

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

August 6, 2023 † THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD

From the Pastor

Jesus is never alone. God is the fulness of constancy and fidelity. Remaining fully Divine and becoming fully human, Jesus is not on his own to save the world. The Father and the Spirit are not merely a supporting cast from the safety of heaven while Jesus does the heavy lifting of our redemption. The Trinity is inseparable. They are the essence of undivided unity in a perfect communion of love.

As we read the account of the Transfiguration, is this revelation of the glory of Jesus his own doing or is it the doing of the Father. Is it the Holy Spirit? The answer is yes. Jesus does nothing on his own as he is never separated from the Father or the Spirit. Whose idea was the revelation of this glory? Did Jesus do it for his own sake? Did the Father do it as a support and affirmation for Jesus as the Divine Son? Did the Holy Spirit do it just to 'get in the game'? The answer again is yes.

In a mutual movement to reveal the nature and mission of the Son, the Father and the Spirit share in this epiphany of glory. Why? The mission of Jesus was to reveal the nature and identity of the Divine Father. The fullness of Divine Love is revealed in the redemptive work of the Son. Divine fullness is seen in the reality of the Cross. It is a two-fold reality. On the one hand, it is a wretched, ugly image of the disfigurement of evil and the disorder of human sin. On the other hand, it is the revelation of Divine beauty and truth. In the human suffering of Jesus through his death on the Cross, the truth of Divine love is on full view. Unlike the dumb suffering humans inflict on each other, the suffering of the Cross reveals and fulfills a Divine purpose. Love, unlimited, freely given and unmerited, makes visible the nature and intention of God. God will unite all creation in the Divine nature through the glory of the Cross accomplished in the person of Jesus.

The Transfiguration is both a human and Divine action. Peter, James, and John experience the Divine glory through the human Jesus. What effect did this impact have on Jesus and these disciples? For Jesus, it is an affirmation and a confirmation. At his Baptism, the Father reveals the nature and identity of the Son. In the Transfiguration, Jesus takes another step forward toward the fulfillment of the Cross. Jesus is neither shocked nor frightened. He becomes more fully aware of the Father's glory he will reveal to the world through the Cross.

For Peter, James, and John it's a mixed bag. They are immediately awed with the reverence of this spiritual

grace. However, typical to human experience, they are quickly overwhelmed. They are 'very much afraid' falling face down before the vision. This reveals the intention of the experience. As they approach the trauma of the Cross, both Jesus and the disciples must be prepared. Jesus is prepared by his surety in the Father's fidelity of goodness and love. The disciples are alerted to the glory of Jesus to secure them against all that will take place. The Divine plan unfolds in wisdom and compassion.

Much of the misery humans suffer comes from feeling unloved. This has many faces and countless causes. It comes to the fore in times of fearful experience that cause feelings of being alone, anxious, and vulnerable. This is what the three disciples feel. What felt like a wonderful moment becomes overwhelming. Fear and vulnerability kick in as these men feel completely out of control. Quickly Jesus assures them, 'Rise and do not be afraid.'

Glory is not all power and light. In the gospel of John, Jesus is in the fullness of his glory while on the Cross. Why? Because the fullness of God is revealed in a love beyond measure or understanding. It can only be trusted through maturing faith.

Golf is a hard game. It can be good for the soul if it doesn't kill you first. It can be fun, even enjoyable. We feel glory with a birdie, and even more with an eagle. I can assure you; I do not know the joy of that glory. Golf is often not fun. As hard as you try to make it go one way, it goes another way seemingly beyond your power to control.

The glory of God in Jesus is like that. Glory has a cost. True glory comes with hard work and often with some kind of suffering. This is true because glory is known and realized only through the hard work of goodness and truth. Goodness and truth are seen in the surrender of self -giving love for the sake of others. We see glory in those who struggle with courage and persistence for the sake of goodness driven by love.

In whom do you see glory? In whom do you see the light of goodness put into action through the surrender of self-giving love? Do you know people who seem to naturally get out of their own way for the sake of others? They are revealing the glory of God. Where might you see that in yourself? Maybe in a time of grace and favor of God's love. Maybe in a sweet moment of prayer. Maybe in a movement of willing surrender in service out of love. These are moments when we feel secure in God's love that motivate us to acts of love. We exist to reveal God's glory. Be secure in the constancy of Divine love and put that love into action.

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

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 SUMMER HOURS

Monday through Thursday 9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm Closed Friday, 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 Summer Office Hours: 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



MONDAY, August 7, 2023

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Deanna reg. by Mom

TUESDAY, August 8, 2023

8:00am Mass: Virginia Esper req. by Family

WEDNESDAY, August 9, 2023

8:00am Mass: Joseph Pantano† req. by Family

THURSDAY, August 10, 2023

8:00am Mass: For a Happy Death req. by George Kaspar

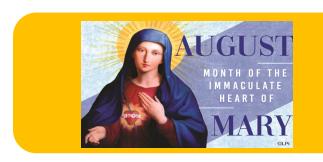
SATURDAY, August 12, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, August 13, 2023

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

Scarchilli Family req. by The Giszczaks Mike Kapolka† req. by Mary Jane Guc



READINGS THIS WEEK

August 6, 2023

Sunday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt

1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-

17/Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7,

12-13/Mt 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25—14:1, 26-29a, 34-35/

Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-22, 23/Mt

15:21-28

Thursday: 2 Cor 9:6-10/Ps 112:1-2, 5-6, 7-8, 9/Jn

12:24-26

Friday: Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and

21/Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and

51/Mt 17:14-20

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-

12, 13-14 (8)/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33





What is Christianity finally about?

These days if you ask almost anyone who doesn't know the Bible you'll probably hear

an answer like this: "Being a good person" or "following the golden rule." No offense to the golden rule, but our faith is simply much stranger than that. This week's feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord is a luminous example of this. Jesus becomes radiantly and overwhelmingly beautiful. The glory of God literally shines forth from his body and even his clothes. Here we see that Christianity is not mainly a moral system, but a relationship with God in Christ, one that finally makes human beings gloriously beautiful.

Now we can see our good and bad deeds in a new and de-centered way. Our morality isn't about a heaven or hell scorecard. It's about lives open (or closed) to transfiguration, lives capable of revealing the glory of God in Christ to the world. Spouses, children, friends, co-workers, priests, consecrated women and men, and so on — we are all called to let the beauty of Jesus make our lives beautiful, little by little. His beauty in us is the center of our faith.

— Father John Muir

TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE SIGN-UP

Individuals/families are needed to sign up to host the Traveling Vocations Chalice for a one week commitment. Prayers to promote vocation are included with the chalice. Sign up at the table near the Herbert St. vestibule.

ATTENTION MINISTERS

If your ministry does/might put you in contact with children, the homebound, senior citizens or involves a one-on-one encounter, the Archdiocese of Detroit is requiring recertification in the Protecting God's Children Program. Certification is only valid if received after 2020.

All others must recertify by August 31, 2023 through Virtus online at www.virtus.org If you don't already have an account with Virtus you can create one when you log in. If you have one and can't remember your password or username there is a button that says "i need help logging in"

If you do not have computer access, you can sign up to use a computer in the Parish Office. If questions, call the Parish Office - 248-542-8720.

TRANSFIGURED

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

We have all had moments when we seem to get a glimpse of Heaven.

For me, they come with the sacraments: in the pew following my First Communion, kneeling before the bishop as he sealed my forehead with oil at my Confirmation, standing opposite my husband on our wedding day, cradling my newborns as the priest poured holy water over their little foreheads, claiming them for Christ.

Moments when the veil between this world and the one to come is pulled away, and our hearts cry out: "Lord, it is good we are here."

Like Peter at the Transfiguration, we desperately wish the feeling would last forever. We want to hang onto the certainty, the confidence and the joy that radiates from our souls. We want to spend forever looking upon the transfigured face of Christ.

But we are not in heaven yet. We raise our eyes, seeing only this world before us, the words of Jesus ringing in our ears: "Rise, and do not be afraid."

"His dominion is an everlasting dominion that shall not be taken away, his kingship shall not be destroyed." — Daniel 7:14 ©LPi



Pray for...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. 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



FOOD PANTRY

If you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

EYEGLASSES & 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 MINISTRY MEETING

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:30pm in church. Those interested in becoming part of this ministry are welcome.

MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION August 12/13

Items requested:

Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like: Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including:

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable foods from:

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS August 13

Our Parish Nurse, Angela, will be checking blood pressures after the 9am Mass at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality next Sunday.

Mental Health Dart 2

STRUGGLING WITH MENTAL HEALTH SYMPTOMS—PART 2

What can I do if I am struggling with mental health symptoms? Self-care can play a role in maintaining your mental health and help support your treatment recovery if you have a mental health issue. Self-care can be different for everyone, and you need to find what works for you. In addition, self -care is not a cure for mental illness, but it can help you understand what causes or triggers your symptoms and what self-care measure works the best for you. So, if symptoms do not improve or seem to worsen, talk to your health care provider (HCP). Your HCP may recommend other treatments such as therapy or medications to help you.

Here are some self-care activities that can help.

- o Exercise even in small amounts can boost your mood.
- Eat healthy.
- o Sleep, stick to a schedule and make sure you're getting enough sleep.
- Relaxation that may include prayer, meditation, breathing exercises, muscle relaxation, or journaling.
- Setting goals and prioritizing can decrease stress and feeling overwhelmed. Say no to new tasks if you start to feel like you're taking on too much.
- o Be mindful of what you accomplished at the end of each day, not what you didn't do.
- Practice gratitude by reminding yourself of your blessings. Write them down at night, or just replay them in your mind.
- o Focus on positivity by challenging your negative unhelpful thoughts.
- Stay social and connected by reaching out to someone you trust.

If you are called upon by someone for help these are things that can help de-escalate a crisis.

- o Keep your voice calm and talk slowly.
- o Listen to the person.
- o Express support and concern. Let the person know they are important to you.
- o Ask how you can help and are they thinking about suicide.
- Encourage the person to seek treatment or contact their HCP. They can also call the national suicide and crisis lifeline at 988 or chat at 988lifeline.org, or text the crisis text line by texting HELLO to 741741.
- o If danger is imminent call 911

You as the friend or the person in crisis remember Psalm 18:6, In my trouble I called to the Lord. I cried out to my God for help. From his temple he heard my voice; my call reached his ears.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Dear Parishioners,

I hope you are all enjoying this beautiful summer! During these months, I have started preparing for religious education classes for the upcoming school year. Last year we had 24 students in our religious education program, but I believe we will have more this coming year.

I am in need of people to serve as catechists (teachers) in order for our program to grow. Classes meet on Monday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. beginning late September until the beginning of May. I know it sounds like a big commitment, and it is, but it is also vital to the future of the parish, and the Church, to have good teachers to pass faith on to this generation of children. Would you prayerfully consider becoming a catechist?

It is okay if you can't be there every single week. In fact, I am open to having 2 catechists in a class to "co-teach" that way if you miss a week, the other can step in. Additionally, we have people who are available to serve as substitutes.

If you are interested, please call me at 646-369-8619, or email me at matthew@stvincentferrer.net

If you are interested, but have some reservations, or would like more information, please call or email me. I would be happy to answer any questions you might have.

God bless, Matthew Zinser, DRE

Ministry Schedule

August 12/13, 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	T Riley	P Allen
Reader #2	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
EME	T Riley	P Allen
	R Pasiak	R Grant
	M Simmons	C McCarthy
Greeters	R Pasiak	N Oparka
	T Pasiak	T Oparka
	R Juska-Svoba	D Vu
	L Proszkowski	P Rarus

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of August 12/13

Jessie Giszczak

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

WHAT ARE "SPECIAL" MASSES?

Question: Why do Parishes Offer Special Masses like Thanksgiving and Memorial Day, even though they're not Holy Days of Obligation? Am I obligated to attend?

Answer:

Out of respect for the various civil celebrations that take place during the year, many dioceses and parishes will host special Masses. However, while it always worthwhile to come together to worship as a community, Catholics are not obligated to attend these celebrations. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church notes, the only times that we are obligated to participate in celebrations of the Eucharist are on Sundays and holy days of obligation:

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.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA-JUST FOR FUN

Question: What rank of ordination is open to married men?

Answer: The permanent deaconate

 $\\ \mathbb{C}LPi$

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14

In a vision, the prophet Daniel sees the heavenly throne of God and the coming kingdom of God represented by a human figure, a "son of man." The vision speaks to God's everlasting love and ultimate control of the world. Why do you think God reveals Himself in visions?

Second Reading: 2 Pt 1:16-19

Peter speaks of his eyewitness to the majesty of Jesus Christ. How might you witness to family or friends this week your beliefs about Jesus?

Gospel: Mt 17:1-9

The transfiguration reveals Jesus's divinity to Peter, James, and John, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him." What would you say is the most important lesson from Jesus that we should listen to?

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...

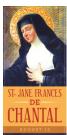
St. Clare of Assisi - August 11



As a girl in 12th century Italy, Clare heard the legendary St. Francis preaching in the square below her family home. Inspired, Clare snuck away in the middle of the night to join Francis and his followers. Francis cut her hair like the men and gave her a rough tunic and veil to wear. For the sake of propriety, Clare was placed in a Benedictine nun monastery for several years. As more women were drawn to the simple

spirituality, a new order was founded, now known as the Poor Clares. Despite requests from the pope himself to relax their vow of poverty, Clare stood firm in following the spirit of St. Francis. Clare's reputation for virtue spread and attracted women -- rich and poor alike -- to the new order that still exists today.

St. Jane Frances de Chantal - August 12



Saint Jane Frances de Chantal was born to a noble family in Dijon, France, on January 28, 1572. Her mother died when she was an infant. Her father raised her and provided for her education. In 159, she married the Baron de Chantal, the couple were devoted to each other. They had six children, three of whom died in infancy. As Baroness, Saint Jane Frances restored the

custom of daily Mass, and was famous for her charitable works. Unfortunately, her husband died in a hunting accident only eight years after their marriage. Devastated Jane Frances was forced to live in her father -in-law's strict household where she took a vow of chastity.

In 1604 while visiting her father in Dijon, she met Saint Francis de Sales and he became her close friend and spiritual director. Although not many of their epistles have survived, the pair had a lively correspondence which lasted until Saint Francis died.

Under the direction of St. Francis de Sales and with his partnership she established the Congregation of the Visitation at Annecy in 1610. This was a unique order, without the extreme ascetical practices typical in other religious orders, accepting women and girls and those rejected by other orders because of poor health or age. The new order was also unusual in its public ministry, rather than a strictly cloistered life. Saint Jane transformed her convent at Annecy into a hospital during the plague of 1628.

The saint died at the Visitation Convent in Moulin on December 13, 1641. At the time of her death, there were 86 convents of Visitation nuns. She was canonized in 1767 by Pope Clement XIII.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA-JUST FOR FUN

Question: True/False — The King James version of the Bible is approved by the Catholic church. ©LPi

Answer: False

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"Do not tell the vision to anyone until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead," Jesus told his disciples. Why keep such an amazing thing as the Transfiguration a secret? Because the world wasn't ready for the end of the story yet. Sometimes, the glory only makes sense after the trials.

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: The Transfiguration of the Lord Monday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions,

Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest

Tuesday: St. Dominic, Priest

Wednesday: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross,

Virgin and Martyr

Thursday: St. Lawrence, Deacon and Martyr

Friday: St. Clare, Virgin

Saturday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious Next Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time OLIPI

Prayer for the Transfiguration

Dear Lord,

The heavens and earth declare your glory! Fill our hearts with songs of praise for you, today and always! Come, Lord Jesus!

Amen. ©LPi

REAL PRESENCE

"The Church's firm belief in the Real Presence of Christ is reflected in the worship that we offer to the Blessed Sacrament in various ways, including Eucharistic Exposition, Adoration and



Benediction; Eucharistic Processions; and Forty Hours Devotions. In addition, the practices of reverently genuflecting before the Blessed Sacrament reserved in the tabernacle, bowing one's head prior to the reception of Holy Communion, and refraining from food and drink for at least one hour before receiving Communion are clear manifestations of the Church's Eucharistic faith."

Excerpt from The Mystery of the Eucharist (USCCB)

TIME Talent REASURE

The Resurrection and Spiritual Hangriness

I want to talk about being *hangry*. I'll give you a quick description of *hangriness*, though I warn you, it doesn't come from the Oxford English Dictionary. *Hangriness* is when you're so hungry you get angry. You turn into a real piece of work. You can't get anything done and you're probably not a joy to be around, at least until you grab a snack. Everybody gets this way sometimes.

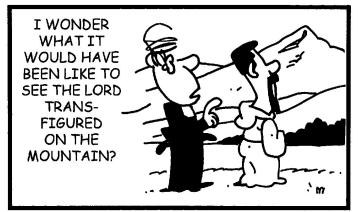
We can be this way in our souls, too. It's so easy to get distracted by the hungers of this world: greed, pride, anxiety. We can become ruled by the needs of our bodies and the desires of our mind and, in doing so, neglect the needs and the desires of our souls.

Everyday stewardship calls us to a constant reflection on the truth that we are not made for this world, as Christ clearly shows us in his Transfiguration. He reveals himself in his heavenly glory, just before he is going to be deprived of all earthly needs and wants — even his very life. He shows us that this is what we were meant for. This is what we are striving for.

When you become spiritually hangry — or as Scripture more eloquently puts it this week, when your mind is "occupied with earthly things" — turn your thoughts to the Transfiguration. I promise you, it's even better than grabbing an energy bar.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

TRANSFIGURATION





Catholic Holy Land Pilgrimage

Terra Sancta Pilgrimages, with Franciscan friar Fr. Alex Kratz, will be leading a Catholic Pilgrimage to the Holy Land (Jordan, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Galilee) November 28-December 12, 2023. This life-changing 14-day experience of walking in Jesus' footsteps includes daily Mass & Rosary, biblical readings on site, time for prayer, spiritual guidance, and meeting local Christians. Cost is \$5,200 (all expenses included, round-trip from Detroit, 3 daily meals, all tips and taxes). Registration is first come, first serve. A mandatory Orientation Meeting for the registered is 2:00 pm Sunday, August 27, at St. Joseph Chapel (400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48341). In 2024 our trips (11-days long) are April 15-25 and November 11-21. For more information contact Pilgrimage Coordinator Patti Giangrande, OFS: (248) 514-1747 (or Fr. Alex: 313-727-9784).

Family of Parishes Masses

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

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

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

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

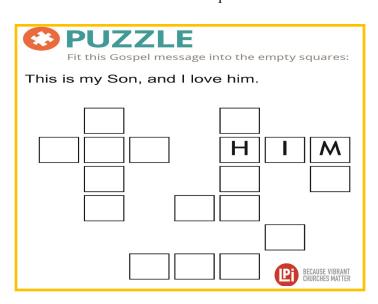
St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J) 50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)

SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Justin SUNDAY - 9:00am& 11:00am - St. Mary Magdalen MON-WED & FRI- 9:00am - St. Justin

St. Marv

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067 SATURDAY - 4:30pm SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am WED - 12:10pm





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