



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

MAY 24, 2026 † PENTECOST

From The Pastor

The width and depth of the Holy Spirit's power is uncontainable. Like a mighty wind it blows where it will, from where it comes and where it goes is known to God alone. The Holy Spirit is unlimited and beyond our ability to define. The Spirit can be immediately and undeniably known as well as completely hidden yet fully present. Wherever love is present the Spirit is there. Wherever there are chaos, confusion, and disorder, the Holy Spirit remains with an unseen influence toward goodness and truth.

The readings for the Solemnity of Pentecost help us to perceive this reality. There is a notable difference in the Pentecost experience in the Acts of the Apostles and that described in the gospel of St. John. St. Luke has the Feast of Pentecost forty days after the Resurrection of Jesus. In Acts, the experience was that of a strong driving wind filling the whole house. All perceived tongues of fire resting on all in the room. Filled with the Spirit, each began to speak in tongues as they gave witness to the Holy Spirit.

By contrast, St. John describes the evening experience of Jesus physically appearing to the disciples hiding behind locked doors. Jesus assures them of his peace which conveys a deep expression of acceptance and forgiveness that resolves any fear, guilt, or shame the disciples felt for running off in his hour of greatest need. The peace Jesus gives is the peace of Divine love released into the world after the Lord's death and resurrection.

To convey the life of the Holy Spirit, Jesus breathes on these beloved followers and says, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Notice this is also an action of wind or breath. It is the wind or breath of God given into the new creation of post-Resurrection redemption. The old Adam (humanity) in disobedience is now renewed through the work of the new Adam, the Incarnate Christ, who suffered death to bring forth new life. Completing the work of the Paschal Mystery as reflected last week in the Feast of the Ascension, the Father through the Son sends the Holy Spirit into the world. For John, this was accomplished personally through the first disciples who then spread the Good News to all.

In a singular action, as Jesus breathes his Spirit upon the disciples, he commissions them to forgive sin. The

forgiveness of sin is a Divine action given to all who believe and seek to follow the way of Jesus. In the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, we are not only given the power to forgive the sin and offense of others, but we are also told to make forgiveness our identity and mission in the forgiveness we have already gained in Christ. This task is the work and evidence of the Holy Spirit.

The first reading from the Prophet Ezekiel, is a kind of Pentecost in the revival of the desolate and defeated exiles of Israel. The image of the dry bones is one of death and hopelessness in the loss of their homeland as well as their covenant relationship with God. They are overcome with the shame of exile and the guilt of their infidelity against God. This is clearly a revelation of Divine restoration and renewal for his beloved people.

Note the interaction between God and Ezekiel. The Prophet is a willing servant trying to understand the action of God. "Can these bones come to life?" God asks. The Prophet answers, "Lord God, you alone know that."

Can hearts and souls in desolation, guilt, and shame be revived? Can those dead in faith and hope be restored? God's answer is yes. For God there is no final offense or defeat, however dark or discouraging things appear to be. God acts through Ezekiel who prophesies as directed and the bones, sinew, and flesh are drawn together. More is needed. God gives the Prophet the power to accomplish a Divine action. "... breathe into these slain that they may come to life." Ezekiel did as he is told and the multitude came to life and stood as a vast army at the ready. God confirms to Ezekiel that these bones are the house of Israel, all humanity, whom God could hear cry out, "Our bones are dried up, our hope is lost, and we are cut off."

This reading is a direct parallel to the Pentecost and redemptive work we celebrate today. Despite our personal sin, the sin of the world, and the chaos of evil, God will never give up on Creation. However deep the desolation, despair, or disorder life throws at us, God remains ever-present for those who seek his redemptive love in Christ. In the Holy Spirit, God is fully present.

Please take some time today to set yourself in the mind and the heart of Christ. You are in Christ and Christ is in you. Sit long enough to feel and accept the Holy Spirit who animates your life in love.

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

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

Summer Office Hours

Monday through Thursday

9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm

Closed Friday, 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
- Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
- Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

For information on funerals

contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720

MASS

Intentions

MONDAY, May 25, 2026 MEMORIAL DAY

9:00am Mass: Intentions of the Immaculata Rosary Group

TUESDAY, May 26, 2026

8:00am Mass: Charlene Riddell† req by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, May 27, 2026

8:00am Mass: Marty Karolski† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

THURSDAY, May 28, 2026

8:00am Mass: Mary Guaiana† req. by Family

SATURDAY, May 30, 2026

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Regina Szeliga† (12th R.A.) req. by Jeanette Szeliga Tony Szeliga† req. by wife, Jeanette Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

SUNDAY, May 31, 2026

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Martin Daryl† req. by Family Catherine Kramer req. by Joan Oles



Anointing of the Sick

Healing Mass

Next Saturday

May 30, 2026 - 4:00pm

Fr. John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass. Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.

Readings for the Week

- Sunday: Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24 and 35, 27-28, 29b-30/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39 Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1 and 24, 29-30, 31 and 34/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13/Jn 20:19-23
- Monday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34
- Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/ Mk 10:28-31
- Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/ Mk 10:32-45
- Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5/ Mk 10:46-52
- Friday: 1 Pt 4:7-13/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Mk 11:11-26
- Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6/ Mk 11:27-33
- Next Sunday: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18

COMMON SENSE SAFETY TIPS TO KEEP YOU SAFE THIS SUMMER

God created a beautiful world for us. We engage in many activities that are outdoors. We sometimes are so excited to participate we sometimes forget safety. The following are some advice from American Red Cross for us.

- Keep hydrated, heat exhaustion signs are dizziness, headache, and fatigue.
- Wear sunscreen SPF 30 +, sun protective clothes, and avoid peak hours in sun 11am to 3pm.
- Avoid bug bites by removing standing water, use repellents and long sleeve shirts and pants.
- Check for ticks, especially after being in grassy wooded areas.
- Never swim alone, assign a water watcher, swim at a beach with a life guard in designated area. Don't swim in thunderstorms. Swim parallel to shore if caught in rip current. No headfirst diving, you don't know how deep it is.
- Wear life jackets when Have, using jet skis, paddle boarding, kayaking and so on.
- Wear helmets when biking and make sure properly fitted.
- When camping pack a first aide kit, download a first aide app, know CPR, and share travel plans with family.
- Food: Keep perishable foods out of the sun, wash hands, keep grills away from flammable objects, and use food thermometers to assure meats are done to safe temp. Avoid using wire grill brushes as the wires can dislodge and end up in your food.
- Avoid doing your own fireworks, attend professional displays to avoid injury to yourself or others.
- Don't forget your pets. Pets can suffer heatstroke. Symptoms are heavy panting, being unable to calm down, bright red gums, fast heart rate and inability to get up. Cool down with hose and immediately take to vet.
- Don't leave kids or pets in the car unattended.

Consider whether you've ever ignored these safety tips. Enjoy your summer in God's wonderful creation. *Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse*



*Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of the Church and
Memorial Day*

MONDAY, MAY 25TH

MASS 9:00AM



Confirmation

On Monday, May 18, 2026, the following students in our Faith Formation Program were confirmed by Bishop Robert Fisher at St. Mary in Royal Oak.



*Carlos Cortez
Josh Cruz
Andrew Miles Daly
Uyctoria Dinh
Charlotte Farmer
Kaylee Hatfield*



We congratulate these young people and pray that they will continue to mature in their faith.

Evangelical Service Corner

PRAYER BLANKET & CARDS FOR SHUT-INS MINISTRY MEETINGS

Thursday, May 28, 2026
6:00pm - Parish Hall

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



COME PRAY THE ROSARY

**Administration Bldg. Patio 6:30pm
Every Monday beginning June 1, 2026**

All are invited to join the Immaculata prayer group in praying the rosary every Monday evening on the Administration Building Patio at 6:30pm throughout the summer. The Immaculata group prayers will be prayed following the rosary with those who wish to remain. In inclement weather, we may meet inside the building.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions or need a rosary, please contact the Parish Office.



Our target for this year is \$ 38,609.00.

Thank you to those who have responded. \$ 5,570.00 has been received in pledges or gifts.

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.



“He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.’”(John 20:22–23)

For those of us who go to confession regularly, there is often a familiar frustration: “Why do I keep confessing the same sins?” It can feel like a loop, cleansed but unchanged.

Pentecost reveals a hopeful perspective. When the Risen Jesus breathes on his ashamed and fearful disciples and gives them the Holy Spirit, he echoes Genesis, when God breathes life into Adam. This is not just primarily the removal of guilt, but new creation.

In confession, we receive more than forgiveness. We receive a fresh outpouring, the breath of the Spirit, and a renewed mission. Jesus does not say to us, “You’re forgiven, now go back to your old life.” He says, so to speak, “As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” (John 20:21)

That is why penance is not just saying a few prayers. It is reorientation. It is the Spirit summoning us to live differently: with mercy and healing.

Just as Adam was sent into the world, and the Apostles were sent out after Pentecost, so too we are sent from the confessional — not just clean, but consecrated.

Pentecost Challenge: After your next confession, ask the Holy Spirit for one way you can participate in Christ’s healing will for you. Then take one small, concrete step, and do not look back. -Father John Muir

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Pray for

- ...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



Women’s Sacred Journey

Saturday, May 30 at 9:00am
Faith Formation Office
in the 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.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: When is Trinity Sunday celebrated? ©LPi

Answer: Trinity Sunday is celebrated on the Sunday after Pentecost.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Faith

Question: Someone close to me has left the Church. How should I reach out to them?

Answer: For many of us, this can be a challenging question. When people we love leave the Church, we may not always know how to relate to them in certain ways. Are some conversation topics off limits? Are there certain behaviors or decisions we can't support in good conscience? When someone or something is lost, Jesus shows two different attitudes in his parables.

One is actively seeking. Don't give up on this person and their life of faith. Ask them about their spiritual journey. Invite them to spend time with you in faith settings, as appropriate, and outside of them. Continue in relationship with those you love.

The other attitude Jesus shows is consistent witness in the waiting. In the parable of the Prodigal Son, the father doesn't go after the son. He waits for his return. However, the son knows his father is trustworthy. He remembers his father's fair treatment of the hired hands and knows it is safe to return, despite all he has done.

Your ability to change someone is quite small. However, you can change yourself. Make sure you consistently treat others with kindness, compassion, and respect. If your loved one wants a deeper conversation, they'll know you are a person to trust, a place to which they can return.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Acts 2:1-11

Question: We see how the Holy Spirit filled the Apostles, and they were able to proclaim a message that unified the large crowds in Jerusalem. Have you ever felt united in purpose with a large group of people?

2nd Reading: 1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13

Question: Paul teaches that each of us receives the manifestation of the Holy Spirit for some benefit. What gift of the Holy Spirit would friends or family say you possess?

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23

Question: The resurrected Jesus sends the disciples forth equipped with the power of the Holy Spirit to forgive or retain sins. Does forgiving others come easily to you?

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

Piety, Explained!

Piety is one of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit and is related to the virtue of justice.

St. Thomas Aquinas writes, "Piety denotes the reverence which we give to our faith and to our country. And since God is the Father of all, the worship of God is also called piety... therefore the gift whereby a man, through reverence for God, works good to all, is fittingly called piety." (Sum., II:II, 68, Art. 4)

The virtue of piety, which can be understood most easily as giving due reverence to God, should not be confused with "popular piety," which refers to external expressions of devotion that are unique to specific places and environments. The virtue of piety describes a person's fulfillment of their duty to God and the precepts of the Church; popular piety describes other practices that enliven their desire to fulfill that duty.

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE

May 30/31, 2026

MASS	4:00PM	9:00AM
Sacristan	T Riley	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Kairis	P Allen
Reader #2	J McCown	C McCarthy
EME	M Kairis	P Allen
EME	J McCown	N Virga
EME	L Collins	M Black
Greeter	M Smith	B Gutowski
Greeter	P Miles	B Turchin
Greeter	R Pasiak	T Lane
Greeter	T Pasiak	J Ballantine
Traveling Chalice Host Beginning May 30/31, 2026 Bernadette Gutowski		



We Are Never Alone

My children want my help sometimes, and other times, not so much. I remember being a teenager and young adult myself. At times, I thought I knew everything. I didn't need help because I was just so darn smart. Truth is, I needed to find my own way. I needed to stretch my wings and prove to myself and my family I could fly. I assume that is what is happening with my own children as well. It just seems so different now that I'm the parent.

Human beings need help. We need community, and we need to rely on one another. At Pentecost, we reflect on Jesus sending to the Church a helper, the Holy Spirit. God interacting with us in this manner means we are never truly alone. We focus most of the time on the Spirit of God as the assistance we need, and we do need Him for sure. However, since it is that very same Spirit that turned us into "Church" from a band of people looking to carry on after Jesus' ascension, at Pentecost we gained more than divine help: we gained each other.

Today, the Church needs help in a profound way. We need to lean on the Holy Spirit to blow through the Church with a profound renewal. But we cannot forget that we have been given each other to lean on as well. We are a gift to each other, and together with the Spirit's help, we are the Body of Christ here on earth. We must be strong and stand for one another. If we do that, this Pentecost will bear fruit that will be with us for many Pentecosts to come.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Today, Jesus calls the Holy Spirit "the Advocate." The Latin for lawyer is "advocatus." Like a lawyer, the Holy Spirit defends us. The Holy Spirit guides us. So, when you're in trouble, don't forget: ask for your lawyer, and do what he tells you.

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SIGNS OF LIFE

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

If you're asthmatic, you know the phrase "as natural as breathing" doesn't always make a lot of sense.

Maybe that's because breathing isn't always natural. Sometimes, it's supernatural.

I come from a family of asthmatics. In my earliest childhood memories, my sister's nose and mouth are covered with a bulbous plastic mask connected by clear tubes to her transportable nebulizer. The machine whirs loudly as it vaporizes the medication that will open her lungs. In these memories, I watch my sister — her little eyes wide, her chest contracting and constricting with great difficulty — and wonder what it feels like.

Because I don't have asthma, and I don't think about breathing, unless I'm climbing a flight of stairs or chasing down one of my kids. It's such a utilitarian thing, breathing. It's unimpressive, unremarkable. Literally anyone can do it.

Until they can't.

Dead men don't breathe. That's what I think as I read the words of John's Gospel: "He breathed on them." (John 20:22) So much of what Jesus does in his resurrected Body is extraordinary and superhuman, making it unmistakable that here is a Body no longer playing by the rules of the physical world. He's passing through locked doors. He's in two places at once.

But today, he's just breathing.

So we have to ask ourselves: why? His Blood no longer requires oxygen. If he were asthmatic, neither bonfire nor damp night air could cause his lungs to constrict. His Flesh has been perfected.

But here we see a reality that is as spiritual as it is physical: where there is breath, there is life.

In Genesis, God breathes into dust and creates man. In today's Gospel, He breathes His Spirit onto man, and creates a Church.

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Observances of the Week

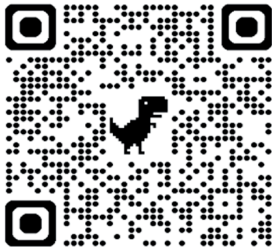
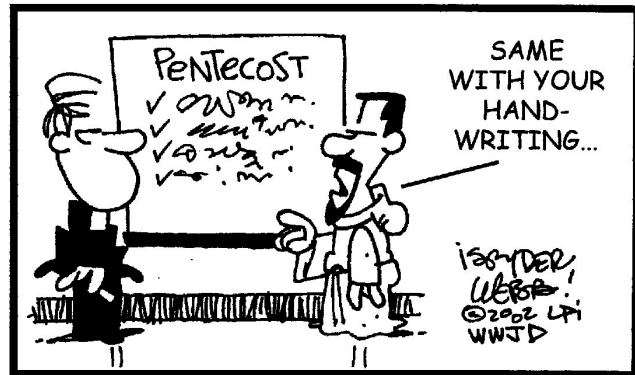
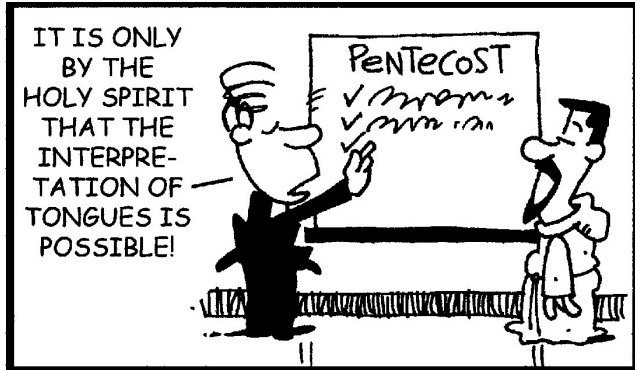
Sunday: Pentecost Sunday
 Monday: Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church; Memorial Day
 Tuesday: St. Philip Neri, Priest
 Wednesday: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop
 Friday: St. Paul VI, Pope
 Next Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: When is Trinity Sunday celebrated? ©LPi

Answer: The Sunday after Pentecost



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

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

Financial Stewardship Giving - Week Ending May 16/17, 2026

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Envelopes Used & e-fund participants	240	97		
Offertory	5,185.00	\$ 4,447.17	(737.83)	25,826.09
Energy/Hospitality/Flowers/Candles/Mass Intentions	472.00	303.25	(168.75)	2,731.25
Fundraising: Budget Deficit Envelopes/CSA Refunds	1673.00	85.00	(1,588.00)	(35,194.432)
Bequests: Free Will		90.00		3,337.00
Bequests:				
AOD Collection:				
Holy Days		25.00		5,293.00
CSA 2026 Pledged 5,570.00		CSA 2026 Paid 4,750.00		

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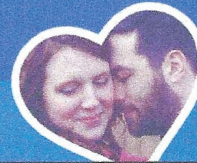
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