



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023 † TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

Mercy does not receive the value it deserves as an essential quality of human nature. Mercy is most often perceived as a religious value practiced by those who seek to live in the Divine way. It is surely that, and so much more. Mercy is a foundational characteristic of what it means to be a basic human being.

Why is mercy so critical to what it means to be human? Mercy is critical to human society, personal dignity, and the maturing of love because every human being is dependent on others. No one lives alone, separated, or isolated from the messiness of human existence. No one is perfect or self-sustaining. Everyone must live in dependent relationships of some kind with others.

When human beings live in relationships, conflict happens. Families, societies, and communities of any kind cannot successfully exist without a mature capacity for tolerance and forgiveness grounded in mercy. The greater the capacity for forgiveness built on mercy in any community, the greater their maturity and success will be. People will be happier, there will be greater peace, and more secure justice. People will be more aware and attentive to the realities of God. Mercy is not only for those who seek to measure their lives in religious virtue. Mercy is lifegiving for all because it makes evident the nature and reality of God.

It was Father Bohdan Kosicki, God rest his holy soul, who taught me that mercy is God's unlimited, freely given, unconditional, unmerited forgiveness for the undeserving. God's mercy is the justice of Divine love. When Jesus says, unless you forgive the other from your heart, nor will your heavenly Father forgive you, it does not mean God withholds forgiveness. It means the person who refuses to forgive another, refuses to accept the forgiveness God offers them. Forgiveness refused means none will be shared. To accept forgiveness is built on the necessity to forgive. You bind, you are bound. You release and you are released.

Peter's question is a familiar one. It is common to all of us. Lord, if another offends me, how often must I forgive? Wishing to create a limit or boundary to forgiveness, Peter suggests seven times. Although the number seven is the biblical number for perfection, Jesus rejects the equation. Not seven times, but seventy-seven times. Perfection times perfection is an endless number. No end to the number of times, says the Lord.

Peter asks the wrong question. The better question

is, 'how do I learn to forgive?' The first part of the answer to this question is to become deeply aware of how much I have been forgiven. How much mercy have I received? This is a question that leads to the necessity of mature self-awareness and honesty of how often I offend God or others. How deeply am I aware of my need to receive mercy and the freedom that mercy will give? To receive mercy teaches one to share mercy.

The second answer to the question challenges a person in how they care for and love others. A less mature or a selfish person might be confused by this question and its answer. A self-centered person will be less aware, even unconcerned about the needs of others or the harm done to them.

A God-centered person will understand and accept the challenges of forgiveness in the desire to live a life grounded in love. It may be considered this way: I forgive to sustain a loving heart. I forgive others in the awareness of my need and desire to be forgiven. I forgive in the desire I have for a mature and living relationship with Jesus. I forgive so that my love for God is consistent with my concern and desire to love others. I forgive others that I may be at peace with myself, not carrying burdens that only hinder my desire for love. I forgive because I want to be forgiven. In forgiveness I become more deeply aware of God's presence to me. In God's presence I have a greater confidence and strength to forgive myself.

Mercy is expressed through forgiveness. Mercy reveals the fabric of a person, a culture, and a society. Without mercy society falls to the lowest common denominator of violence built on judgement, control, power, and competition. A subtle but very real consciousness becomes: 'get the other before they get you.'

This is the disposition of the first reading. 'Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight.' Too many people in our culture live this way, unaware that they are holding such a stance. It can grow slowly in a hidden way, but before long mercy becomes a lost way of being. Inner peace is lost and life can become a fearful game of competition to get the other before you get got.

Lord Jesus, open our eyes and soften our hearts to the power and love of your Divine Mercy. Your mercy is our only hope and our deepest need. Secure in the grace of your forgiveness prepare us to mercifully forgive each other.

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

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



MONDAY, September 18, 2023

8:00am Mass: Harry Ager req. by daughter-in-law

TUESDAY, September 19, 2023

8:00am Mass: Pranus Juska (Memorial Birthday) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

WEDNESDAY, September 20, 2023

8:00am Mass: Scarchilli Family req. by Giszczaks

THURSDAY, September 21, 2023

8:00am Mass: Jerry Gutowski (1st R.A.) req. by Bernadette & Family

SATURDAY, September 23, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Peter Conway(Special Intention req. by Mom Gigi Cooper† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

Anthony Nalezty req. by Shonts Family

Shonts Family req. by Shonts Family

Charles Sanaugustin† req. by Antonia Brillantes

SUNDAY, September 24, 2023

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

Joseph Kuzma† req. by Nancy Sadowski

Mike Kapolka† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Jerry Gutowski† req. by Bernadette & Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Ernest Szwarc† req. by Linda & Stan Yolkiewicz

Jennifer Brown† req. by Linda & Stan Yolkiewicz

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,

Friday 9-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

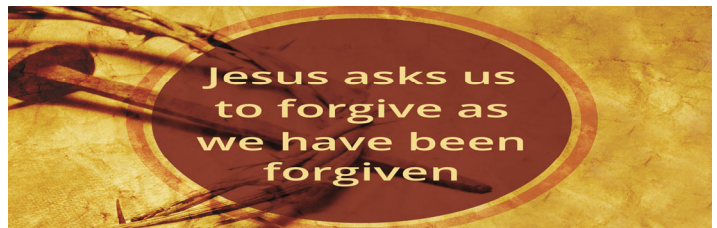
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Office

248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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



READINGS THIS WEEK

September 17, 2023

Sunday: Sir 27:30—28:7/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 (8)/Rom 14:7-9/Mt 18:21-35

Monday: 1 Tm 2:1-8/Ps 28:2, 7, 8-9/Lk 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Tm 3:1-13/Ps 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/Lk 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm 3:14-16/Ps 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 7:31-35

Thursday: Eph 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt 9:9-13

Friday: 1 Tm 6:2c-12/Ps 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm 6:13-16/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 8:4-15

Next Sunday: Is 55:6-9/Ps 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 (18a)/Phil 1:20c-24, 27a/Mt 20:1-16a

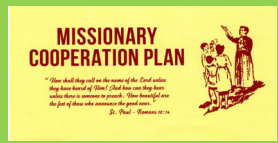
ATTENTION ALL WOMEN IN OUR FAMILY OF PARISHES

WOMEN’S SCRIPTURE REFLECTION GROUP

**BEGINNING THIS SATURDAY
SEPTEMBER 23RD - 9:00AM
FAITH FORMATION OFFICE SVF
SCHOOL BLDG.**



St. Vincent Ferrer is beginning a group for women in the parish who wish to gather together to pray and to share their personal reflections on Scripture passages. Our first women's prayer meeting will be on Saturday, September 23, 2023 at 9:00am in the Faith Formation Office in the School. All women in the parish are invited to join us. No registration or fee required.



**MISSIONARY
APPEAL
September 23/24**

Next weekend is our annual Mission Appeal. Fr. Mansuetus Setonga, a priest in the Diocese of Same Tanzania, Africa was supposed to celebrate Mass here to speak about his mission, but now is unable to do so.

In 2018, Fr. Setonga initiated the formation of a religious congregation, Sisters of Mater Dei Africa. This was the result of a reflection he had during his studies in Iowa. The mission of Sisters of Mater Dei Africa is to change the lives of the poor, elderly and vulnerable children. The congregation devotes itself to teaching and catechesis, ministering to the sick and serving the poor with compassion.

The sisters are living in a recently constructed convent which lacks a healthy water supply. The Postulates carry 18 liters of water one mile from the only local water source, a river that is shared by both people and animals. The river is not clean and local villagers and the sisters have suffered from diarrhea, typhoid and other water borne diseases.

Fr. Setonga is asking for financial assistance to be used to drill a local water well near the convent and village. The cost to drill the well is \$28,000.00. Fr. Setonga and the Sisters of Mater Dei Africa would appreciate any help you can provide.

Yellow envelopes for this collection are at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

“Blessed are they who mourn, for they will be comforted.” (Matt.5:4) Through our life’s journey, each of us has experienced losses of various sorts. Perhaps the loss that touches us most deeply is the loss of a loved one. Death marks an end of what has been known, and it precedes new beginnings. Each of us navigates this process uniquely. Some find “talking out our pain” with understanding family and friends very helpful. Some find solitude to be the place of healing. It is our hope at St. Vincent’s to serve and support those in our parish who are in a bereavement process as they move into a new experience of wholeness. Over the last year, our Bereavement Committee has searched for ways that this prayerful support could be extended. We need a few more people to work with us in planning for such events, activities, service. If you find the Holy Spirit prompting you to be involved in this ministry, please contact Mary Ann at the parish office, (248)542-8720.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: What salary do Popes receive from the Vatican for their service? ©LPi

Answer: None. Popes don't even have a bank account!



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

When I was in second grade, my prized possession was a metal Star Wars-themed lunch box. After school one day, another student ripped it from my hands. I helplessly watched in horror as my classmate threw it to the ground and violently stomped it into an unrecognizable heap of junk. I came home covered in tears of shame and rage. After a few months, I never thought about it again ... until I was almost thirty years old and on a retreat to prepare for ordination to the priesthood.

That childhood memory — and the attendant outrage — came back afresh. My spiritual director helped me in the process of acknowledging that I was angry because that kid *owed* me my lunch box. Then she helped me, through the grace of Jesus, to forgive the debt. Almost immediately I felt a new peace. I was amazed that I hadn’t forgotten what I had lost, even from years before. Aren’t we human beings simply amazing at remembering what people owe us?

We see this week in Jesus’ parable a servant who is forgiven much but then commands another servant: “Pay back what you owe!” He can’t forget or let go of how he was wronged. He *remembers* — and he becomes a monster because of it. If only he had remembered not only the debts owed to him, but also his greater debt owed to — and forgiven by — his master. It’s natural for us to remember what others owe us. But when we contextualize those offenses in Jesus’ mercy toward us and them, we’re free to be merciful like the Master and less like a monster who never forgets.

— Father John
©LPi

Regarding Chair Exercises

The chair exercise response was not overwhelming, and we did not meet our goal. I would like to give some options available to you. The Madison Heights Active Adult Center has Chair Yoga on Tuesday at 10:45am for a small fee. They also have other exercise programs. Call 248 545-3464. Youtube has multiple chair exercise programs free of charge that you can watch at your convenience. The Ascension Michigan Community Health has virtual ongoing exercises at different times and dates. Go to <https://ascension-mi.regfox.com/virtual-ongoing-exercise>. Give your body the gift of more energy, strength, healthy weight, better sleep, and put yourself in a better mood.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse



Evangelical Service Corner

MERCY IN ACTION COLLECTIONS BLESSING BAG & SNACK BAG ITEMS NEEDED Sept 2-24

Travel size: deodorant, brush, comb, Kleenex packet, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brush, tube socks, hand & feet warmers

Individual lunchbox sized: juice boxes, granola bars, cereal bars, crackers, cookies, fruit snacks

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY

The Prayer Blanket Ministry and the Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministry will resume meeting on Thursday, September 28, 2023 in the church social hall from 6-8 PM. Please note the prayer blanket ministry used to meet from 6-9 pm, but beginning September we will now meet 6-8 pm. All are welcome to join us for these ministries.

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.

EUCHARIST BOOKS ON DISPLAY

At the Admin Bldg.

In acknowledgement of celebrating a renewed focus on the gift of the Eucharist, a small display of books about the Eucharist can be found on the table just outside the parish library in the administration building. These books are ready for circulation. Please feel encouraged to visit our library which currently has hundreds of books, most of which have been donated by our generous parishioners to enhance your faith journey.

The Hateful Things We Hug Tight

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

At the end of "Lord of the Rings: Return of the King," Gollum fights with Frodo for possession of the One Ring. He wins the fight, but in doing so topples over the edge of the mountain ledge, falling into the cavernous fires of Mount Doom. As he falls, we see him smile, and clutch the ring to his chest. He is happy. He has won what he spent his life pursuing.

It is only in the last millisecond before his face slips below the lava that we see his eyes widen in terror as he realizes the truth: the thing he clutches to his heart is the thing that killed him. In choosing the ring, he chooses death.

Sin, and the fallen nature of this world, makes us addicted to something that kills us.

Like any addiction, it is a vicious cycle. The less we forgive, the more hardhearted we become ... and the less we seek forgiveness ourselves.

What breaks the cycle? Reconciliation with God — or, Confession, as we call it. In fact, it does more than break the cycle. It turns it backward. Not only does it detoxify our souls of sin, it weakens our addiction to sin's effects — anger, vengeance, unforgiveness. The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works, said St. Augustine.

Ultimately, I view our whole human life as a struggle on the ledge of a mountaintop. It is certain that we will choose sin — we always do. We will tumble over the side, toward ruin. But let us be Frodo, and not Gollum. Let us cling to the rock of the sacraments and accept the hand that would drag us away from the flames.

"Wrath and anger are hateful things, yet the sinner hugs them tight." — Sirach 27:30 ©LPi



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for... all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful solution to world tensions.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, floods, 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

Children’s Faith Formation Classes to Begin September 25

Registration forms are available at our website or you can pick up a packet at the Parish Office in the Administration Building.

CATECHETICAL SUNDAY - SEPT. 17

Prayer for Catechists

Dear Lord,
Anoint those who serve as catechists, those who tell your story of determined love for your people.
Be with our catechists in their classrooms, inspire the hearts of those in their care, ignite a new generation of disciples for you!
Amen.
©LPi

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED PSYCHICS AND MEDIUMS

Question: Are Catholics allowed to visit psychics? Why or why not?

Answer: It’s part of human nature to experience some sense of unease and fear about the future. This can lead some people to seek out the services of psychics or consult horoscopes or turn to other occult practices or resources (e.g. Ouija boards or tarot cards). The Catechism of the Catholic Church is very clear that Catholics should avoid such practices: “Consulting horoscopes, astrology, palm reading, interpretation of omens and lots, the phenomena of clairvoyance, and recourse to mediums all conceal a desire for power over time, history, and, in the last analysis, other human beings, as well as a wish to conciliate hidden powers. They contradict the honor, respect, and loving fear that we owe to God alone” (no. 2116).

Despite the uncertainties we might feel, we are called to have faith and trust in God, confident of God’s desire for what is best for us. This means that we are called to surrender, to pray and to reflect on how we can best move into the future in hope, knowing that God is with us.
©LPi

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday
- Tuesday: St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
- Wednesday: Sts. Andrew Kim Tae-gõn, Priest, and Paul Chõng Ha-sang and Companions, Martyrs
- Thursday: St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- Saturday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest
- Next Sunday: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Priesthood Sunday
©LPi

FORGIVING WRONGDOINGS

Life was not always easy with my father when I was growing up. Let’s just say he made many decisions along the way that led to fear, anger, and sadness for my family and me. Unfortunately, I was the only one in the family that would years later truly forgive him for his actions. My mother and sister held onto the resentment and anger they felt all their lives. For my father and me, reconciliation led to several years of a deepening relationship before his passing in 2011.

Forgiveness is not easy and I do not consider myself better or stronger because I was able to forgive and my family members could not. However, I can say that the blessings I received due to forgiveness and a renewed relationship with my father were far better than the animosity experienced by others. I also learned that forgiveness benefited me far more than my father.

As good stewards of time, we must realize that each passing day will never come again. What we do with that time is completely up to us. We can be wise and use it to build bridges, heal wounds, and cultivate love where there is hate. We can also choose to waste time in fear, resentment, and anger. I thank God often for the gift of my dad. However, I thank God more for the gift of time spent with him and the ability to see him not with my human eyes, but with the eyes of Jesus.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
© Liturgical Publications

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Sir 27:30—28:7

Sirach teaches that the Lord desires us to be forgiving and merciful to each other. In doing so, the Lord will show us mercy and forgiveness in return. To whom could you show mercy and forgiveness this week?

Second Reading: Rom 14:7-9

Paul instructed the Romans that Jesus was the Lord of all — both the living and the dead. How should this reality impact our daily living?

Gospel: Mt 18:21-35


Jesus tells the parable of the unforgiving servant to teach the disciples the importance of compassion and forgiveness, especially toward those who sin against you. How do you deal with friends or co-workers who have wronged you?
©LPi

International Exhibition

MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST

ACROSS THE WORLD

Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis



SAVE
the
DATE

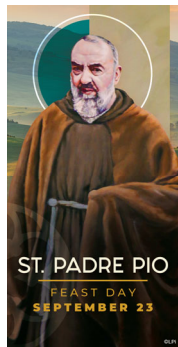
A Slideshow Presentation on Eucharistic Miracles

Based on the Website of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Wednesday, October 11, at 7 pm
St. Vincent Ferrer Church

Followed by a reception in the Social Hall

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...



**ST. PIUS OF PIETRELCINA
SEPTEMBER 23**

Best known as Padre Pio, St. Pius was born Francesco Forgione in 1887 in Pietrelcina, Italy. As a young boy he suffered many illnesses including typhoid. He joined Capuchin Franciscans at 15 and took the name of Pius or "Pio" in honor of Pope Pius I. He was ordained in 1910, and at this time he received the marks of stigmata, the wounds of Christ, but they eventually healed. Frequent illnesses continued to plague him as a young man.

Padre Pio served in the Italian Medical Corps during World War I, but he was discharged early because of illness, which was likely tuberculosis. He was assigned to the friary in San Giovanni Rotondo. In 1918, while continuing to serve at the friary, the stigmata appeared again, and this time remained until his death.

Many faithful came to see him at the friary, his days were long, beginning with Mass at 5 a.m. then hearing confessions all day with breaks to bless the sick. A simple man, content to do God's will on earth and with the ardent desire to serve the sick and poor in whom he saw Christ, he urged a hospital, Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza (House for the Relief of Suffering), to be built in San Giovanni Rotondo. It opened in 1956.

Padre Pio died at the age of eighty-one in 1968 and in 2002 Pope John Paul II proclaimed him "St. Pio of Pietrelcina." He is the patron saint of adolescents.

©LPi

ST. MATTHEW - SEPTEMBER 21



Matthew was one of the twelve apostles of Jesus. Early Church tradition believed him to be the writer of the Gospel of Matthew. For that, he also became known as The Evangelist.

The gospels speak of Matthew being a tax collector in Capernaum. His was a profession hated by the Pharisees and Jewish community because he was collecting money for Rome, the oppressor of the Jewish people. While working in the customs booth one day, Jesus called him to come and follow him. That evening Jesus and his followers had dinner in Matthew's house.

Matthew's initial ministry was in Judaea to the Jewish people before going to other countries. Tradition holds that he died a martyr's death, but the manner is unknown.

He is the Patron Saint of bankers, tax collectors, accountants, perfumers and civil servants.

Ministry Schedule

September 23/24, 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Simmons	A Goll
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	A Goll
	M Simmons	P Miles
	R Pasiak	P Allen
Greeters	L Collins	S Bosetti
	R Bertolini	T Lane
	R Pasiak	D Vu
	T Pasiak	B Gutowski

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of September 23/24
Jennifer Ballantine



MASS SCHEDULES

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. Mary

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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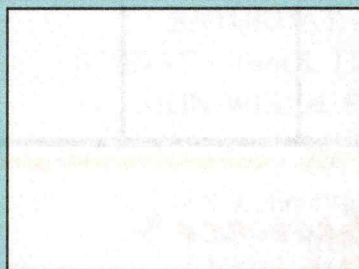
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