



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JUNE 14, 2026 † 11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

It is hard to know what you do not know until you know. In a life of sin, many people do not know they are lost and in a state of helplessness because it is beyond their awareness. If a person is unschooled in the nature and effect of sin, they will not perceive its effect on their heart and soul. They may feel quite happy in the rhythm of their ways unaware of their distance from God. Such a person does not know what they do not know. Many in the world today do not know, or care to know of God. Others may know of God, but do not concern themselves with things of the Divine if they are satisfied with the life they have made for themselves.

It is hard to be helpless. It is difficult to be lost. Spiritually speaking, this is especially true when a person, culture, or society does not realize they are helpless or lost without God. Without faith, a time of helplessness will cause a greater feeling of despair than for those who have faith and realize their dependence on God. To be helpless is to be without resources, power, or voice. It means to feel alone without the ability to change or resolve a crisis of essential need.

In the first reading, God reminds the Israelites who they are. In the bondage of slavery, the Israelites were helpless to resolve their situation. They knew God but believed they were abandoned and rejected because of their sin and infidelity. God not only reminds the Israelites of who He is but also reminds them of who they are. In their slavery, God calls to them saying, 'harken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other peoples...' God sees their helpless state and takes them (all humanity) as his own. These early Israelites had given up on God, but God never gave up on them.

St. Paul in his letter to the Romans highlights this same point as he recounts the fullness of our redemption in Christ Jesus. Sin seeks to be hidden; it deceives and does not want to be realized by the one who falls into its trap. The challenge of salvation is to save those who feel no need to be saved. It is possible to be completely helpless and not realize it. Most forms of addiction are like this. The addiction deceives and renders the person unable to realize the danger they are in with no sensibility for the need to be rescued.

Sin can have the same effect. Whether a person is close to God or not, sin has a way to tempt and draw us away from our truest nature in God. Without feeling the pain of our condition, there would be no desire to be saved. This is the point St. Paul makes in the second reading. While we were lost and helpless in sin, unaware of our state before God, Christ died for us. God came to us because we were, and at times remain, helpless and unaware of our need to be rescued. Christ freely and willingly died for us sinners even though we were acting as if we were enemies of God.

Our salvation is an unsolicited, freely given, unconditional gift at a time when we were lost to ourselves. Lost to ourselves in the ways of the world and our inclination to sin, only God could be our salvation. St. Paul makes it clear this proves God's love for us. While we were lost in sin and without remedy or solution, God saved us through the gift of the Divine Son.

This theme carries directly into the gospel. People are longing for meaning, identity, and purpose in their lives. They are immediately drawn to the power and compassion of Jesus in the helplessness of their way of life. Jesus sees their sad state and is moved with pity 'because they were troubled and abandoned like sheep without a shepherd.'

Why is Jesus so moved by what he sees? Why is Jesus so quick to heal, forgive, console, and feed people? Because Jesus is love incarnate. Jesus is the agent of our creation. He made us; we belong to him. We are his beloved sons and daughters. Lost in sin and unaware of our nature and dignity in God, Christ Jesus restores us to a living relationship with God through an undefeatable act of pure reconciliation.

In Christ Jesus, the world has been freed from the slavery of sin and given the freedom to choose a new life with God. We are no longer helpless. We have been rescued from sin and death and promised the life of heaven. How many psychologists does it take to change a light bulb? Only one. But the bulb must really want to change. Accept the love God offers you. Be an agent of that gift for others.

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 15, 2026

8:00am Mass: Jesse Giszczak† req. by Corrine McCarthy

TUESDAY, June 16, 2026

8:00am Mass: Eleanore Vertel† (25th R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, June 17, 2026

8:00am Mass: Fr. John Esper (Peace & Blessings in Retirement) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

THURSDAY, June 18, 2026

8:00am Mass: Betty Jane Newdigate req. by Linda & Stan Yolkiewicz

SATURDAY, June 20, 2026

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Fr. John Esper, Fr. Paolo Tanzini, Br. Bob Malloy, PIME Missionaries, and Capuchins ministering at SVF (Father's Day Blessings)

SUNDAY, June 21, 2026

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

Anna Perry† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Marty Karolski† req. by Tom Karolski

William Olszewski† req. by Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Martin Daryl† req. by Family

John Lamerato† req. by Sam & Meg Lamerato

Charles Ray† req. by Meg & Sam Lamerato

Fr. John Esper, Fr. Paolo Tanzini, Br. Bob Malloy, PIME

Missionaries, and Capuchins ministering at SVF

(Father's Day Blessings)

"Do not be afraid
to take a chance on
peace, to teach peace,
to live peace...
peace will be the last
word of history."

-St. John Paul II

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: Ex 19:2-6a/Psalm 100: 1-2, 3,5/Rom 5:6-11/Mt 9:36 -10:8
Monday: 1 Kgs 21:1-16/Ps 5:2-3ab, 4b-6a, 6b-7/Mt 5:38-42
Tuesday: 1 Kgs 21:17-29/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 11 and 16/Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday: 2 Kgs 2:1, 6-14/Ps 31:20, 21, 24/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday: Sir 48:1-14/Ps 97:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7/Mt 6:7-15
Friday: 2 Kgs 11:1-4, 9-18, 20/Ps 132:11, 12, 13-14, 17-18/Mt 6:19-23
Saturday: 2 Chr 24:17-25/Ps 89:4-5, 29-30, 31-32, 33-34/Mt 6:24-34
Next Sunday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14 and 17, 33-35/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33

NEXT WEEKEND



Father John Esper, Pastor,
St. Vincent Ferrer
July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2026

Join in
Celebrating
Fr. John



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 the 21 years of service to our parish family and offer prayers and best wishes for his future.

Light receptions will follow both Masses
on Father's Day Weekend

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A few years ago, I met a woman in my parish who was a successful lawyer. Yet in her free time, she poured her energy into a nonprofit she founded to advocate for children with special needs. When I asked what inspired her, she spoke of her niece, who was born with disabilities. Her niece was both a glorious gift and a constant challenge. Out of that painful, beautiful experience, she felt called to create something lasting for other children and parents. The nonprofit thrived, not because she had mapped it all out, but because she was deeply moved to act.

In today's Gospel, Jesus is "moved with compassion" for the crowd, for they were "like sheep without a shepherd." (Matthew 9:36) So he calls his disciples, ordinary men with no special qualifications, and sends them to heal, preach, and cast out demons. Their mission flows not from their skills but from his authority and the Spirit's gifts.

The Second Vatican Council teaches that the Spirit continually pours out charisms, special graces for the good of the Church and the world (cf. Lumen Gentium 4 & 12). These often arise from the unfolding of our lives: from what breaks your heart, what fills you with hope, what suffering has shaped you. The Spirit works through those very experiences to equip us with gifts that build up others.

What is your charism? Well, what needs around you call you to loving action? This could be where Christ is sending you. Allow your heart to be moved like Christ's. Then get to work.

— Father John Muir

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COME PRAY THE ROSARY



Join the Immaculata Prayer Group in praying the rosary every Monday evening at 6:30pm on the Admin Bldg Patio. Bring a chair. Rosaries are available for those who need one.



Our target for this
year is
\$ 39,101.00.

Thank you to all who have responded. St. Vincent Ferrer Parish has received \$ 20,054.00 in pledges or gifts.

REMINDER: The 2026 Catholic Services Appeal will end December 31, 2026. The CSA 2027 campaign will be for the full calendar year January 1st to December 31st.

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.



*For where your
treasure is, there also
will your heart be.
~Matthew 6:21*





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



The Power of a Simple Action

I remember seeing a story on a morning news program about a little girl who wanted to give an elderly man in a grocery store a hug. She had no way of knowing that this man had just lost his wife of many years and now felt so very alone and depressed. Her reaching out to the man seemed odd to her mom at first, but the girl was so insistent about giving a hug she moved the shopping carts close together so the exchange could take place. No one knew that from that moment on the little girl would ask to visit her new friend at least once a week for the next four years until he passed away. In an interview soon after the initial encounter, the man said, "I haven't been this happy in some time." Imagine the joy that relationship brought to them both over the years!

It was just a moment. It was a simple gesture. Yet, it had a large impact that no one could have predicted. You never know what will result when we give just a little of ourselves. That uncertainty too often leads us to hold back or refrain from the simple actions of love or gestures of generosity that could come so easily for us if we wanted. We should never doubt the power of a simple random act of kindness. Generosity does not need to be grand to make a big difference. The time is now, and the opportunity presents itself often to plant a small seed that God can water and nourish so that something beautiful can grow.

- Tracy Earl Welliver

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

Question: Church candles, particularly the ones used in Sacramental celebrations, should contain at least 50% of what component? ©LPi

Answer: Beeswax

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, June 20th 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.

PRAYER OF DISCIPLESHIP

Dear Jesus,

You've called every soul to yourself, aware of our faults and failures, but also our gifts, perspectives, our talents, and our dreams. As we grow to know you, help us to more fully understand ourselves and, in doing so, to use our unique positions to spread your love to the world. Amen.

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

SIN

Question: A member of my parish was recently arrested for a white-collar crime. I don't approve of what he did, but he is a great neighbor and a nice person. How should I treat someone like him?

Answer: There is a litany of expressions that fit this situation: Everyone makes mistakes. Hate the sin, love the sinner. Judge not, lest you be judged. All of these proverbs and sayings highlight the fact that we are here to help each other on the way to salvation. Our hope and goal is that everyone grows in grace, drawing closer to God and to the promise of eternal life. Part of that process is our struggle, collectively and individually, with sin. And that is the ugly part. Sin is not nice, pretty, or inviting when laid out for all to see. Nor is it easy for the person caught in the spotlight.

Kindness and support are not the same thing as approval. We recognize that good people can do bad things and in their struggle, they need the help of others. Our kindness is often the flicker of hope that allows someone to face the consequences of sin while focusing on the promise of redemption. Your desire to help and support your neighbor is the response of grace to sin, and the same response of Jesus to us.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Ex 19:2-6a

Question: God reveals to Moses His intention to make Israel a "treasured possession among all the peoples...a kingdom of priests, a holy nation." Have you ever received an incredible gift you never saw coming?

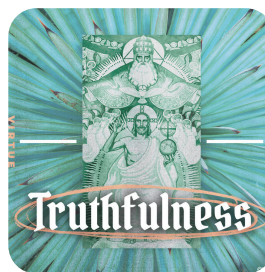
2nd Reading: Rom 5:6-11

Question: Paul teaches us that as believers, we have been reconciled to God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Can you think of a time when you reconciled with a friend or family member?

Gospel: Mt 9:36-10:8

Question: Jesus commissioned his 12 Apostles to carry on his missionary work of healing the sick and exorcising unclean spirits. Do you have a sense of mission for your life?

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VIRTUES, EXPLAINED! CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

Truthfulness, Explained!

Sin began with a lie.

It was a lie that Satan told Eve in the Garden of Eden, and it was by doubting God's faithfulness — by thinking God to be a liar — that the fall of man came about.

Of course, God Himself is Truth — Adam and Eve discovered that when they believed the lie. Therefore, if we belong to God, we must live truthfully — in small matters and in large ones, so that the witness we bear to the ultimate Truth of God shall always be taken seriously. "Witness is an act of justice that establishes the truth or makes it known," says the Catechism (CCC 2472), which also calls the act of martyrdom "truth written in letters of blood." (CCC 2474)

When Ananias tries to deceive the Christian community and secretly hoard wealth for himself, Peter tells him he has "lied not to human beings, but to God." (Acts 5:4)

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MINISTRY SCHEDULE

June 20/21, 2026

MASS	4:00PM	9:00AM
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	D Tourville	A Goll
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	D Tourville	T Karolski
EME	M Simmons	R Grant
EME	P Miles	C McCarthy
Greeter	M Smith	T Oparka
Greeter	P Miles	N Oparka
Greeter	T Pasiak	P Rarus
Greeter	R Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba
Traveling Chalice Host Beginning June 20/21, 2026 Corrine McCarthy		

LABORERS

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Observances of the Week

- Sunday: 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Flag Day
- Friday: St. Romuald, Abbot; World Refugee Day; Juneteenth
- Next Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

In his mercy, Jesus sent his Apostles into ministry — and the Apostles are still ministering today. We see them in the sanctuary, in the confessional. They are our priests, sent to shepherd Christ's sheep. This week, let's pray for our shepherds. ©LPI

"The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few."

This excerpt from Matthew's Gospel has become a catchphrase in the modern Church. We give ourselves vertigo with the amount of head-shaking we do over the much-lamented "decline in numbers."

Which numbers, you ask? Well, take your pick — numbers of baptized Catholic children who continue to profess their faith in adulthood, numbers of registered parishioners, numbers of priests ordained each year. All are a fraction of what they were generations ago.

That last one — the priests — that's a particular worry for us, isn't it? So we pray, "Send us laborers, Lord! Make them holy. Make them earnest."

And then we add, in the silence of our hearts: "Make them perfect."

It's no secret that part of the reason the pews are empty is because we often find it hard to love the Church if we find it hard to love a particular priest, a particular bishop, or a particular human representative of the Church.

Because that's the thing about priests and bishops and all the laborers in the field: they are human. They are sinners. Just like you and me.

We must consider this: today's Gospel lists the Apostles whom Jesus sent out in ministry to heal, console, and evangelize, and right at the end — like a record scratch — comes the name of Judas Iscariot, the betrayer. If ever a laborer failed in his work, it was Judas.

And surely, when he did, his fellow laborers were so demoralized and so disenchanted that they considered laying down their tools and leaving the harvest to wither and die.

But they did not, and we must not.

Without cost we have received, and without cost we are called to give.

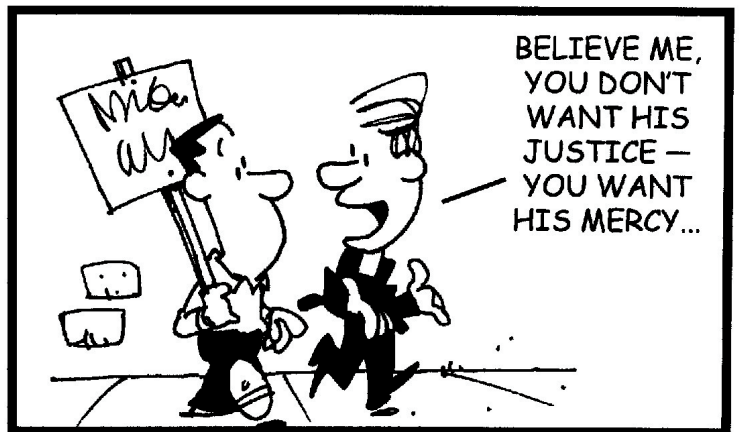
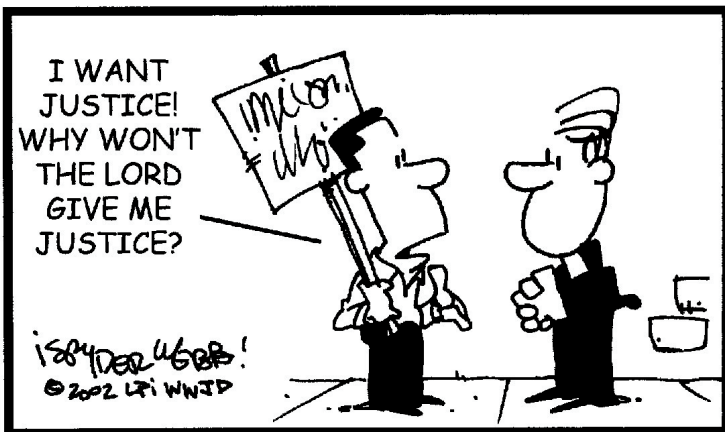
So we labor on, for the day is drawing to a close, and the threshing time is near. ©LPI



June 14

Flag Day celebrates the day in 1777 when the Second Continental Congress officially adopted the design for the

first United States national flag. It is a day dedicated to honoring the "Stars and Stripes" and reflecting on American history and patriotism



REPORT ABUSE

To make a report or contact the Abuse Hotline:

EMAIL reportabuse@aod.org
 PHONE 313-237-6060
 TOLL FREE 866-343-8055

Juneteenth!

(short for June Nineteenth)

History behind this date...

The Emancipation Proclamation did not free all enslaved people. It only applied to places under Confederate control and not to slave-holding border states or rebel areas already under Union control. It was not until two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was enacted that federal troops arrived in Galveston, Texas and took control of the state and freed the slaves. The date was June 19, 1865, and it officially ended slavery in the USA. In 1979, Texas made June 19 an official holiday. In 2021, it was signed into law as a federal holiday.

Historically, there is no recognized country that has never had slavery. Across the ancient, medieval, and modern times, forced labor, war captives, or debt bondage existed in nearly every major civilization, and still exists in some places today.

**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 QRcode to connect to our tithe.ly giving site.

Financial Stewardship Giving - Week Ending June 6/7, 2026

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Envelopes Used & e-fund participants	240	114		
Offertory	5,185.00	7,897.20	2,712.20	27,497.37
Energy/Hospitality/Flowers/Candles/Mass Intentions	472.00	492.00	20.00	2,231.25
Fundraising: Budget Deficit Envelopes/CSA Refunds	1,673.00	65.00	(1,608.00)	(42,184.68)
Bequests: Free Will				3,337.00
Bequests:				
AOD Collection:				
Holy Days				5,298.00
CSA 2026 Pledged \$ 20,054.00		CSA Paid \$ 17,749.00		

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