



# *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church*

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

**May 3, 2026 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

## **From The Pastor**

The Resurrection of Jesus reveals and releases a new love into the world. From the beginning of creation, the power and essence of God have always been and will always be in the world. God creates out of love for the sake of love in all that is created. The essence of the Divine creates and sustains all that is in an unchanging love. In the Old Testament, what we now know as the Holy Spirit was simply known as the Spirit of God.

The Resurrection of Jesus, by his own promise, released the living presence of the Holy Spirit into the world. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, which is the Spirit of eternal and unchanging love. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus. "I have told you this while I am with you. The Advocate, the Holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have told you." John 14: 25-26. Several times Jesus promises the sending of the Holy Spirit, that he would not leave believers orphaned or alone. The reading from the Second Sunday of Easter makes the reality of the Holy Spirit personal and transformative for those in the Upper Room.

Hiding behind locked doors in fear, the disciples are stunned to see Jesus appear to them after his death. His presence alone is profoundly consoling, yet Jesus confirms, "Peace be with you." He proceeds to breathe on them saying: "Receive the Holy Spirit" with the commission to forgive sin and preach the gospel. The Holy Spirit is the same Spirit of God known from the Old Testament revealed in a new and living way through the transforming death and Resurrection of Jesus into new life. Death is defeated, sin is forgiven and the Spirit of the living God is sent into the hearts of all believers.

The life of the Spirit is further confirmed in the letters of St. John. Living in the power of the Holy Spirit, St. John affirms 'Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God.' 1 John 4:7. Later in the same letter, John continues: 'God is love, and those who live in love, live in God and God in them.'

I share all of this by way of leading into today's gospel. The setting is the Last Supper and the uncertainty of what lies ahead for Jesus. The gospel begins, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God; have faith also in me."

"Do not let your hearts be troubled" could also be

translated as do not be afraid. The fruit or grace of the Resurrection is to free believers and all humanity from the fear of death, the guilt and punishment of sin, and the hope of eternal life with God.

Love is the cornerstone and foundation of this truth. Love comes from God as an unending and inexhaustible gift. Love is not something we work for or attain through our own efforts. God's love for us is not dependent on our good behavior, performance, success, or personal accomplishments. God's love is a gift without limit. We may be tempted to think there is not enough love in the world. This is not the case. Any lack of love grows out of the disorder of sin which creates fear and doubt causing us to mistrust and turned away from the love God has freely given us.

God's love is always present, but not always accepted, realized, allowed, or perceived. Human beings have an untiring need for security. When things become scary, uncertain, or threatening, humans tend to withhold and withdraw from normal human engagement for the sake of perceived security. This is precisely the case of the disciples in the Upper Room.

Jesus knows how to read a room. He feels the fear and concern of the disciples and does all he can to secure their peace. Jesus works to explain the mystery that lies before them. Jesus is secure in the Father's love. His trust is full-hearted and strong. Still, Jesus is vulnerable to his own fear and resistance to the Cross that is before him. This is not a lack of faith or insecure love. It is the reality of human fear in the presence of pain and suffering that threatens life. Despite all, Jesus goes forward.

Most immediately Jesus seeks to secure the faith of those who believe in him. For the disciples and for us, Jesus is trying to explain a mystery beyond our ability to fully understand. He is building faith and trust against their fears and ours. Jesus will always be near us. Hard things will happen, fear will touch our lives, but Jesus in the power of the Holy Spirit will always be with us.

Love is the foundation and the source. It is not gained or earned. You are in God and God is in you. Speak to Jesus about any fear or uncertainty. Be confident in the presence of the Holy Spirit. In Christ, do not be afraid.

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  
8:45 am 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](http://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

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum  
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation  
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin Editor  
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

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

# MASS

## Intentions

### MONDAY, May 4, 2026

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Deanna

### TUESDAY, May 5, 2026

8:00am Mass: Kristina Maulding† (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

### WEDNESDAY, May 6, 2026

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

### THURSDAY, May 7, 2026

8:00am Mass: Marcus Maulding† (11<sup>th</sup> R.A.) and Rimantas Labieka† (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

### SATURDAY, May 9, 2026

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

Tom Esper† req. by Family

Jason Bertolini† req. by Family

Sylvia Schemansky† req. by Joe & Nancy Rickle

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

### SUNDAY, May 10, 2026

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

Ria Palm† req. by Jackie De Luca & Danny Thomas

Jacky Esper† req. by Jackie De Luca & Danny Thomas

Anna De Luca† req. by Jackie De Luca & Danny Thomas

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Living & Deceased Members & Families of Fr. Heary K of C Council

Stephanie Olszewski† req. by Family

Paula Moran† (1<sup>st</sup> R.A.) req. by Family

Dolores Eslava Bince† (4<sup>th</sup> R. A.) req. by Bene Anderson

# Readings for the Week

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19/1 Pt 2:4-9/ Jn 14:1-12

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/ Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/ Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/ Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/ Jn 15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/ Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/ Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/ Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Next Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16 and 20/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21

## 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:

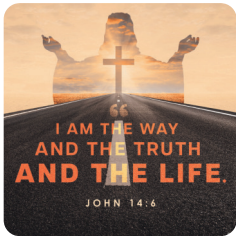
Steve Orloski  
Angie Maynard  
Linda Collins  
Mike Kairis

Tom Karolski  
Corrine McCarthy  
Judy McCown  
Linda Yolkiewicz

**LISTENING SESSIONS FOR AOD RESTRUCTURING**

**Tuesday, May 19 at 7:00pm in church or Tuesday, May 21 at 7:00pm in church**

To register for the listening session get the link on our website or visit: aod.org. Click the red “Learn more about Archdiocesan restructuring” button. Then click the register button. Fill in information and choose which session you plan to attend. Call the Parish Office if you do not have online access.



**5TH SUNDAY  
OF EASTER**

We generally approach life with the question, “What can this do for me?” We try a new workout, a low-carb diet, intermittent fasting, or a new career path, hoping it will make us healthier, stronger, happier. The assumption is that if I invest in this, I’ll eventually reap some benefit, or I won’t do it.

It is easy to think of faith the same way: if I really practice my faith, what will it do for me? Will it make me calmer, more moral, more successful?

But in today’s Gospel, Jesus says something astonishing. He doesn’t present himself as a teacher who shows us the way to life. He says, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life.” (John 14:6) He is not merely a guide toward some higher benefit. He is the benefit itself. To know him is to know Life.

Thomas Aquinas explains that every desire in the human heart — love, joy, meaning, all of our restless cravings — is really an indirect cry for life. Even despair testifies to this longing: people despair precisely because they feel they are not, and might never be, fully alive.

The good news is that Jesus is not simply the means to a better life; He is Life itself. To believe in him is to share in God’s own eternal vitality. Not simply later but even now. Faith is not a transaction that produces results — it is a union that fills us with joy. To be in communion with Christ is to be truly, fully alive.

*Fr. John Muir*  
©LPI



**EVANGELICAL CHARITY**

**CCSEM Senior Food Collection**

**May 9/10**

**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 No cash or checks.



**The Catholic Services Appeal for 2026 begins this weekend. Our target for this year is \$ 38,609.00**

In 2026, the length of the CSA 2026 campaign is shortened and will end on December 31, 2026. This is being done to in order to switch to the campaign being on the calendar year. In 2027 and future years, the CSA campaigns will be for the full calendar year January 1st to December 31st.

As in past years, checks must be made payable to *Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA* and mailed to the gift processing center in Minnesota using the return envelope included in the packet mailed to parishioners. To make an electronic donation, please follow the directions on the pledge cards.

If you did not receive a CSA letter packet and wish to make a donation, please call the Parish Office.

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** What is the first of the Sorrowful Mysteries?

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**Answer:** The Agony in the Garden

# Witnesses for Jesus

This journey of faith is not always easy. Sometimes the greatest wounds are those we suffer when family members and friends wander away from God and leave us behind. The faith they had when they were younger is now strained, or they see the daily walking with Jesus to be too difficult. For them, Jesus becomes what Peter wrote about when he described Jesus as the stone that causes people to stumble and the rock that makes them fall. Our journey is hard enough, but watching a loved one stumble and fall is heart-breaking.

What are we to do in such a situation? Most importantly, we pray. We must realize that God is more powerful than us, and even if we can't make them see the truth, He can. Then we witness to the transformative power of Jesus by our own lives. We need to serve him in word and deed. We should let a joy of being a disciple enlighten our faces. Allow Jesus to work through us so that others may be drawn to him. Lastly, we must never lose hope. Many have walked long journeys alone only to find God far down the road. What will it take to bring someone to Christ? It might be an action, a word, or an emotion. We never know how certain people will be touched. That loved one is a gift from God in your life. Place them back in God's hands, and let Him pick them up if they have stumbled and fallen.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

Saturday, May 9th 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.



...government leaders everywhere 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:

*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*



The National Day of Prayer theme for 2026 is "Glorify God Among the Nations, Seeking Him in All Generations. The theme is inspired by a prayer of Thanksgiving offered after the Ark of the Covenant had been returned to Jerusalem by King David. The entire prayer can be found in 1 Chronicles 16.

This annual observance on the first Thursday in May, after being passed by Congress, was signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. People of all religions from coast to coast are encouraged to offer prayers on this day and throughout the coming year.

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of **Charlene Riddell**

*We Remember* Please remember her and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.  
May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

# GARDEN MINISTRY



Spring is here and the Garden Ministry is looking for volunteers to care for the gardens on the parish grounds. Initial planting will begin soon followed by weeding and watering throughout the summer on Monday mornings. Availability every Monday is not required. A rotation schedule can be set up.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, see Linda Yolkiewicz or contact the Parish Office.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### Catechetical Sunday

Question: Why do we celebrate Catechetical Sunday?

Answer: The mission of the Church reflects the mission of Jesus to teach, preach, heal, and forgive. Through these acts, Jesus shares the good news of salvation and invites all people to share in the life and love of God. The Church continues this mission in all its ministries, but especially, and perhaps most importantly, through catechesis.

Catechetical Sunday is celebrated on the third Sunday of September. The task of handing on the Gospel is entrusted to the whole community, who, by word and example, form young and new members in the way of the Gospel. Parish programs assist parents in teaching the basics of faith through liturgical experience, instruction, and faith formation. This ministry is essential for the parish to grow, for individuals to develop as believers, and for the ongoing spiritual formation of the whole community. It reminds the church that preaching the Gospel and growing in faith are essential to our sacramental practice and our liturgical prayer.

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### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

How often do we contemplate the mercy of God, but fear it will run out? How often do we consider following the path of Christ and worry that it is too steep? But God has not overpromised. Dare to believe Him. Dare to follow Him. ©LPi

### Celebrating Baptism



On Saturday, April 25, 2026 Reverend John Esper administered the Sacrament of Baptism to  
*Camden Leo Plotkowski*  
*Penelope Olive Plotkowski*  
*Emerson Alcott Plotkowski*  
We welcome them into Christ's family. May they grow strong in their faith. May God bless our newly baptized and their families.

On Sunday, April 26, 2026,

*Elizabeth Allen*  
*Gabriel Johnson*

were welcomed to the Eucharistic table to receive Jesus for the first time. Our parish family congratulates them on this step in their faith journey and wishes them continued blessings as their relationship with Jesus matures.



## MINISTRY SCHEDULE

May 9/10, 2026

MASS	4:00PM	9:00AM
Sacristan	P Miles	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Kairis	D Gray
Reader #2	P Miles	T Karolski
EME	M Kairis	Yolkiewicz
EME	J McCown	A Goll
EME	R Pasiak	D Gray
Greeter	R Juska-Svoba	M McLaughlin
Greeter	M Smith	T Oparka
Greeter	R Bertolini	N Oparka
Greeter	J Ballantine	D McLaughlin
Traveling Chalice Host Beginning May 9/10, 2026 Pat Laudicina		



**VIRTUES. EXPLAINED!  
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**Diligence, Explained!**

Diligence is the opposite of negligence; the diligent man pursues his goal with the same faithfulness with which God has pursued us, wayward as we are, through the long course of salvation history. St. Thomas Aquinas writes that “diligence, no less than solicitude, is required for every virtue.” (Sum., II:II, 54, Art. 1)

Christians are called to diligence in prayer, in self-scrutiny, in exercising virtue, in seeking God’s will, in detachment from the world and in reflecting on God’s word in Scripture: “If we are diligent in observing all of these commandments before the Lord, our God, as he commanded of us, then this will be our righteousness.” (Deuteronomy 6:25)

Diligence is made possible by the freedom of will that we have been granted by God, and it is the virtue by which man can secure for himself true happiness. (Gaudium et spes, 17)

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*I am the way and the truth and the life.  
No one comes to the Father except through me.*

John 14:6

**THE WAY**

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

A friend of mine who had family members belonging to several different religions once told me that there were as many different routes to Heaven as there were to the grocery store.

This was an analogy her family had used to remember that they all sought the same thing — God — even though they were going about the search in different ways.

I’ve thought a lot about her words in the years since she shared them with me. It’s not an untrue analogy — there are a lot of different routes to the grocery store. An infinite number, in fact. There is actually no “right” way to get to the grocery store, because it all depends on where you’re starting from and what other errands you have along the way.

And there are a lot of different routes to Heaven — likewise, an infinite number. It all depends on where you’re starting from. It all depends on what you have to do along the way.

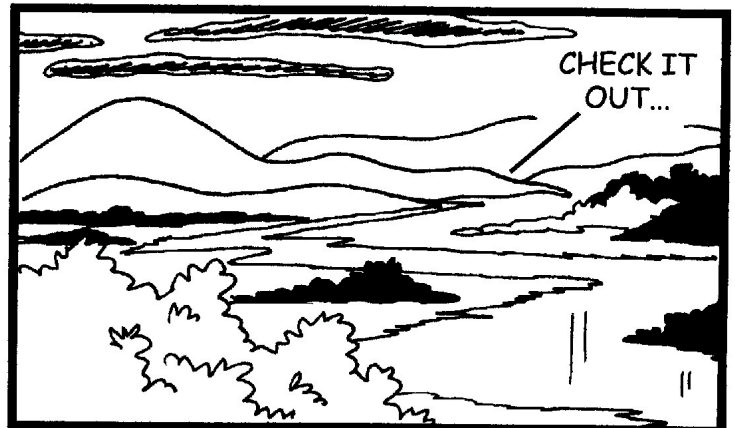
There it is: the part that matters. The way.

Whether we’re talking about Heaven or the grocery store as our destination, all routes are not created equal. Some take too long. Some are impassable. Some are hard to navigate. Some are just plain made-up — the glitch of a GPS, the promise of a false prophet. And inevitably, if you take a less-than-ideal route, you will find yourself flagging down a pedestrian, asking, “I’m lost. Which way do I go?”

See, you can meander all you want. But in the end, you have to find The Way. And there’s only one. Don’t worry, though.

You’ll know him when you see him.

©LPi



**JUBILEE YEAR OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI**

"...IN THIS WORLD I CANNOT SEE THE MOST HIGH SON OF GOD WITH MY OWN EYES, EXCEPT FOR HIS MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD."

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI  
Jan. 10 , 2026 to Jan 10, 2027



**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION**

**1st Reading:** Acts 6:1-7

**Question:** We hear how the Apostles selected men filled with the Holy Spirit and wisdom to help serve the widows in the growing Jerusalem Church. Is there a family member or friend you could help this week?

**2nd Reading:** 1 Pt 2:4-9

**Question:** Peter speaks of the resurrected Jesus as a “living stone.” How do you sense that Jesus is alive in your life?

**Gospel:** Jn 14:1-12

**Question:** Jesus is patient with Thomas and Philip when they are slow to understand him. Who or what challenges your patience?

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**Observances of the Week**

**Sunday:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

**Thursday:** National Day of Prayer

**Next Sunday:** 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter/ *Mother's Day*

**FAMILIES OF PARISHES  
MASS SCHEDULES**

*National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica*

2100 W Twelve Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY - 8:30am and 4:30pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY - 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am, 6:00pm  
3:30pm (Spanish)

MONDAY THRU FRIDAY

6:30am (livestreamed), 8:30am

*St. Mary Magdalen*

50 E Annabelle Ave, Hazel Park, 48030

WEDNESDAY - Noon

SATURDAY - 4pm & SUNDAY - 10:00am

*St. Mary*

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30am

SUNDAY - 9:00am & 11:00am

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



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

**Financial Stewardship Giving - Week Ending April 25/26, 2026**

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Envelopes Used & e-fund participants	240	94		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$5,860.93	675.93	24,719.27
Energy/Hospitality/Flowers/Candles/Mass Intentions	472.00	370.00	(102.00)	1,974.00
Fundraising: Budget Deficit Envelopes/CSA Refunds	1,673.00	90.00	1,583.00	(31,950.05)
Bequests: Free Will				3,247.00
Bequests: Evangelical Charity - Benevolet Fund		20.00		1,033.90
AOD Collection:				
Holy Days				
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,378.50		CSA Paid		69,228.50

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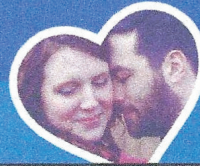


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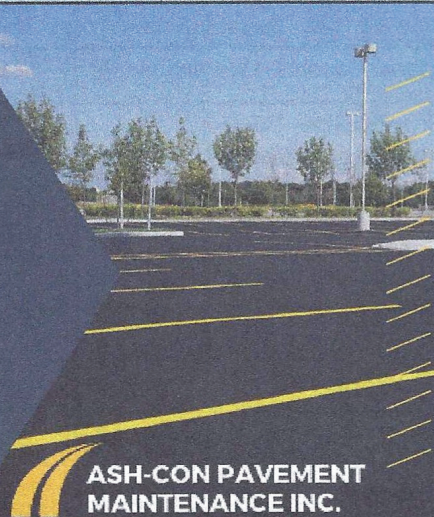


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