



## *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church*

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

JUNE 28, 2026 † 13<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### **From The Pastor**

Let me begin today by sharing with you what I know about the rhythm of changes that will begin this week. I will be present for Mass this week on Monday and Tuesday at 8am. June 30<sup>th</sup> will be my last day in the parish.

Going forward, until we can find a priest able and willing to commit to a daily Mass for the next year, there will no longer be a daily Mass at our site. We will offer Liturgy of the Word without communion on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9am. Music will be offered for adoration on Tuesday after the Word service. The rosary will be prayed on Thursdays after the Word service.

A Confession schedule will be determined by Fr. Paul Snyder. Registration for Religious Formation will take place at St. Mary's in Royal Oak. With less than ten children in the program it is no longer a viable per cost or effective learning environment.

All other regular ministries and services will be offered on Sunday at the 9:00 am Mass. All ministers and greeters scheduled for this Mass are to hold their assignments. New scheduling will be out soon to accommodate and include as many Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, and Sacristans as possible. As I mentioned, please be most welcoming and accommodating as we invite the 4 pm Mass people into the Sunday morning Mass time. Please share your regular seat if necessary. Be attentive to Mass announcements and the Bulletin to stay informed of changes or times of parish offerings, or other parish news. I am confident you will warmly welcome whatever priest comes to offer Mass. Please pray for your priest and encourage his good efforts.

By way of encouragement and appreciation, I will attempt to name many of the ministries and generous volunteers who share their time and talent for the good of others. A full-hearted thank you to the Funeral Lunch teams, the Gardening group, Homebound Ministers and Nursing Home Eucharistic ministers. Sacristans, Readers, EM's, greeters, and the Choir. Those who have served on Parish Council, any of the Commissions, Leadership Team, Parish Intercessors with Eucharistic Adoration, Men's and Women's prayer groups, the Rosary group, the Cards for Shut-ins, the Prayer Blanket ministers and the Healing Teams. Those on the Hospitality teams, Coffee and Donut servers, and the many years of service by our Ushers. I am grateful for all volunteers and active participants in each of our many parish offerings. Each and all of you are to be commended for your commitments and

generous service for the sake of others and your own spiritual enrichment. There is never enough said in the way of thanks to so many. For all whom I may have failed to include, you are included and deeply appreciated. This is a strong parish. Pray for a priest, and a strong future, and keep doing what you are doing for the Lord.

Considering today's gospel, allow the love of Christ to flow into you and through you to others. Doing so will help wash away doubt, fear, and mistrust. It will help you feel connected and less lonely through the experience of belonging to something larger than yourself. This takes a ready mindfulness of the awareness of Christ ever-present within you. We are called to be in the mind and attitude of Christ holding his thoughts along with our own lest we go our way unaware of the One who is our Source and Origin. We are invited to depend on the thoughts and ways of the Lord rather than following the course of our own plans. This reminds us we are never alone. Too often we fall into a dull awareness of self-preoccupation of our own interests and concerns. Pay attention to where your attention takes you, always drawing yourself back to an awareness of the presence of the Lord in your daily activities.

Making our own plans, without the mind and the heart of the Lord, is how we lose ourselves without knowing it. When we direct our life and activity toward others in the way of Christ we more fully find ourselves through shared love and service for the sake of others. We are blessed and enriched by the grace we share and so is the other person. As we reflected last week, God in the Trinity is an endless flow of giving and receiving of love. This is the way of the Cross. The way of the Cross is not how much suffering we endure, the problems we face, or the hurts and disappointments we encounter. The Cross of Christ is the Cross of love with a mindful readiness to be available to the needs of others. As we learn to serve others, they will in turn learn to do the same. The grace of God's love flows into us and through us to others. The world becomes better, more Christ-filled when we live in this manner.

I see so many of you living in just this way. It has been a blessing to serve you as you have served and challenged me to be my better self in self-giving love for you. Please pray for me as I will do for you. God bless you all.

Father John Esper

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday and Tuesday  
(this week only)

### WEEKEND MASS

Sunday - 9:00am - also livestreamed



This Week - Adoration on Tuesday  
following the 8am Mass until  
to 10:00am

Liturgy of the Word 9:00am  
(also livestreamed)  
followed by Rosary on  
Thursday



Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in  
Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or  
connect via our APP or website

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**St. Mary: 730 S Lafayette, Royal Oak 48067**

Tuesday: 7:30pm to 8:30pm

Friday: 6:30am to 7:30am

Saturday: 3:00pm to 4:00pm

**National Shrine: 2100 W 12 Mile Royal Oak 48073**

M thru F: following 6:30am Mass until all heard but no later than 8am

Saturday: following 8:30am Mass until all heard but no later than 10am

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071

248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721

Website: [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

### 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 29, 2026**

8:00am Mass: Fr. John Esper (In Thanksgiving for his  
leadership and for Blessings in Retirement) req. by SVF Staff

**TUESDAY, June 30, 2026**

8:00am Mass: Ben Guç† req. by Mary Jane Guç

**SUNDAY, July 5, 2026**

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Antonina Miceli† req. by Virga Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Jason Bertolini† req. by Family

Mike Kapolka (3<sup>rd</sup> R.A.) req. by wife, Helen



**Blessed  
is the nation  
whose God is  
the LORD.**

PSALM 33:12

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- 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
- Monday: Acts 12:1-11/ Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/2  
Tm 4:6-8, 17-18/Mt 16:13-19
- Tuesday: Am 3:1-8; 4:11-12/Ps 5:4b-6a, 6b-7, 8/  
Mt 8:23-27
- Wednesday: Am 5:14-15, 21-24/Ps 50:7, 8-9, 10-11,  
12-13, 16bc-17/Mt 8:28-34
- Thursday: Am 7:10-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 9:1-8
- Friday: Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29
- Saturday: Am 9:11-15/Ps 85:9ab and 10, 11-12, 13  
14/Mt 9:14-17
- Next Sunday: Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-  
14/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30

# BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

JULY 4 TO JULY 26

## Supplies Requested

- Backpacks
- 2 Pocket Folders
- Composition notebooks
- Markers/Washable Markers
- Highlighters
- Glue sticks
- Colored Pencils & Erasers
- Scissors - blunt-tipped & regular
- 24 Pack Crayons
- Rulers
- 5-Star Notebooks: 1 subject
- White Binders 1 1/2 "
- Wide & college ruled paper
- Index Cards
- #2 Pencils/Pens
- Pencil Cases & Pencil Sharpeners



*Thank You  
Fr. John*



*Heavenly Father,*

*We come before you with grateful hearts filled with thanksgiving for the life, love, ministry and faithful service of Your servant and our Pastor, Fr. John. We thank You for the wisdom he has given through his homilies and spiritual guidance, and the compassion he has shown in his ministry of healing and deliverance. Above all, we thank You for his leadership and the love and dedication he has offered in serving the temporal, spiritual, and sacramental needs of our parish family the past twenty-one years. We will miss him!*

*Although Father John retires from his daily administrative responsibilities, he will always remain a priest answering whenever You call. We ask You to abundantly bless him with some well deserved rest and relaxation, the joy of good memories, new opportunities to enrich his life, the peace of a grateful heart, and all the love You can grace him with as he continues his earthly pilgrimage.*

*Amen.*



## *Independence Day Prayer*

*On this 4th of July, let us remember from whom all our freedoms originate, our good and gracious God.*

*Let us pray...*

*God, giver of all good gifts,  
Help us to be thankful for rest and food,  
and remember that, in all we do or say,  
you are with us, here this day.*

*We are thankful for all you do  
and for everything you have given us.*

*But above all we are thankful for our freedoms  
and the ability to protect others' freedom.*

*We are free because of you.*

*We ask for your continued blessing on all your creation.*

*Through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## Independence Day

Today throughout the United States, we celebrate our freedom. Our rights are protected and opportunities abound. We recognize that freedom has a cost, one we celebrate and honor on days such as this. It's good to honor those who fight for our country, who may well pay the ultimate price for the liberties we're afforded. As faithful Catholics, we recognize that there is more to freedom than simply being at liberty to make our lives what we want them to be. St. John Paul II reminds us: "Freedom is not just doing what we can, it is doing what we ought." We become freer within ourselves and within our relationships when we choose what is right and good. When we choose sin, we become trapped in egoism - less free, not more. This Independence Day, let's continue to pursue virtue and good character and encourage others to do this same. ©LPi



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

Thank you to all who have responded. St. Vincent Ferrer Parish has received \$ 27,444.00 in pledges or gifts. We have reached 70% of our target.

**REMINDER:**

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.



*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*

## 13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

I still remember the first homily I ever preached as a new deacon. It was at the seminary, and the Gospel was this one: “Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:37-38) Standing before more than 200 classmates and professors, I stumbled awkwardly through my words and realized how strange — almost insane — this teaching sounded. If anyone else said it, we would call it narcissistic or cultish.

And that is the point. I felt the weight of those words in my own heart then, as I still do today. Am I willing to live as though Christ’s claim on my love is absolute? Are you?

Over the years, I’ve learned that the more I do, the more everything else makes sense. Family, friendships, vocation, even my very self: all of it falls into place when my love for Jesus comes first.

That is why he dares to speak this way. Our Lord is not a cult leader hungry for control. He is the Son of God, the source of life and love itself. To put him before everything else is not to lose, but to find... everything, and everyone, in him.

This week, name one thing or one person you are tempted to place before the Lord. Then consciously offer it back to him in prayer.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** 2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a

**Question:** The Shunammite woman is rewarded for her hospitality to the prophet Elisha. Is there a friend or colleague who needs your kindness this week?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Rom 6:3-4, 8-11

**Question:** Paul teaches the Romans that as believers, we have died and risen in Christ and now look forward to living in “newness of life.” Is there something you are really looking forward to?

**Gospel:** Mt 10:37-42

**Question:** Jesus sets a high standard for those who choose to follow him. What have you found most rewarding about following Jesus? ©LPi

**WHY DO WE DO THAT?  
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

**Works of Mercy**

**Question:** I’ve heard of the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. What are they, and what’s the difference?

**Answer:** As God has shown us mercy, so too are we called to show mercy to those we encounter. We see mercy throughout the Gospels, but the parable in Matthew 25 forms the foundation for the first set of Works of Mercy. This parable of the last judgment shows each person being asked how well they cared for those around them, and being reminded that this care for those in need is care for God Himself. Each person is asked if they have fed the hungry, given drink to the thirsty, clothed the naked, sheltered the stranger, cared for the sick, and visited the imprisoned. These — along with burying the dead — are the Corporal Works of Mercy, as they primarily concern the physical life of a person.

The list of the Spiritual Works of Mercy developed later. These actions of love primarily concern the inner life of a person. They are instructing the ignorant, counseling the doubtful, admonishing sinners, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving offenses, comforting the afflicted, and praying for both the living and the dead. All of these actions are concrete ways of bringing the love of God into the world. ©LPi

**Observances of the Week**

- Sunday: 13<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: Ss. Peter And Paul, Apostles
- Tuesday: The First Martyrs of the Holy Roman Church
- Wednesday: St. Junípero Serra, Priest
- Friday: St. Thomas, Apostle
- Saturday: Independence Day
- Next Sunday: 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi

**MEN’S FELLOWSHIP &  
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

Saturday, July 4 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.



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

**Discernment, Explained!**

We most often hear the term “discernment” when a man or woman prayerfully considers a religious vocation. This is a helpful context in which to think of the virtue of discernment, which all Christians are called to develop, lay and religious alike.

When a person hears a “call,” he cannot simply go — he must first figure out where the call is coming from. It’s not enough to simply have an idea of becoming a priest, a sister, a missionary, a husband, a wife — the idea needs a good, thorough background check. This is discernment, which “unmasks the lie of temptation, whose object appears to be good...when in reality its fruit is death,” says the Catechism. (CCC 2846)

We run this background check of discernment on our feelings, our intentions, and our inclinations under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through a diligent regimen of prayer and reflection. “The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius” is highly regarded as a useful tool for spiritual discernment. ©LPi

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

JULY 5, 2026

MASS	9:00AM
Sacristan	D Tourville
Reader #1	T Riley
Reader #2	P Allen
EME	M Simmons
EME	D Gray
EME	R Pasiak
Greeter	M McLaughlin
Greeter	D McLaughlin
Greeter	T Oparka
Greeter	N Oparka

**Traveling Chalice Host Beginning July 4/5, 2026  
Tom Karolski**

## RECEIVING

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA - JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What is the "Holy See"? ©LPi

**Answer:** The Pope, the Diocese of Rome, and sometimes the papal government.

## Putting God First

It took five years of marriage before I was ready to have that first baby. Of course, now that I have three children I cannot imagine a life without them. After twenty-five years, I cannot imagine life without my wife as well.

And I know that I am lucky. I know those who have lost children or have been widowed. They couldn't imagine life without their loved ones either.

The tough reality to digest is that we don't own those whom we love. They are all gifts from God, entrusted to each of us as good stewards. If we cling too tightly, we become like the steward who buried his talents in the ground. If we don't care enough, we become like the prodigal son who squandered his gifts on gambling and frivolous living.

But can we love our loved ones too much? I am not sure it is possible to love others too much if it is genuine love. However, if we truly love them, then we will want to lead them to the One that gave them to us in the first place: God. We do that by demonstrating that no one comes before God in our lives, not even our family.

In this world, our loved ones make living meaningful. But this world is not the end. As much as we love them here, our ultimate goal is for them to live eternally with God. May my wife and kids never think I chose them over God, so that they may choose God over all else, as well.

*Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*

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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.

I receive a lot of junk mail. I'm on a bunch of people's asking-for-money lists, and so were the people who owned this house before me, and when you put it all together, it results in quite the pile of paper accumulating on my counter.

I leave it there because, while I have received this mail, I don't want to receive it. Do you see the difference? To really receive someone or something, you have to look at it, assess it, make space for it. Accept it. Decide it will have a place in your home or your life or whatever, and give it that place.

It's what the righteous woman did with Elisha. She received him. She had a room all ready, waiting for him, even when he wasn't there.

But I refuse to receive the junk mail. I don't have space for it, in my head or on my counter, so after a day or two, I just throw it away without looking through it.

"Whoever receives me receives the one who sent me," Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Matthew.

But what does that mean, exactly?

It's easy to receive Jesus, or at least to receive the Jesus presented to us by modern imagination — that laidback hippie who lets anyone sit at his table, no questions asked. But it's harder to receive the Christ, God the Son, who is consubstantial with God the Father who sent him.

Ah, yes, God the Father — maybe you've heard of Him? He's the one from the Old Testament who says and does a bunch of things that make modern people uncomfortable.

That's a little more of a challenge, isn't it? Takes a little bit more thought. A little more assessment. A little more making-space.

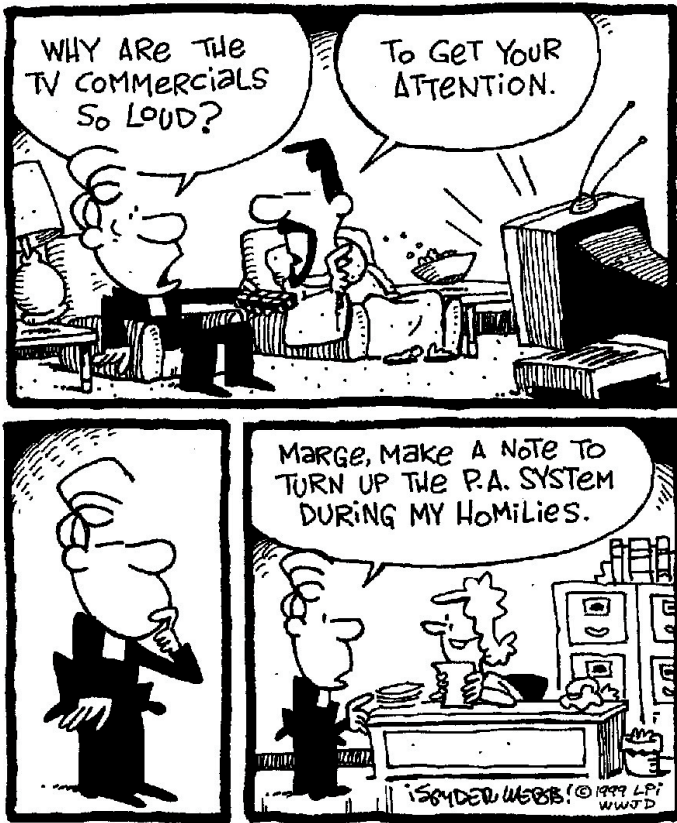
Can we do it? Well, we have to find a way. Because for the record, laidback hippie Jesus doesn't exist. And Old Testament God makes a lot of sense, if you give Him a little thought. If you make a little space.

So make the space. Receive. ©LPi

### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Whoever receives the one sent in Christ's name receives Christ. Whoever loves the Word of God loves God Himself. Who is Christ sending to you in his name this week? What Word do they speak into the stillness of your soul? Receive them. Receive him.

©LPi



# 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

**REPORT ABUSE**

To make a report or contact the Abuse Hotline:

EMAIL [reportabuse@aod.org](mailto:reportabuse@aod.org)

PHONE 313-237-6060

TOLL FREE 866-343-8055



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 20/21, 2026

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Envelopes Used & e-fund participants	240	108		
Offertory	5,185.00	8,930.48	3,745.48	31,467.12
Energy/Hospitality/Flowers/Candles/Mass Intentions	472.00	214.00	(258.00)	2,030.25
Fundraising: Budget Deficit Envelopes/CSA Refunds	1,673.00	110.00	(1,563.00)	(45,179.68)
Bequests: Free Will				
AOD Collection: Peter's Pence		50.00		50.00
Holy Days				5,303.00
CSA 2026 Pledged \$27,444.00		CSA Paid \$24,874.00		

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