



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JUNE 21, 2026 † 12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

There is no last word in preaching, teaching, or proclaiming the Word of God. This is equally true in the practice of living out the Word as it is practiced in daily life. This side of heavenly glory there is no neatly wrapped conclusion to the mystery and revelation of God in Christ. The mystery and truth of the love of God in Christ has no beginning and will have no end. There are however core movements and realities of God that are universally evident and sustaining for those who seek to live in God.

If I may, on my second to last opportunity with you, I would like to share with you what I hold most deeply in my life as a Christian and as a priest. God is love. God is love Incarnate in the person and life of the Lord Jesus. God is the unchanging essence of love now present in the world through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Trinity of God is a pure relationship of three in an endless flow of love each to the other, and through the Son and Spirit into each of us and to all creation. The Trinity of God is a never-ending flow of giving and receiving love within the Trinity and equally into the world. This flow of love is the nature and meaning of our existence as human beings. The more freely we trust and allow the endless flow of this giving and receiving into ourselves and through us to others, the more we know and live in the love of God. This becomes our joy.

The basic kerygma (proclamation) of Christianity is 'Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.' God's almighty nature is the pure unending love of self-surrender. We receive and experience this surrender in the life, suffering, and death of the Lord Jesus. The dying and rising of Jesus is the truth and fulness of our redemption already accomplished and living within us through the Holy Spirit. Our redemption is gained in the singular act of the dying and rising of Jesus. Now we workout our salvation day to day in acts of love and self-giving.

Forgiveness is non-negotiable in the Christian life. While helpless and dead in sin, God graciously and willingly forgave us and made us his own. As we are forgiven, we must also forgive. To bind ourselves or others in the bondage of unforgiveness blocks us and the other from the freedom and peace given us in Christ. God's grace is pure gift, but the gift must be accepted and allowed to flow through us to others.

Gratitude is the root and source of Christian prayer. Gratitude creates bonds of love between God,

ourselves, and others. Gratitude grows with faith and trust grounded in a mature prayer life. Gratitude and prayer feed each that bears its fruit through relationships of love with others. Gratitude is clear evidence of the grace of God that leads to a happy and fruitful life.

Let God love you and you will learn to love yourself. This love will draw you to others and will draw others to you creating a lively experience of the presence of God.

Perfection is a lie. The only perfect person who ever lived was the Son of God and they killed him because his love was too much light for the world to accept. Perfection is a lie of the evil one that ploys against our weakness and fear to create doubt in faith, fear in love, and mistrust in hope. God loves you as you are; always has and always will.

My heart is filled with gratitude for the privilege of so many years of ministry. I am not a perfect person or priest, but I put my heart and soul and most of my energy into serving the Word of God and the Sacraments of the Church. I would do it again. I am grateful to God and to all of you whom I have tried to serve to the best of my ability. I am astounded in what God has asked of me and accomplished through me in the healing and deliverance ministries. Never doubt that God is present and acting in the world. God heals and delivers.

I must thank the Staff and so many others who have helped to sustain and enrich our parish life. Deborah Tourville is a gift of God to all who have been touched by her various ministries. I could never have stayed as long as I have if it were not for her endless effort and coordination of so many things. Jim, Sheryl, Carl, and Alex are equally competent and hard-working in their various roles. You can be confident in our parish stability under their care. Do not lose hope. This next year is a temporary bridge to what the Reconstruction will bring in 2027. Do not waste energy on fear and doubt. What will be will be. Pray, petition, intercede for God's will for this community. Come to Mass and worship in a lively way. If you do not pray, you surrender your right to complain. My prayer with you and for you will remain.

I will offer further thanks and appreciation in next week's article. See you in Church.

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 22, 2026

8:00am Mass: Jesse Giszczak† req. by Virga Family

TUESDAY, June 23, 2026

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

WEDNESDAY, June 24, 2026

8:00am Mass: Deceased Parishioners who did not have a Funeral Mass

THURSDAY, June 25, 2026

8:00am Mass: Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

SATURDAY, June 27, 2026

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

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Tony Szeliga† req. by Jeanette Szeliga

Katherine Greig† req. by Bruno & Mary Petrella

Fr. John Esper (Blessings in Retirement)

SUNDAY, June 28, 2026

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

Mary Giaiana† req. by Family

Edmund Gutowski† (53rd R.A.) req. by Bernadette

Gutowski

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Albert & Jeanette Fecteau† req. by Family

Fr. John Esper (Blessings in Retirement)

SUMMER BEGINS

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 69:8-10, 14 and 17, 33-35/Rom 5:12-15/Mt 10:26-33
- Monday: 2 Kgs 17:5-8, 13-15a, 18/Ps 60:3, 4-5, 12-13/Mt 7:1-5
- Tuesday: 2 Kgs 19:9b-11, 14-21, 31-35a, 36/ Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 10-11/Mt 7:6, 12-14
- Wednesday: Is 49:1-6/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Acts 13:22-26/Lk 1:57-66, 80
- Thursday: 2 Kgs 24:8-17/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Mt 7:21-29
- Friday: 2 Kgs 25:1-12/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Mt 8:1-4
- Saturday: Lam 2:2, 10-14, 18-19/ Ps 74:1b-2, 3-5, 6-7, 20-21/Mt 8:5-17
- Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42)



*To God the Father,
To St. Joseph, Foster Father of Jesus,
To Father John,
To the priests who assist with our sacraments:
Br. Bob Malloy, Fr. Paolo Tanzini, Fr. Enno
Dango, the PIME Missionary priests, and the
Capuchin priests
To the priests in our Family of Parishes
To our Fathers, Grandfathers, Uncles
and to all those men in our lives who have
guided us with love...*

Happy Father's Day

ORIGINS OF FATHER'S DAY

Inspired by her father, a Civil War veteran and widower who raised 6 children, Sonora Smart Dodd thought fathers should have a holiday like mothers. Her successful campaigning led to Washington State's statewide Father's Day on June 19, 1910. Unfortunately, the idea was not widely accepted across the United States, thinking that it threatened masculinity and was too commercialized.

However, President Calvin Coolidge supported the idea and in 1924 urged states to observe it. Additionally, during the Great Depression and World War II retail stores for men pushed the idea, but still no nationwide recognition. It was not until 1966, that the date was set as the third Sunday in June by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Congress finally passed a bill recognizing the holiday and President Richard Nixon signed it into law in 1972.



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.

12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jean Améry, a Holocaust survivor tortured by the Nazis, later wrote about the abyss of human evil. He described his reaction as an "indignant despair." Haven't we all, to some degree, felt that abyss opened beneath us? A sudden loss, a violent headline, a moment of loneliness or panic, when the world feels fragile and meaning seems to collapse?

It is to this fear that Jesus speaks in today's Gospel: "Do not be afraid of those who can kill the body." (Matthew 10:28) He does not deny evil or pretend we will never suffer. Instead, He reframes the abyss: do not fear those who can kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Your life is seen, known, and counted by the Father. Even the hairs of your head, even the sparrow's fall.

This is no superficial comfort. Jesus himself has entered the abyss: suffering, death, even our sense of forsakenness, and he has come through it. That is why his words, "Do not be afraid," hold such weight. They do not erase the abyss but build a bridge across it.

Faith is not pretending everything is fine. It is staring into the abyss and still choosing trust. And in that trust, we discover we are never alone. Christ stands with us, and the Father's care surrounds us. That is the only comfort deep enough for our (often fearful) hearts.

— Father John Muir

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Observances of the Week

- Sunday: 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Father's Day
Monday: St. Paulinus of Nola, Bishop; Ss. John Fisher, Bishop, and Thomas More, Martyrs
Wednesday: The Nativity of St. John the Baptist
Saturday: St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Next Sunday: 13th Sunday in Ordinary Time

©LPi



*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

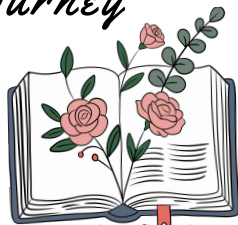
INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light." We all hear God's voice whispering in our hearts. Discipleship means speaking those words out loud. We all feel the Spirit sing into our souls. Discipleship means that we dance to the tune. ©LPi

Women's Sacred Journey

Saturday, June 27 at 9:00am

Faith Formation Office
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.

ANNUAL PETER'S PENCE COLLECTION

NEXT WEEKEND

JUNE 27/28

This annual collection is used to support the evangelical and charitable work of the Holy Father throughout the world.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Envelopes for this collection can be found at the church entrances or donate online through our website or QR code. Checks must be payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.



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

Thank you to all who have responded. St. Vincent Ferrer Parish has received \$21,414.00 in pledges or gifts.

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.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Jer 20:10-13

Question: Jeremiah trusts in the Lord despite his fear of being attacked and persecuted. Can you think of a time when you had to totally trust in God?

2nd Reading: Rom 5:12-15

Question: Paul compares and contrasts the impact of Adam and Christ on our lives. Who would you say has made the biggest impact on your life so far?

Gospel: Mt 10:26-33

Question: Jesus warns his disciples against spiritual forces that seek to destroy both the body and the soul. Where do you see malevolent spiritual forces at work in our world?

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Absolution, penance, and confession all refer to which Sacrament? ©LPi

Answer: Sacrament of Reconciliation



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

There was a certain sister in the Carmelite convent who particularly tried the patience of St. Therese of Lisieux.

But instead of avoiding this person, St. Therese instead made a point of smiling at her whenever the two met.

“Charity must not consist in feelings, but in works,” wrote St. Therese. “I set myself to doing for this Sister what I would do for the person I loved the most.” In doing so, she learned to see “Jesus hidden in the depths” of this woman’s soul.

St. Therese was growing in the virtue of affability when she did this. Affability is attached to justice, writes St. Thomas Aquinas, and demands “that we behave pleasantly to those among whom we dwell.” (Sum., II:II, 114, Art. 2)

In being affable, we make ourselves friendly, approachable, and agreeable to those around us, regardless of how they make us feel. “How good and how pleasant it is when brothers dwell together as one,” writes King David in Psalm 133. ©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Priestly Ordination of Men

Question: Why are only men allowed to be priests or deacons in the Church?

Answer: One of the most debated and — in some circles — contentious teachings of the Church is that only men can be ordained as priests and deacons. Critics see it as a way of strengthening a patriarchal system in which women have little or no voice. Those who support this teaching look to New Testament teaching (where we read of Jesus choosing only men to be apostles) and the long-standing practice of the Church. This was certainly the perspective of St. John Paul II who, in his 1994 apostolic letter, *Ordinatio Sacerdotalis*, closed the discussion on the possibility of ordaining women as priests.

In the letter, he reflected on the dignity of women and their call to share in the life and mission of the Church, but he concluded by solemnly declaring that “the Church has no authority whatsoever to confer priestly ordination on women and that this judgement is to be definitely held by all the Church’s faithful” (no. 4).

This position has been upheld by Pope Francis in interviews, most notably as he returned from his 2016 visit to Sweden.

The ordination of women to the diaconate is another question and one which is being studied. In 2016, Pope Francis created a 12-member commission to study the question from several perspectives (theological, liturgical, historical, etc.). The commission issued an initial report for Pope Francis who later said that the commission had not yet produced a “definite response” to the question because of a lack of agreement on the role of female deacons in the Early Church.

For now, however, regardless of what changes might come from ongoing study and debate, the Church continues to reserve ordination to the diaconate to men only, recognizing a vital link between the diaconate and the priesthood and the lack of certainty about the presence and function of female deacons throughout history. ©LPi

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

June 27/28, 2026

MASS	4:00PM	9:00AM
Sacristan	P Miles	D Tourville
Reader #1	T Riley	R Grant
Reader #2	P Miles	J Kosnak
EME	J McCown	T Karolski
EME	T Riley	R Grant
EME	M Kairis	M Waskowski
Greeter	M Smith	D McLaughlin
Greeter	L Collins	M McLaughlin
Greeter	N Oparka	P Rarus
Greeter	T Oparka	R Juska-Svoba

Traveling Chalice Host Beginning June 27/28, 2026
Bernie Turchin



The Wonders of God

When I was a teenager, after a homecoming dance one year I took my date for a walk on the Potomac in downtown Alexandria. The moon was out and I was struck by how the light shimmered on the water. I remember focusing to try to see all the details of the dancing rays on the ripples. My date didn't see it and didn't really get it. She thought it was no big deal. It was a great date and a fun night, but for that one moment we saw the world from two completely different vantage points.

Two of the greatest gifts from God to each of us are life and time. Without taking care, we can easily miss the grandeur and beauty of both. Being mindful as an everyday steward means pausing to see the detail in all that exists around us. God's creation is not something created with a broad brush, but instead with the intricacies of a master painter.

God created all things with purpose and a complexity only the divine could fully comprehend. Every single hair on our head has been counted! But when we take a moment to reflect on the beauty that is created by that complexity, we allow ourselves to revel in God's generosity. There is so much to give thanks for in this life. But you and I can't give thanks to God unless we really stop to take notice. When was the last time you stared in awe at the moon?

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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2026 Holy Land Pilgrimage Meeting

Terra Sancta Pilgrimages, with Franciscan friar Fr. Alex Kratz, will be leading a Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land October 12-22, 2026. This life-changing 10-day experience of walking in Jesus' footsteps includes daily Mass & Rosary, biblical readings on site, time for prayer, spiritual guidance, and meeting local Christians. **A mandatory Orientation Meeting will be held on Sunday, June 21, 2:00-4:30 pm at the Lower Level of St. Joseph Chapel (400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48341).** Registration begins at the Orientation Meeting, first come, first serve. For more information call/text Spiritual Director Fr. Alex: 313-727-9784.

FEAR NO ONE

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

In the 1883 painting “Mass in a Connemara Cabin,” a small congregation of shabbily dressed faithful is huddled together in a sparsely appointed room. A priest extends his hand over them in blessing. One woman presses her forehead to the ground in prayer.

This painting, created in 1883 by Aloysius O’Kelley, depicts a “station Mass,” offered for the community in a private home. Though this practice originated in the period of the Penal Laws, when Catholic worship was illegal in Ireland, it persisted even after the “emancipation” of Catholics in the 19th century.

I have used quotation marks around the word “emancipation” because we must never forget that just because something is made legal does not mean it is made popular. And it certainly is not made safe.

In the moments that pass immediately after this scene concludes, the altar candles will be extinguished and the faithful will disperse, carrying the Body and Blood of Christ into a world suspicious of him, suspicious of them.

And yet here they are, kneeling. Foreheads pressed to the floor.

This painting sits on my family’s prayer table as a call to reflection. I make my living writing Catholic things for Catholic publications. The people who read what I write are bound to agree with me — they’re usually reading my words in a church. I must confess that in my personal life, I am far less bold. I fear controversy. I dread giving offense. I buckle beneath the weight of discipleship.

It doesn’t matter that most Americans identify as “Christians” — the world we face when we leave Mass is every bit as resentful of true Catholic teaching as the world that lies beyond O’Kelley’s Connemara cottage. And while I do not fear those who can kill my body, I do fear those who can kill my reputation.

“Mass in a Connemara Cabin” illustrates how my ancestors worshiped: in secret, in shadow.

I worship in the daylight.

Which of us acknowledges Christ more fully? More courageously?
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The number of Christians exposed to persecution and at risk of suffering violence worldwide rose by 8 million people compared to last year—reaching a record 388 million.

(from a January 16, 2026 Vatican news article)



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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



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 13/14, 2026

Financial Stewardship Giving - Week Ending June 13/14, 2026				
Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Envelopes Used & e-fund participants	240	107		
Offertory	5,185.00	5,409.27	224.27	27,721.64
Energy/Hospitality/Flowers/Candles/Mass Intentions	472.00	529.00	57.00	2,288.25
Fundraising: Budget Deficit Envelopes/CSA Refunds	1,673.00	241.00	(1,432.00)	(43,616.68)
Bequests: Free Will		20.00		3,357.00
AOD Collection:				
Holy Days: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary		5.00		5,303.00
CSA 2026 Pledged 21,414.00		CSA Paid 19,109.00		

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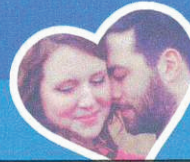
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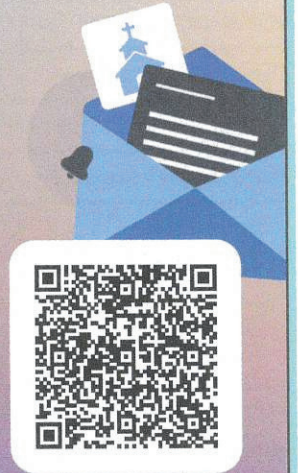
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