frame through which we can understand the two disciples of Jesus on their way to Emmaus. Their lives were rich and full in the presence of Jesus as they experienced his personal

love and saw his miraculous power. Then he was crucified and it all appeared to come crashing down. They were left with the heartache of sudden death, loss, and confusion.

They do not know it yet, but they were in the mud and grit of a tragic loss that would lead to the joy of new life after death. In difficult times when we feel like hard and painful things pile up on us, joy is not often a felt emotion. Emotions can go numb. 'I cannot take much more' is a regular thought. We are not ourselves and we are less able to see people and things around us.

This is the case with Cleopas and his companion on the road to Emmaus. Downcast and trying to make sense of all that has happened, Jesus comes to walk with them. Odd, but not unusual given the circumstance that they do not recognize Jesus. Likely not even looking up, they are amazed this new companion is clueless of the event of Jesus' death. This is a common response in times of great stress or loss.

Unfazed, Jesus takes control of the conversation. Why has Jesus come to walk with these two believers? He loves them and intends to lift their pain and loss with restored joy. Unimaginably, Jesus interprets for them all of scripture that reveals the necessity and meaning of his death on the Cross. The grace of the story touches their souls. Their hearts burn with mystery, a growing awe, and a new understanding. They do not want the Stranger to leave them. They invite him to share a meal, and the familiar breaking of bread opens their eyes to the presence of Jesus whom they most deeply long to see. Joy returns.

The word Easter has its origin in the Old English word 'Eastre.' It was the name of a festival celebration of the spring equinox. The new life of spring can only break forth after the long, cold, windy, harshness of winter. Even the cycles of life through seasonal change necessitate the pain of mud and grit before new life can come forth. Through death to Resurrection is a similar transformation.

Life is difficult. The Resurrection of Jesus did not change that. What it did change is that through every loss, trauma, sin, and even death, in Christ all things will find new life. God is ever-present. No darkness can overcome the light of Christ. Persevere. Keep the joy. In all the cracks of life, the light of Christ shines through.

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

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, April 20, 2026

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

TUESDAY, April 21, 2026

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Deanna

WEDNESDAY, April 22, 2026

8:00am Mass: Jeanette Kage (for health) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

THURSDAY, April 23, 2026

8:00am Mass: Jacquelyn Pantano (6th R.A.) req. by Family

SATURDAY, April 25, 2026

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Donna Dietrich† req. by Family
Genevieve Szeliga†(52nd R.A.) req. by Jeanette Szeliga
Jason Bertolini† req. by Family
Marty Karolski† req. by Mary Ann Przybysz
James Grobbel† req. by Independence Village Residents
Kathy Ann Campbell† req. by mother, Dolores Noring

SUNDAY, April 26, 2026

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Marty Karolski† req. by Frank & Nina Virga
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



Readings for the Week

April 19, 2026

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2 and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/1 Pt 1:17-21/Lk 24:13-35
Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a/ Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35
Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/ Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40
Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/ Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
Friday: Acts 9:1-20/ Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59
Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14/ Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17/Mk 16:15-20
Next Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/1 Pt 2:20b-25/Jn 10:1-10

3rd Sunday of Easter

When I first read Homer's *Odyssey* as a teenager, one scene captured my imagination: Odysseus finally returning home after 20 years, yet no one recognized him. Disguised as a beggar, he speaks with his wife, his son, and even his enemies. He is fully present, yet hidden. Only at the right moment does he reveal himself, and everyone realizes he has been with them all along. I was struck by the mystery that he could be so close to his loved ones, and yet they simply could not identify him.

A similar mystery is at the heart of today's Gospel. Two disciples walk the road to Emmaus with Jesus, but **"their eyes were prevented from recognizing him."** (Luke 24:16) He listens, teaches, and eats with them, yet they remain blind until he breaks the bread. Suddenly their eyes are opened — and at that very moment, he vanishes. His disappearance is not absence. Rather, it is revelation. The Risen Lord is now present in a new way, in the breaking of the bread and in the life of His Church.

Faith is this shift of vision. Instead of searching for a visible Jesus as if he were absent, we learn to recognize him unveiled in hidden ways — in Scripture proclaimed, in the Eucharist, in the sacraments, in the very life of the Church.

And what is true of him is true of us. Just as he disappears into the mission of his Body, we too are meant to be hidden in him. When we live hidden in Christ, we are seen for who we really are.

— *Father John Muir*
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Listen First, Then Speak

The road to Emmaus is one of my favorite Gospel stories because it shows a Jesus that is masterful at reaching people. First, when he comes upon those walking on the road, he asks them what they are talking about and then asks them to explain. How often are we too eager to just start talking at people when we feel they need to hear what we have to say? Jesus offers an invitation for them to share first. Allowing them to share first opens them up for what Jesus will do next.

Second, Jesus takes time to interpret for them the words of the prophets. He gave them their turn and now it is his. Not only wise, but a movement of respect. After a long walk, they invite Jesus to stay with them and dine. Third and finally, Jesus breaks bread with them and they are able to see that he is no ordinary traveler. He is the Risen One. He could have just told them who he was, but allowing them by their experience to uncover who he was had the greater impact.

Jesus demonstrated to us in these actions how to be gracious and impactful when sharing the good news. If we are to be good stewards and fruitful disciples, then we must imitate him in this regard. This Easter season let us practice the following:

- 1) Allow others first to share what they have to say. 2) Then be willing to take the time to explain fully or to the best of our ability our faith.
- 3) Help others find a way to experience firsthand the message you have shared. No one can understand love without witnessing love. In this way, your words and deeds will become a pathway to Jesus for others.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

PRAYER BLANKET & CARDS FOR SHUT-INS MINISTRY MEETINGS

Thursday, April 23, 2026

The Prayer Blanket Ministry and Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministry will meet this Thursday, April 23, 2026 in the church social hall from 6-9pm. All are welcome, children as well as adults. No artistic talent is required.



Anointing of the Sick

HEALING MASS NEXT SATURDAY

April 25, 2026 - 4:00pm

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

Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND!



REGISTER FOR AN AOD RESTRUCTURING LISTENING SESSION

Tuesday, May 19th 7-9pm or
Thursday May 21st 7-9pm

To register for the listening session visit:
<http://restructuring.aod.org>

Click the red "register here" button. Enter your information and select the session.

At this site, you can also click a button for frequently asked questions (FAQ's) and/or the button to view the Archdiocesan Restructuring Workbook. St. Vincent Ferrer is in Planning Area 9.

If you do not have online access, call the Parish Office to register.



Congratulations to
**Kimberly & Richard
Magri**

whose marriage was
blessed in the Catholic
Church through the

Sacrament of Matrimony on
Saturday, April 11, 2026.

May God continue to bless their life together.



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

“For the grace of God has appeared bringing salvation to the entire human race...(teaching) us to reject godless ways and worldly desires,” reads Titus 2:11-12, “and in the present age to lead lives that are temperate, just and godly.”

This cardinal virtue of temperance is shown in the person who is master of his passions and his attachment to the world. “It ensures the will's mastery over instincts and keeps desires within the limits of what is honorable,” we read in the Catechism (CCC 1809).

Temperance is not repression of feeling; it is an exercise of the will, a careful and calculated choice. In this way, temperance actually safeguards virtuous love, keeping it “whole and uncorrupted,” said St. Augustine. The practice of temperance is intimately linked to the virtue of chastity, which “protects the intimate center of the person... refusing to unveil what should remain hidden” (CCC 2521).

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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

Traveling Vocations Chalice



Families and individuals are needed to host the Traveling Vocations Chalice for a one week commitment. Prayers are included with the chalice.

Please sign up at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert St. entrance.



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Stay informed, stay inspired.

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



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

**Angeline Crabb
Lavon Puroll**

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

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

END OF THE WORLD

Question: What do Catholics believe about the end of the world?

Answer: We hear the phrase “the end of the world” casually today. Often in film or media, it means the end of civil society or the threat of human annihilation by natural disasters. For the Christian, our perspective is distinctly Christ-centered. Numerous times through the Gospel, Jesus notes that he will come again, even after he has ascended into heaven. The Church typically refers to this as the Second Coming of Jesus or the Latin “Parousia,” meaning “presence” or “arrival.”

We believe that Christ will come again, and at his Second Coming, temporal time will end. Human history will end, at least as we know it. However, it doesn’t mean that creation will be destroyed. The book of Revelation speaks of a renewal, indeed a “*new heaven and a new earth*” (Rev 21:1). Christ will come again in glory. Our souls will be reunited with our bodies. While our lives were judged individually at our deaths, which we call the particular judgment, something new will happen here. Theologians call it the general judgment or the last judgment, in which our deeds and the effects — for good or ill — will be known to all. For the early Christians, this second coming was hoped for! They knew it was the completion of God’s work of redemption for the human race. We, too, should pray with them, “Come Lord Jesus!”

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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 |



**REMINDER
for CSA 2025 pledges**

April 30, 2026 is the last date that donations for CSA 2025 can be received.

Thank you for all who have participated.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-33

Question: In his first speech on the streets of Jerusalem, Peter quotes Psalm 16 as proof of God’s promise to David in raising Jesus from the dead. Have you ever made a promise to God?

2nd Reading: 1 Pt 1:17-21

Question: In the resurrection of Jesus, Peter urges us to have our faith and hope in God. What is something you could hope for from God this week?

Gospel: Lk 24:13-35

Question: Jesus’ interpretation of Scripture opened the eyes of the two disciples. Does reading the Bible bring you clarity?

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Ministry Schedule

April 25/26, 2026

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Baptism Asst.	D Tourville	
Reader #1	D Tourville	A Goll
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	D Tourville	T Karolski
	P Miles	R Grant
	L Collins	C McCarthy
Greeters	M Smith	D McLaughlin
	P Miles	M McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	P Rarus
	R Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of April 25/26, 2026
Tom & Terri Riley

THE STORY THAT NEVER ENDS

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The biggest mistake we can make as Christians is to think that the Resurrection is the end of the story.

Of course we *know*, logically, that it isn't — there are whole books of the Bible that come after it, detailing not just the activities and teachings of the Risen Christ, but the development of the early Church and the Gospel's first baby steps into the wider world. We know this.

But sometimes we don't act like it.

The thing is, we like stories that can be tied up neatly in a bow. It's why "happily ever after" is a thing. These tidy endings are especially satisfying following an emotional gut punch and a twist — for instance, let's say the crucifixion of the story's hero and a *gotcha!* moment where it turns out he's not dead after all. Drinks all around! And...scene. The curtain falls.

But the curtain didn't fall. It still hasn't.

Look at Cleopas. He has heard the testimony of people he knew, people he trusted — and yet, he's in a world of confusion. He's stumbling along the road, wondering what to believe.

Christ gave us "happily ever after." But what do you do with "happily ever after?" What do you do with the Resurrection? What do you do with salvation?

The Resurrection left loose ends — not because it was insufficient, but because it was not a final chapter. So being a Christian means embracing the life of a loose end. It means figuring out what to do with the Resurrection, with salvation, with forgiveness — with this hard-won "happily ever after" that is a gift but also a commission.

Because the curtain is still up, and we are all characters in the Greatest Story Ever Told.

So, what's the next scene?

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Like Cleopas, we make our way through this world with weary feet and disappointed hearts. Christ falls into step beside us. He can open our eyes. Will we let him?

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, April 25th at 9:00am
Faith Formation Office in School



The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome. No fees or registration are required.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name of the Jewish feast day that Jesus celebrated the Last Supper on?

Answer: The Passover Feast

Observances of the Week

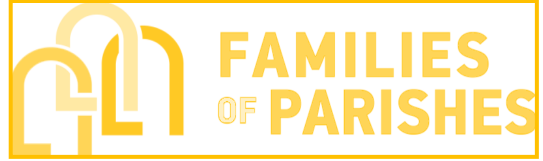
- Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Easter
- Tuesday: St. Anselm, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Thursday: St. George, Martyr; St. Adalbert, Bishop and Martyr
- Friday: St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Priest and Martyr; *Arbor Day*
- Saturday: St. Mark, Evangelist
- Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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From the Archdiocese...

APRIL IS Child Abuse Protection Month



Watch for These Warning Signs of Abuse in Minors

- No longer wants to see a **particular person** they had been close to
- Declining **academic** performance
- Tries to hide use of **technology**
- No longer interested in **activities** they used to enjoy
- Changes in **personality**
- Demonstrates **aggressive behavior** or constantly angry
- Tries to get minors **alone**
- Withdraws** from family or friends
- Commits physical and emotional **boundary violations**
- Allows or encourages minors to **break laws** or rules
- Gives lavish **gifts** to minors
- Is overly interested in **spending time** with minors
- Has **inappropriate** or suggestive conversations with minors
- Keeps **secrets** with minors
- Takes **photos** without approval, or asks minors to send them photos
- Does not believe the **rules** apply to them (or, does not follow rules or protocols)

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

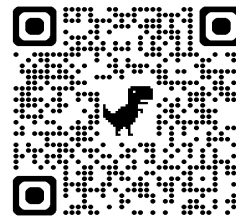
730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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

... and These Warning Signs of Perpetrators



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 APRIL 11 / 12, 2026

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	102		
Offertory (Easter)	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,376.58	191.58	23,981.07
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	429.00	(43.00)	2,373.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	215.00	(1,458.00)	(28,809.05)
Bequests				3,247.00
AOD Collections:				
Easter		365.00		6,062.76
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,378.50				Paid 69,228.50

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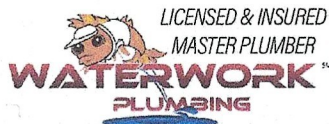


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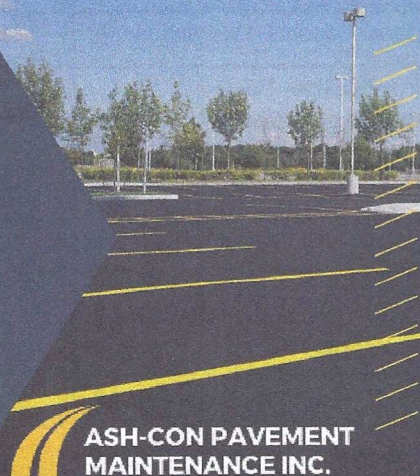


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