



St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, Michigan www.stvincentferrer.net

MAY 7, 2023 † FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From The Pastor

I am hoping you have received in the mail this week my annual letter in support of the Catholic Services Appeal. We are all aware that this annual appeal sustains and supports the Archdiocese of Detroit in the work of living and promoting the gospel. As a parish, St. Vincent Ferrer has a strong record of generosity in support of the larger Church and our local community.

This year's appeal, "Go and Announce the Gospel of the Lord," continues to support the initiatives of Evangelization. This is a critical endeavor in a time of waning Church attendance and social behaviors that lean away from Christian values. Although the greatest threat of the pandemic appears to have past, many negative consequences remain.

For several years, parishes have been asked to take annual counts of Mass attendance at various times of year. In 2019, our weekly Sunday attendance was 780. In 2022, our average weekly attendance was 220. We currently remain at this level of Mass participation. With this sharp decline, we have seen a similar decline in the offertory collections. This is not just our parish. Statistics show that the parishes in our family, and across the Archdiocese, have similar declines in both attendees and offertory giving. These kinds of numbers speak for themselves.

As I note in my appeal letter, our Charter School numbers are another consequence of the pandemic. Student counts have fallen resulting in rent income decreasing by \$120,000 per year. Our offertory collections have declined more than \$30,000 per year. This has been a five-year trend only exacerbated by the pandemic. I am more than open to hearing your wisdom to motivate and inspire those who have surrendered their regular church attendance.

Our CSA goal this year is \$41,753. This is a \$6,325 decrease from last year's goal. In the last four years our CSA goal has declined by over \$41,000. This reason is due to the drop in our annual offertory collections. We are currently \$150,000 shy of our budget projections. We continue to be very attentive to our spending against this decline. We are all aware of increased costs across the board. We cannot ignore increases in utilities, insurance, general office expenses, and fair salary increases. We have a minimum staff who are fully engaged in managing the demands of an active parish. We can only push the budget so far in the red before the numbers just do not match the reality.

If possible, please repeat or increase your gift to the

CSA. If you make a pledge, we will be most grateful if you can fulfill this commitment. We will also add a 'Budget Deficit' envelope to our offertory packet. If you can increase your weekly offertory, please do so. If you can make an occasional gift through the Budget Deficit envelope, it would be a significant help.

Last year, we exceeded our CSA by more than \$5,000. A similar or greater return to the parish would help to ease the current tension. I commend you for your commitment and generosity to the parish and to the work of the larger Church. We are not alone. Many, if not most parishes, face these same circumstances, some worse than others. I thank you for receiving this message and I have every hope in your generous response. I will also increase my gift to the CSA. As we look forward, I will keep you informed if other pertinent information comes forth. If necessary, we will consider other avenues of fundraising sensitive to our needs.

Jesus and the early disciples were not free from hard times. The scene of today's gospel is at the Last Supper. Jesus is in anticipation of his death. His own faith is charged with deep trust in the Father's love and support. Despite great challenges, Jesus is secure going forward. His deep concern is for the disciples who will suffer the trauma of his death and the loss of his physical presence. Jesus knows their faith will be greatly tested. He works to assure them of his constant presence.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in me." As Jesus is secure in the love of his father, he calls the disciples to do the same. Mindful of the human insecurity and fear of the disciples in a dramatically changing time, Jesus models for them the trust he has in the Father even as he faces death. Note the primary desire of Jesus is to do the Father's will. Jesus is not on his own. He is only doing what he knows and sees of his Father's will.

We are not alone. Jesus is with us and is fully aware of our circumstance as a parish, diocese, country, world, and universe. "The Father who dwells in me is doing his works." I find this consoling and comforting even in the uncertain times we find ourselves. God knows all and has a will for our parish. It is not ours to be afraid or anxious. The challenge is to realize God's will for our community and do all we can to fulfill it. Be at peace. Do your best. Fear is useless, what is needed is trust. God bless each of you.

Father John Esper

Liturgical Schedule

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



Live Streaming of Mass
Monday thru Thursday 8:00am
and Sunday 9:00am

Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45am to 10:00am

LIVESTREAMING Livestream of Rosary on Thursday following 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

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday

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

Friday - 9am to Noon - Closed Saturday & Sunday

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Office

Hours: Monday thru Thursday Noon-3pm or
by appointment 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720

Mass INTENTIONS

MONDAY, May 8, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

TUESDAY, May 9, 2023

8:00am Mass: Tom Esper† req. by Family

WEDNESDAY, May 10, 2023

8:00am Mass: Richard Collins† req. by Dolores Bail

THURSDAY, May 11, 2023

8:00am Mass: Mike Higgins† req. by Family

SATURDAY, May 13, 2023

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

Gaeton D'Arca† req. by O'Dells

Peter Conway req. by Mom

Richard Collins† req., by Tim & Nancy Oparka

Rick & Sheila Marone req. by Debbie Tourville

SUNDAY, May 14, 2023

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

Pat Ranney† req. by Nancy Sadowski

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Shawn Levitt† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

Annabelle Malotke† req. by The Vaughns

Richard Collins† req. by Stan & Linda Yolkiewicz


Jesus said
"I am the way, and the truth
and the life."

John 14:6

Readings for the Week


May 7, 2023

Sunday: Acts 6:1-7/Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 (22)/1 Pt 2:4-9/Jn 14:1-12
Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab, 21/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18-21
Next Sunday: Acts 8:5-8, 14-17/Ps 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 (1)/1 Pt 3:15-18/Jn 14:15-21



CSA 2023
CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Please help reach our target of \$41,753.00



Information on CSA Campaign 2023 has been mailed to parishioners. To make a pledge or contribute by mail, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided. **Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN** Donations can be made online at our website: www.stvincentferrer.net using the donations tab or see the other ways to give on the pledge card.

Pledge cards are available at the parish office for those who are not registered at SVF and would like to make a pledge or contribution.



May Crowning
This Monday
6:30pm

May is the “Month of Mary”

All are invited to join the staff and young people in our Faith Formation Program as they end their year of formation in honoring Our Blessed Mother with a prayer service and the crowning of her statue in church.

Fellowship and ice cream will follow the prayer service.



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis.
...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship and from complications caused by catastrophic weather, earthquakes and disasters
...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 especially during this crisis. 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



ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION
 2nd & 4th Mondays at 7pm
 Administration Bldg. Patio

The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the second and fourth Mondays of the month - May thru August, 2023.

If the weather is intolerable, we will not meet but ask all to pray the rosary in private. The Immaculata group prayers will be prayed at 6:30pm and the rosary will begin at 7:00pm.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

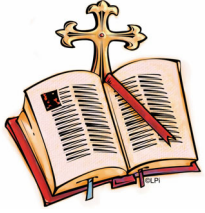
SPECIAL NOTE: This Monday, the second Monday of May, the Immaculata prayer group will be attending the May Crowning Prayer Service and praying the rosary in church after the service is ended. All are welcome to stay and pray with us.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter
- Wednesday: St. John of Avila, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Damien de Veuster, Priest
- Friday: Sts. Nereus and Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr
- Saturday: Our Lady of Fatima
- Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter; Mother’s Day

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, May 13, 2023 at 9am
Faith Formation Office in School



The men’s fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday at 9am in the Faith Formation Office of the school building. All men are welcome. No registration is required.



FOOD PANTRY

Our food Pantry has closed, but if you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

EYEGASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:30pm in the church



GARDEN MINISTRY SEEKS HELPING HANDS MONDAY, May 22nd - 9am

Spring is here and our Garden Ministry needs help with initial planting of the flower beds on our parish grounds. If you are available and would like to help, please meet in the Herbert Street parking lot after the 8am morning Mass.

Some of the members are no longer able to participate in this ministry, and new members are needed. The members maintain the gardens, especially with watering, during the summer months. A rotation basis can be set up. Call the Parish Office or see Linda Yolkiewicz for more information.

5th Sunday of Easter

If you had to summarize the essential core of the Christian life, what would it be? Mercy, truth, or love, perhaps? The readings today suggest another word which may surprise you. That word is *priesthood*.

St. Peter says to us, **“You are a ‘chosen race, a royal priesthood...’**” To be part of a priesthood is to offer a particular sacrifice in order for the community to survive and thrive. Jesus is the great high priest because he offers the one perfect sacrifice which heals and perfects the entire human race. Peter the Apostle wants us to know that all the baptized share in this priestly ministry. The whole of our lives, including every detail, is meant to become our acceptable offering to God.

The baptized exercise this priesthood in many ways, I’ll mention three. At Sunday Mass, in private prayer, and in daily work. At Mass, we offer the sacrifice of our lives with that of the priest, who symbolizes Christ the Priest. In our prayer, a “morning offering” prayer is a great way to offer up all the joys and sufferings of the day to come. In our daily work, we sacrifice our time, comfort, money, and energy to do good for others. All this gives the deepest possible meaning to our lives: we share in the priesthood which saves the world. That’s at the core of our faith.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Acts 6:1-7

We hear today of some of the practical problems (assisting widows) the early Christians faced with the growing Church in Jerusalem. They solved the problem with division of labor. Which of your co-workers or friends need your help this week to carry a burden?

Second Reading: 1Pt 2:4-9

Peter contrasts those with faith who announce the praises of God to those without faith who disobey God’s word. How do you react to family or friends who are without faith?

Gospel: Jn 14:1-12

Jesus assured his disciples that “whoever believes in me will do the works that I do.” How do you think you imitate Jesus?

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Ministry Schedule

May 13/14, 2023

Mass	8:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	T Karolski
Reader #1	R Pasiak	A Goll
Reader #2	T Riley	D Gray
EME	J McCown	A Goll
	R Pasiak	P Allen
	M Kairis	M Black
Greeters	R Bertolini	B Turchin
	L Collins	J Turchin
	R Pasiak	M Bessler
	T Pasiak	P Miles

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

To those who persist in faith, the truth is a living stone, strong enough to support the weight of real joy. To those who despair of faith, it is a stumbling block. The truth will always be in their way.

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Last Sunday three of our young people were welcomed to the Eucharistic table to receive Jesus - Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity for the first time.

David Hatfield Arianna Lechuga Sofia Vu

Our Parish Family congratulates them on this step in their faith journey and wishes them continued blessings as their relationship with Jesus in the Eucharist matures.



“The more Eucharist we receive, the more we will become like Jesus so that on the earth we will have a foretaste of heaven.”

Blessed Carlos Acutis, patron saint of the National Eucharistic Revival

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

OBLIGATION: MASS OR COMMUNION?

Question: Are Catholics obligated to attend Mass each Sunday, or receive Communion each Sunday?

Answer:

The questions about Mass attendance and the reception of Holy Communion are clearly outlined in what are traditionally called the “Precepts” of the Church. These specific teachings are intended to stand alongside the Ten Commandments as fundamental practices for Catholics and are outlined in the Code of Canon Law. The obligations related to Mass attendance and receiving Communion are outlined in the first and third precepts, which we find quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (no. 2042):

The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

Rather than seeing these as obligations that are simply to be fulfilled out of a sense of duty, Pope Saint John Paul II reminds us of the grace that is made available to us when we gather for Sunday celebrations of the Eucharist: “Sunday is the day which is at the very heart of the Christian life... Time given to Christ is never time lost, but is rather time gained, so that our relationships and indeed our whole life may become more profoundly human” (Dies Domini, no. 7).

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“Blessed Are They Who Mourn”

An afternoon of enrichment and fellowship is planned for Saturday, June 3, 2023 for any person who is involved in the grief process over the loss of a loved one. This afternoon will include a salad lunch, a time of fellowship, a presentation by Sister Sally Smolen, RSM, PhD, directed activity, and a prayer experience. Attendees are invited to bring a picture or an item that would memorialize your loved one.

Time: 12:30pm to 3:30pm.

Place: Parish Administration Building.

Fee: A free will love offering and a salad dish to pass.

To register: call parish office (248)542-8720 by Wednesday, May 31, 2023.

May 13th



“Mary appeared in Fatima (Portugal) every month from May to October 1917. She delivered a series of messages during that time to three young children, Lúcia dos Santos and her cousins Francisco and Jacinta Marto. While



Mary discussed many things with the children, the message of Our Lady of Fatima can be summarized with three invitations:

1. Learn to pray the rosary, the prayer that can change the world.
2. Get spiritually healthy with penance and reparation.
3. Let Mary guide you to lasting happiness.

The message is simple and practical, yet it is profound and life changing.” Except from: www.dynamiccatholic.com/rosary/the-fatima-message

For more information on Our Lady, the miracle and the message of Fatima, especially for children visit: https://kids.kiddle.co/Our_Lady_of_Fatima



FAMILIES OF PARISHES

Getting to Know Our Saints...

Venerable Patrick Peyton



Venerable Father Patrick Peyton was born in Ireland on January 9, 1909, to a devout Catholic family with nine children who prayed the rosary together every single day. Despite his early interest in a priestly vocation, Patrick... dropped out of school to work on his family's farm... He immigrated to the United States at 19 years old.

Patrick eventually landed as the sexton, or as he referred to the job — “a janitor” — in St. Peter’s Cathedral ... which reignited Patrick’s interest in a vocation. As he was lacking his high school education, he entered the Congregation of Holy Cross in Notre Dame to finish his high school education and go on to study at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

During his second year at the university, Patrick was diagnosed with tuberculosis and had to leave school. In the infirmary, he dedicated himself to constant prayer, seeking the help and intercession of Mary, Mother of God... whom he credits for the miraculous healing of the disease. ...He returned to the university to finish his studies and take his vows, and was ordained on June 15, 1941, as a priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

During his first priestly assignment he began the Crusade for Family Prayer. He wrote letters to bishops, Catholic laity leaders, and other Catholic groups promoting the importance of praying the rosary together. Due to his life-long dedication to the Holy Mother and the rosary, he became known as “The Rosary Priest.” He coined the now popular phrases — “The family that prays together stays together” as well as “A world at prayer is a world at peace.”

Father Patrick’s hope was to inspire 10 million Americans to pray the rosary together in their homes — a goal he would eventually meet and exceed many times over. As his efforts were being made during a time when the world was at war and anxiety was high among American families, he continually preached that prayer would lead to peace and safety saying, “The rosary is the offensive weapon that will destroy Communism — the great evil that seeks to destroy the faith.”

... In 1947, Father Patrick founded Family Theater Productions, which still exists today, and made himself a major pioneer of mass-media evangelism often rubbing elbows with celebrities, artists, and famous leaders...

Father Patrick Peyton died peacefully in 1992 at age 83 while holding a rosary in his hands. Pope Francis declared that Father Patrick Peyton lived a life of heroic virtue on December 18, 2017, and gave him the title of venerable.

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MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY-8:30 am and
4:30 pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY-7:30 am, 9:30am (livestreamed), 11:30am
4:00 pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00 pm

WEEKDAYS (*Monday - Friday*)
6:30 am (livestreamed), 8:30 am

St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J)

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)

SATURDAY - 4 pm - St. Justin

SUNDAY - 9 am & 11 am - St. Mary Magdalen

MON-WED & FRI- 9am - St. Justin

St. Mary


730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30 pm

SUNDAY - 9 am, 11 am

MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30 am

WED - 12:10 pm

 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants	711
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	107
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 4,072.03
Loose Cash /Check Collection	470.00
Total	\$ 4,542.03
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 186.00

Prayer for the Beatification of Venerable Fr. Patrick Peyton

Dear Jesus,

Father Peyton devoted his priestly life to strengthening the families of the world by calling them to pray together every day, especially the rosary. His message is as important for us now as it was during his life on earth. We beg you, therefore, to hasten the day of his beatification so that your faithful people everywhere will remember his message that The Family That Prays Together Stays Together, will imitate him in his devotion to your Mother and ours, and will be inspired by his holy life to draw ever closer to you with childlike confidence and love. Amen.

(Prayer Source: <https://holycrosscongregation.org/holy-ones/servant-of-god-patrick-peyton/prayers/>) © LPI



PUZZLE



Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

- | | | |
|---------|--------|----------|
| HEARTS | PLACE | BELIEVE |
| TRUST | GOING | LIVING |
| PREPARE | FATHER | MIRACLES |

A T N A Y **H** O F N T W
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 T R U S T R F H A E T
 H A E F H T O E W L C
 N C Y A O **S** U R S I A
 S L H P B E L I E V E
 O E W L U T S H T I H
 F S T A H A E D R N D
 N H Y C B G O I N G E
 E L F E I A V T E H R

OFFICE OF PRIESTLY VOCATIONS DISCERNMENT GROUP

Next meeting Wed., May 17, 2022 – 7:00-8:30pm for men 18 to 55. New members can join at any time, as there is no requirement to have been at the last meeting. The previous nights have been a great success with many men excited to talk about their possible vocation to the priesthood. Meetings are led by Fr. Craig Giera, Director of Priestly Vocations, and will include prayer, group discussion on discernment, light refreshments, and fellowship with other like-minded men. Please contact the vocation office for more information: detroitpriestlyvocations.com/discernment-group/

Divorce Healing Retreat

Sponsored by National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica Family Ministry

COLOMBIERE RETREAT CENTER

9075 Big Lake Rd., Clarkston, MI 48346

**Saturday June 3 at 8:00am
to Sunday June 4 at 2:00pm**

Register at:

<https://FORMS.GLE/R74Vs1FYHxRxMD4K8>

Accommodations:

Single with Common Shower - \$160/per person

Questions: email, shrinedivorceministry@gmail.com or

Call 248-5419*4122

Talks Mass Prayer Quiet Time

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**Attention:
Students and all interested parties
who were involved with
St. Mary Magdalen School
Hazel Park
from 1946 until it closed in 2007.**



You are invited to join us for the Dedication and Blessing of the flagpole, which stood in front of the school now in front of the Church, that will take place on Sunday, May 21st after the 11:00AM Mass.

Be part of the



ROSARY

FIREWALL

PRAY THE POWER PRAYER!

Do you want to learn:

- How to pray the Rosary?
- How to teach the Rosary?

Do you want to learn:

- About the Virgin Mary?
- About the power of the Rosary?

Be A Rosary Warrior!

"I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary."

Come join us:

May 13, 2023

ROSARY CONFERENCE

10:00 – 3:00 pm

(3pm-MERCY ROSARY)

SOLANUS CASEY CENTER

1780 MT. ELLIOT ST.

DETROIT, MI 48207

Contact:

rosaryfirewall3@gmail.com

313-952-5081

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