

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

MAY 31, 2026 † THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

From The Pastor

‘May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.’ This greeting is familiar and I trust beloved by all Catholics who attend and actively participate in Sunday Mass. This invocation comes from the conclusion of St. Paul’s second letter to the Corinthians. St. Paul uses these words as a Trinitarian blessing to close his epistle as he concludes his message to the community in Corinth. We have Paul alone to thank for the beautiful and essential invocation whether it serves as a greeting or a blessing.

In the time of St. Paul, no developed theology or dogma of the Trinity had yet been written. With these words, St. Paul is expressing his own faith in the mystery of God’s love through his personal experience of Jesus and his encounter with the Holy Spirit. Paul knows God the Father as the source and origin of all Creation. Through his profound transformation on the road to Damascus, Paul meets Jesus through words from the heavens. Subsequently, Paul receives the Holy Spirit in Baptism as his life is transformed in identity, understanding, and life mission. St. Paul had nothing to do with this. It was done unto him by the initiative and will of God. Paul can rightly form and put these words together because he experienced the grace of Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit.

To sit with this invocation/blessing, pondering our experience, we can also come to realize the power of these words. Faith is a gift given by God that must be animated and encountered through experience. Faith cannot simply be a word alone. Jesus did not expect people to believe in him just because he said so. Jesus generously offered signs and wonders to confirm his power and identity as the Son of God. With compassion and empathy, Jesus healed the suffering of those he encountered with the intention to inspire faith and trust in the power of God Jesus was sent to reveal.

The Holy Trinity expresses the oneness and undivided unity of the essence of God. God is three distinct persons who live and move in a perfect unity of identity, mission, and intention. Each person in the Trinity plays a distinct role in the ‘economy’ or activity of Divine action. The Father initiates and brings forth creation. Jesus, the Incarnation of God in human flesh, is the Redeemer. Always existent in the Father, in ‘the fullness of time,’ the “Wrd became Flesh and made his

dwelling among us.” Completing the work of redemption through his death and Resurrection, Jesus ascends in exalted glory to the throne of God. As promised by Jesus, the Holy Spirit is sent by the Father to bring to fulfillment the work of creation-redemption-fulfillment to culminate in the unity of all things in heaven and on earth. The work of the Holy Spirit is to unite and sanctify. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Divine love, heals, converts, inspires, convicts, and calls all believers as we make our way toward union with God in heaven. This is not something we could ever do on our own, but something we choose to participate in by our yes to God, our yes to a life of faith and action in the virtues of the Christian gospel.

What is the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ? Christ himself. Grace is God’s gift of love, God’s favor or blessing, God’s self-communication of love given to the world in the person of the Lord Jesus. The grace/gift of Jesus is his life freely and humbly given in pure mercy and love to redeem us.

What is the Love of God? The love of God is God. Love is not something God has; it is all that God is. Love is not a quality or a characteristic of God. Love is God’s essence. By nature, love gives itself for the sake of others. Love seeks to unite, heal, forgive, and make one. Divine love has no beginning and will have no end. It is eternal. Divine love never stops seeking unity and oneness in all things. Every human being and all creation is the object and intention of God’s love. In the end, all will be one. Until all is one, it is not the end.

What is the fellowship of the Holy Spirit? God is a unity of relationship within the Trinity. The fellowship of the Holy Spirit is our communion with God made possible through our reconciliation with God in Christ. The fellowship of the Holy Spirit is our shared life with God and with one another here and now through our shared faith in Christ. Love is the bond of our fellowship.

Please take some time to think about this. So much in the world is separated, disconnected, and ill at ease. In God we are all one. Our work is to make that more a reality in the world. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be yours. It is. Use it. Spread it. Make God more evident in the world.

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:

**LIVE
STREAMING**

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 sacramental information or
Funerals contact the Parish Office
248-542-8720

MASS

Intentions

MONDAY, June 1, 2026

9:00am Mass: Edward Heffner† req. by Kathy Heffner

TUESDAY, June 2, 2026

8:00am Mass: Charlene Riddell† req. by Mary Jane Guc

WEDNESDAY, June 3, 2026

8:00am Mass: Wayne Heffner (for health) req. by Kathy Heffner

THURSDAY, June 4, 2026

8:00am Mass: James Grobbel† req. by Mary Jane Guc

SATURDAY, June 6, 2026

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

Jason Bertolini† req. by Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Jesse Giszczak† req. by Mary Jane Guc

SUNDAY, June 7, 2026

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Charlene Riddell† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Fr. John Esper (Retirement Blessings) req. by Bernie & John Turchin

"When One of the Three Persons communicates with a soul, by the power of that one will, it finds itself united with the Three Persons and is inundated in the happiness flowing from the Most Holy Trinity, the same happiness that nourishes the saints." St. Faustina

Readings for the Week

Sunday: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/2 Cor 13:11-13/Jn 3:16-18
Monday: 2 Pt 1:2-7/Ps 91:1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16/Mk 12:1-12
Tuesday: 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18/ Ps 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16/Mk 12:13-17
Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12/Ps 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef/Mk 12:18-27
Thursday: 2 Tm 2:8-15/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Mk 12:28-34
Friday: 2 Tm 3:10-17/Ps 119:157, 160, 161, 165, 166, 168/Mk 12:35-37
Saturday: 2 Tm 4:1-8/Ps 71:8-9, 14-15ab, 16-17, 22/Mk 12:38-44
Next Sunday: Dt 8:2-3, 14b-16a/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/1 Cor 10:16-17/Jn 6:51-58



**COME PRAY THE
ROSARY**

Administration Bldg. Patio 6:30pm

THIS MONDAY

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.



**Father John Esper, Pastor
St. Vincent Ferrer**

July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2026

COME & SHOW YOUR APPRECIATION

Yes, Father John is retiring after 42 years of faithful guidance, heartfelt service and unwavering dedication to the People of God. On Father's Day weekend, let's show our spiritual father our gratitude for the wisdom, love and compassion he has given us in 21 years of service to our parish family.

**All are invited to light receptions
following the 4pm and 9am Masses on
Father's Day Weekend, June 20/21.**



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

Thank you to all who have responded. St. Vincent Ferrer Parish has received \$5,730.00 in pledges or gifts so far.

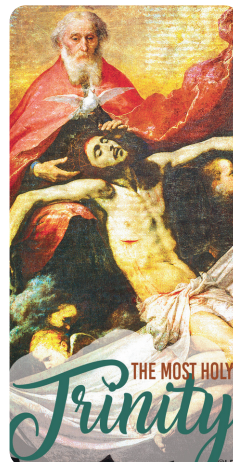
Checks must be made payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the gift processing center in Minnesota using the return envelope included in the packet mailed to parishioners. To make an electronic donation, please follow the directions on the pledge cards.

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

Observances of the Week

- Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity
- Monday: St. Justin, Martyr
- Tuesday: Ss. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs
- Wednesday: St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
- Friday: St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
- Saturday: St. Norbert, Bishop
- Next Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

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*God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.
Jn 3:16-17*



*In your prayers
remember to 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

CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

Question: What's the official name for a person who is seeking to be baptized and initiated into the Catholic Church? ©LPi

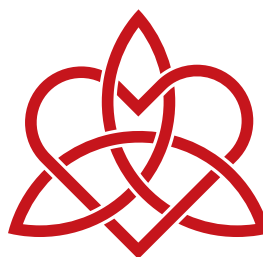
Answer: A catechumen

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, June 6th 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.



**The Most Holy
Trinity**

I was 16 years old on a youth group retreat in the mountains. One night, I opened my heart to the message being proclaimed: that God so loved the world that He sent His Son for us. Later, I lay under the pine trees and looked up at the countless stars. They seemed different. No longer cold, distant balls of chemical reactions, they appeared as an expression of God's love, as if He were giving those stars directly to me. The truth of God sending His Son changed how I saw the whole universe.

That is what today's Gospel reveals: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son." (John 3:16) The universe is not just a whirl of impersonal forces or empty space. At its heart is a gift: the Father eternally giving the Son, not to condemn, but to bring life.

This is not abstract doctrine but deeply personal. God gives His Son for you and me. Each human life is precious enough to be caught up in that eternal gift.

It is in the Mass where we encounter this most directly. In the Word proclaimed, in the assembly gathered, in the priest, and above all in the Eucharist, the Father once again gives His Son. What looks like bread and wine is the drama of the Trinity, laboring to love us here and now.

The Trinity is not a puzzle to solve but the blazing Truth at the center of everything: the Father gives the Son for you and me. Lord, help us to see this more clearly.

— Father John Muir
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"Now this is the Catholic faith: We worship one God in the Trinity and the Trinity in unity, without either confusing the persons or dividing the substance; for the person of the Father is one, the Son's is another, the Holy Spirit's another; but the Godhead of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is one, their glory equal, their majesty coeternal."

266 Catechism of the Catholic Church

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Ex 34:4b-6, 8-9

Question: We hear how God proclaims His name as “Lord” to Moses on Mount Sinai, describing Himself as merciful, gracious, kind, and faithful. How would you describe your experience of God?

2nd Reading: 2 Cor 13:11-13

Question: Paul speaks of the grace, love, and fellowship of our triune God and encourages the Corinthians to treat each other likewise. Who needs your love and fellowship this week?

Gospel: Jn 3:16-18

Question: Jesus speaks of God’s love and commitment to both people and planet. What do you imagine a “saved” world will look like? ©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Salvation

Question: In some passages of the Bible, Jesus makes it sound like only a few people will be saved. But we talk about hoping for everyone’s salvation. So which one is it — will many or few people be saved?

Answer: Salvation is a mystery of God’s grace. St. Paul encourages us to offer prayers for everyone. He calls it “good and pleasing to God” because God Himself “wills everyone to be saved” (c.f. 1 Tm 2:1-4). The redemption that Jesus offers is held out to all of us. His sacrifice on the cross was already for everyone. Now it is a matter of if and how we accept that salvation in our own lives.

Here on earth, we can’t possibly know the exact number of people who will be in heaven. When we hear words like “many” and “few,” we tend to think of them in quantitative terms. Four wine glasses for six guests is too few. Three slices of cake for one person is too many. For God, however, “many” and “few” are qualitative terms. Imagine for a moment that nearly every human person is in heaven and only a handful had, by their actions on earth, separated themselves from God. For a God who infinitely loves, even one person spending eternity apart from Him is too many!
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VIRTUES, EXPLAINED! CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH



Obedience, Explained!

Disobedience was humanity’s original sin. Conversely, obedience became the instrument of humanity’s reconciliation to God.

Scripture calls man’s submission of his own intellect and will to God, the author of revelation, “the obedience of faith.” (CCC 143) “To obey in faith is to submit freely to the word that has been heard, because its truth is guaranteed by God, who is Truth itself,” we read in the Catechism (CCC 144).

We see perfect obedience shown by Christ amidst his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane. His human will dreads what will come — “My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me” — but his divine will, which is never at odds with his human will, submits to the Truth: “Yet, not as I will, but as you will.” (Matthew 26:39). Despite his fear, he embraces the divine will for man to be redeemed, and so we say that he was “obedient unto death.” (Philippians 2:8)

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE		
June 6/7, 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
EME	M Simmons	N Virga
EME	T Pasiak	P Allen
Greeter	R Juska-Svoba	B Turchin
Greeter	T Oparka	D Vu
Greeter	N Oparka	B Gutowski
Greeter	M Smith	T Lane
Traveling Chalice Host Beginning June 6/7, 2026 Barbara Panek		

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Salvation is a gift God dearly wishes us to accept. It is not a yardstick against which He measures our worth. He has made it so simple. So, will we accept?

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Uncovering The Layers

After years working for the Church, I can honestly say that even though I feel closer to God, I still cannot fully grasp all that is God. The complexity of God has been the source of many volumes by many writers and theologians. The crazy reality of growing in a relationship with God is that the more you get to know God, the more complex God becomes.

But I think that is true of human relationships as well. I feel like I can really peg a person one way or another after only meeting him or her a few times, but my wife and children continue to perplex me. Getting to know someone means you begin to uncover the layers of personality, feeling, and emotion that make up each human being. For those who see God as only a force or a light, God is simply defined. But for those who seek to be disciples of Jesus Christ, the God we find in relationship has many layers as well.

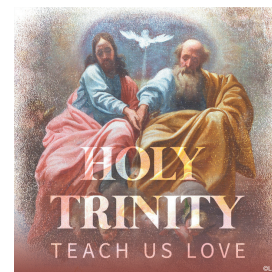
But that which we do know for certain about God comes to us primarily from the person of Jesus. He called us to a way of life by not only teaching us about how to live, but by showing us the example of his life. Our God is defined by generosity, sacrifice, compassion, and, of course, love. The more we incorporate these characteristics into our own life, the more we bear witness to the true nature of God. Then others can see a God that is a little less complex because they understand him through you and me. Our life will speak more than all the volumes written by all the theologians.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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THE GIFT OF NOT UNDERSTANDING

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



I once listened to Bishop Daniel Flores — a renowned scholar and prelate — give a 70-minute talk on the Trinitarian nature of God. In those 70 minutes, Bishop Flores said a lot of eloquent things. But what that really landed with me was not any group of words, but a single gesture.

Defining hypostasis, the term we use for the “the reciprocal dynamic relations that constitute distinct identities within the Godhead” (yes, I am using his words because I could never, in a million years, trust my own) Bishop Flores said “the Father and the Son are true God, but the Father is not the Son, and the Son is not the Father. How not? Different hypostasis.”

And here his eyes grew wide; he turned his head and opened his hands, drawing back as if from a spooked horse. The implication was clear: Any further than this, I dare not go.

I’ve never felt so seen.

Sometimes, I make the mistake of thinking that I am unique in my inability to understand the great mysteries. Sometimes, I despair that I am not a “better Catholic” — one who will rush headfirst into the crosshairs of a hard question, confident in the words that come immediately to my lips.

But when I saw Bishop Flores flinch at the thought of defining how, exactly, the Son is not the Father, and vice versa, I remembered that only fools rush in where angels fear to tread.

This Sunday, friends, take heart: our failure to understand is not a poverty. It is a gift. It propels us constantly back to the wellspring of our glorious Faith — to Scripture, to Tradition, to the in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit which sustains each and every one of us who dare to believe.

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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



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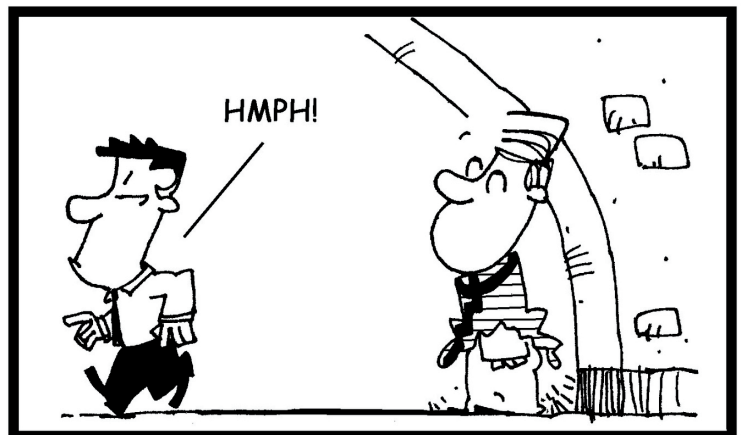
The **TRINITY** is the word we use to describe the nature of God. It means there is one God existing in three *consubstantial* divine persons, making one unified God.

The Trinity is made up of >

God the Father:
God as creator of all things. Begat Jesus (the Son). God the Father is the ultimate source.

God the Son:
God as redeemer. Jesus, who was sent to save humanity. Mediator, Teacher, Emmanuel (God is with us).

God the Holy Spirit:
God as divine connection. Empowers believers, connects humanity to Jesus and God the Father, reveals truth and inspires.



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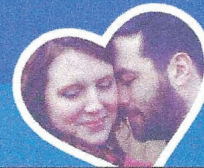
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