



# St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

OCTOBER 15, 2023 † TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

It is rare for people to spend much time thinking about the transition from this life to the next. We all know death is a reality, but not one we often considered. Death is largely framed as something in the future not worth consideration in the present. If life in the present is reasonably stable, comfortable, with no immediate threat of serious illness, the reality of death is rarely considered.

The bridge from here to the hereafter is not a long one. The on ramp however offers a very long approach. In the Christian life, the journey from here to heaven begins at Baptism that gains maturity with the deepening of faith. Our heaven begins here as we more deeply realize the truth of God within ourselves in vibrant and active ways. This is not an idle process. Like any maturing relationship, growing in faith and securing trust in the promise of eternal life takes time and attention. There will inevitably be ups and downs. A person will experience graces that awaken the discovery of deeply felt encounters with the living God. At other times, there will be disappointments, doubts, losses, and failures along the way. God is present in each of these life events for the one willing to trust and invite God in.

The readings today lead us to this kind of reflection. Through the Prophet Isaiah, we are well aware of the long history of oppression and exile endured by the people of Israel. Today's reading is one of hope for all who suffer the weight of oppression and the perception of God's absence or abandonment. 'On this mountain, the Lord of hosts will provide for all peoples.' In this setting, 'mountain' is easily understood as the dwelling of God's presence, or in our more common language, heaven. It serves as an image of God's abundant and provident care for all who seek him. It conveys an image of sweetness and comfort intended to soften the fear of death in the transition of life.

Isaiah is offering an image of hope and security for those who live in the fear of death. It makes clear that God will destroy death forever and that all tears and sadness will be wiped away. God will remove the fear of death caused by human sin and the disorder of evil. In the constancy and fidelity of God there will be great rejoicing and trust in all God promises. "Behold our God, to whom we looked to save us... let us rejoice and be glad that God has saved us!"

The gospel takes on a different tone to convey the same message. The chief priests and elders are trying to silence Jesus, yet with love and concern for their

salvation, Jesus confronts them with an image of the Kingdom. Heaven is like a great wedding feast prepared by a King for his son's wedding. God is the King and the Son is Jesus who represents all humanity. God is inviting humanity to a heavenly banquet that will unite all present in the union of Divine Love.

Invitations are sent out by personal messengers: all the Prophets and finally by Jesus himself. Invitations can be either accepted or rejected. This is the tension and the reason why the story is directed at the leaders of religion. Jesus makes clear the rejection of the invitation and the violent reaction it receives. But God will not be put off. Ultimately, all will be invited. The good and the bad, the wicked and the unworthy. God will not allow his offer to go unfulfilled.

Jesus is trying to break into the stubborn resistance and disdain of those in religious power who will not surrender to the truth of God. Jesus offers them the Good News of the gospel as they insist on clinging to worldly power.

This invitation remains in effect today. We are included in the invitation to sit at the banquet of the Lord. Any invitation includes a choice and a decision. Every invitation involves some kind of surrender. I cannot accept the invitation of another strictly on my own terms. One surrenders to the offer of the host in the design of their intention. A guest must set aside their plans to accept the offer of the host. This is the case of the one without a wedding garment. He accepted the invitation, but on his terms. The wedding garment was a symbol of surrender to honor the offer of the King. It reveals an act of repentance in acceptance of the King's offer to heavenly life. No wedding garment meant the person was there on their own terms in ill respect of the King's offer.

The gospel is the Good News of God's merciful and redemptive love. To walk the journey of the Christian life is a surrender to the identity of Jesus who shows us the way. It is a journey that creates a joyful purpose to the meaning of our existence. It secures us in both the grace and the failures the journey will bring. To accept the invitation is a movement of ongoing surrender to all the Lord promises.

Do not fear death. Realize and accept the King's invitation. Be willing to surrender your plans for comfort and control in this world for the eternal comfort of heavenly glory. With a living faith that glory begins today.

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

## 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

### MONDAY, October 16, 2023

8:00am Mass: Elena Maulding†  
(38th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska  
Svoba

### TUESDAY, October 17, 2023

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

### WEDNESDAY, October 18, 2023

8:00am Mass: Paul Marion, Jr.† req. by Mary Jane Guc

### THURSDAY, October 19, 2023

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

### SATURDAY, October 21, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Jerry Gutowski† req. by Corrine McCarthy  
Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom  
Richard Collins† req. by Corrine McCarthy  
Mike & Jean Pietraszewski (63rd) Wedding Anniversary)

### SUNDAY, October 22, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Pina Tosto† req. by Virga Family  
Richard & James McCarthy† req. by McCarthy Family  
Mike Kapolka† req. by Wife & Son  
Ernest Szwarc† req. by Bernadette Gutowski  
Mass of Thanksgiving req. by Bene Anderson



## Readings for the week

### October 15, 2023

Sunday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 6cd/  
Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14 or  
22:1-10

Monday: Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk  
11:29-32

Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 11:37-41

Wednesday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13,  
17-18/Lk 10:1-9

Thursday: Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/  
Lk 11:47-54

Friday: Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11/Lk 12:1-7

Saturday: Rom 4:13, 16-18/Ps 105:6-7, 8-9, 42-  
43/Lk 12:8-12

Next Sunday: Is 45:1, 4-6/Ps 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10  
(7b)/1 Thes 1:1-5b/Mt 22:15-21



**SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH COLLECTION**  
**October 21/22**

Next weekend, is World Mission Sunday, a day to remember our baptismal call – to bring the Gospel to all! We will take up the annual collection for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith which supports the work and witness of the Mission Church to the most vulnerable communities.

**World Mission Sunday 2023 envelopes for this collection can be found at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.**

**CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** Which clergymen are called by the ecclesiastical title “His Holiness”?

©LPi

**Answer:** Popes only.



**SHMS SEMINARIANS HALLOWEEN OUTREACH**  
**Collecting October 14th to 22nd**

It's that time of the year again! Halloween is just around the corner, and Sacred Heart Major Seminary needs your help. Each year the seminary community opens their doors and their hearts to over 2000 children from the surrounding Detroit neighborhood so that the kids can have a fun and safe place to play games and trick-or-treat. But they need your help to make this year a success! They are asking for donations of Halloween candy that will then be passed out to the many kids.

**Place candy donations in the marked basket in back of church or drop off at Parish Office during week. Donations accepted thru Sunday, Oct. 22nd.**

**St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community**

extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

**Paul Marion, Jr.**  
**James Palmer**



Please remember them and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



**28<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

I confess that I have a soft spot for the scary things Jesus says because they are usually ignored. But there's gold in them thar hills, if we have courage to look. This week Jesus gives us a terrifying warning in his parable about the king who gives a marriage feast for his son and promptly goes berserk when people don't respond. The point: those who do not properly respond to God's generous invitation will face totally devastating consequences. The invitees who don't show up get their city burned to the ground. The poor homeless man is tortured for not wearing the correct clothes. Scary indeed.

Is Jesus trying to intimidate or bully us into following him? No, because that is certainly not how he treats anyone in the Gospels. A better view is this: to Jesus, your life *matters*. The universe is not an empty wasteland where anything goes. It is a theater of love offered and either accepted or rejected. How easy it can be to glide through life thinking my life doesn't make a difference. But it does. It really does.

This should not only be sobering but exhilarating. The positive side of the negative in Jesus' scary parables is the thrill and joy that he is inviting us, therefore our lives matter a great deal. There *is* a reason to get up in the morning. God's generous love is relentlessly calling us. True, obstinately saying no through our indifference is a catastrophe for us and those around us. But how wonderful must the consequences of our 'yes' be?

- *Father John Muir*  
 ©LPi

**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK**

- Sunday: 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: St. Hedwig, Religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin
- Tuesday: St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr
- Wednesday: St. Luke, Evangelist
- Thursday: Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues, Priests, and Companions, Martyrs
- Friday: St. Paul of the Cross, Priest
- Next Sunday: 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday ©LPi



## Evangelical Service Corner

### Halloween Candy Collection October 13-22

Collecting bags of candy for seminarians at Sacred Heart Seminary to pass out to neighborhood children.

### 40 DAYS FOR LIFE FALL CAMPAIGN

September 27 to November 5, 2023

Those able to pray to save babies outside Planned Parenthood at 23338 Woodward in Ferndale can sign up for vigil hours at [https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-hours-signup.aspx?l\\_id=583](https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-hours-signup.aspx?l_id=583)

If you are unable to pray outside, offer rosaries, Masses and hours of Adoration whenever you are able. Abortion is legal in the state of Michigan through all stages of pregnancy. Pray for God's mercy and protection of these most vulnerable human beings.

### BABY SHOWER UPDATE



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to everyone who brought gifts or money for the Annual Right-to-Life Baby Shower. As always, your generosity was outstanding. Over 100 outfits, blankets, wash cloths and hooded bath towels, many tiny sox and shoes, dozens of burp pads, hats, diaper bags, beautiful hand made layettes, bottles, brushes, pacifiers, rattles, shampoos, body wash and lotions, diapers and wipes - pretty much everything for the new babies to be well-dressed and cared for. We also collected \$200.00.

Half of the items and money collected will go to Wee-Care in Livonia; the other half to Madison Family Planning right here in Madison Heights. God bless us all as we help care for the new mothers and their tiny bundles of joy. Keep them all in your prayers.  
*Rorie Grant*

## St. Vincent Ferrer Parish

Invites you to a Catechesis for Adults & Youth  
(ages 12 & up)

### COME AND LISTEN TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOOD NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST!



**When?** Mondays & Thursdays  
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
Beginning on Monday, September 25th

**Where?** The Parish Administrative Building  
28353 Herbert Street,  
Madison Heights, MI 48071

**Questions?** Call Matthew at 646-369-8619

Free on-site babysitting available

**God Loves You!**

Attend as many sessions as you are able thru Nov. 13th.  
**ALL ARE WELCOME**

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The goodness and mercy of God are gifts He wants to share with each one of us, but we have to be ready to receive them. Let's be prepared for whatever the Lord will ask of us this week.

©LPi



**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*

## Women's Sacred Journey

**SATURDAY, OCT. 21 - 9:00AM**

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE  
SVF SCHOOL BLDG.**



All women in our Family of Parishes are invited to join other like minded women to pray and reflect on Scriptures which are provided. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration required. No fee.

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### IS IT RIGHT TO SUE?

**Question:**

Is it right to sue someone? Isn't it a way of getting revenge?

**Answer:**

Revenge is inflicting harm for harm's sake, the idea of an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and then some. There is often a fine line between justice and mercy, between compensation and forgiveness. Unfortunately, things can happen to us that cause harm, suffering, and damage, regardless of people's intentions. When someone is hurt, especially in such a way that special care or treatment is required, the cost of that care needs to be paid.

In a perfect world, those with special needs, handicaps, or disabilities would find the help and care they need, including those who are injured or hurt. But justice is not always forthcoming, and people are not always fair. So, using the legal system to right a wrong is sometimes the only option.

In some cases, it is the only way that people can get the help they need and deserve. However, frivolous lawsuits, or 'fishing for money' is not only unfair, but immoral as well. The law is there to protect people and making use of it when necessary is a good thing. ©LPI

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**First Reading:** Is 25:6-10a

The prophet Isaiah speaks of a future when God will be fully present, and we will experience complete joy. What gives you hope for the future?

**Second Reading:** Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/

Paul shares with the Philippians that regardless of his circumstances, he has learned to draw strength and gratitude from his faith in Jesus. How does your faith sustain you in good times and bad times?

**Gospel:** Mt 22:1-14 or 22:1-10

Jesus's parable of the wedding feast offers a warning to be open to God's invitation to answer His call. How do you stay open to God's presence in your life? ©LPI

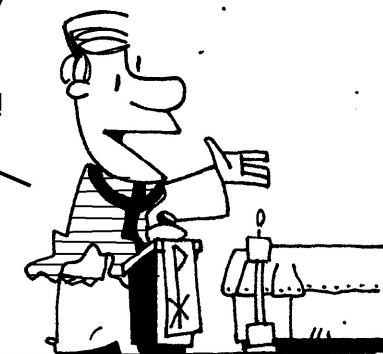
## Ministry Schedule

October 21/22, 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	T Karolski
Reader #1	R Pasiak	P Allen
Reader #2	T Riley	T Karolski
EME	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
	P Miles	D Gray
	D Tourville	M Black
Greeters	R Bertolini	M Bessler
	L Collins	B Gutowski
	R Pasiak	M McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	D McLaughlin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of October 21/22  
Stan & Linda Yolkiewicz

JESUS HAS EVERY  
GOOD THING  
READY AND  
WAITING FOR US!



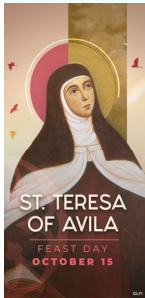
ispyder@lpi.com  
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IS THAT  
"GOOD" AS  
IN ICE  
CREAM,  
OR "GOOD"  
AS IN  
BROCCOLI?





## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...

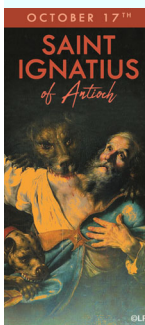


### ST. TERESA OF ÁVILA - OCTOBER 15

St. Teresa of Ávila (1515-1582) was a Spanish Carmelite nun who lived in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. She was a mystic and author of spiritual writings and poems. The originator of the Carmelite Reform, she founded numerous convents throughout Spain and restored a contemplative life to the order. She became well known for the mystical experiences, many of which she described in her autobiography.

The first of only four women to be named a Doctor of the Church, St. Teresa's ascetic doctrine and Carmelite reforms shaped Roman Catholic contemplative life, and her writings on the Christian soul's journey to God are considered works of art. Her writings, especially the "Way of Perfection" and "The Interior Castle," have helped generations of believers.

St. Teresa of Avila died on Oct. 15, 1582. She was canonized on March 22, 1622, along with three of her greatest contemporaries: St. Ignatius Loyola, St. Francis Xavier, and St. Philip Neri. ©LPi



### IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH - OCTOBER 17

As Bishop of Antioch (the modern day city of Antakya, Turkey), Ignatius witnessed to the faith during the reign of Emperor Trajan, who ruled from 98-117. Persecution of Christians broke out in Antioch, and Ignatius was captured and taken to Rome for martyrdom in the arena.

On his journey to Rome over land and sea, Ignatius writes seven letters to various churches. These letters give powerful glimpses into the theology and practice of the early church, along with insights into the role of a bishop as pastoral leader. Ignatius is the first to use the term "Catholic Church" to refer to the various Christian communities of the Roman Empire.

The best known of his letters is the one he wrote to the Romans. Ignatius addresses influential Christians who might be tempted to intercede on his behalf, thus sparing him from martyrdom. He advises them against it, being resolute in his desire to be the "wheat of God."

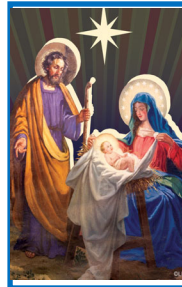
Eucharistic links are most evident in his words. As Christ willingly offered himself as witness to God's total love, Ignatius, too, desired to be "food for the wild beasts," so that he could become "the pure bread of Christ." Eucharistic living was so crucial to Ignatius that he was willing to die in order to model himself on the Lord who willingly offered all. ©LPi



### SAINT LUKE - OCTOBER 18

Saint Luke, sometimes called The Evangelist, is the author of the third Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles and a physician. There is some debate about how he came to Christianity, though many believe he was a gentile convert. Tradition holds him to be a native of Antioch, Syria, possibly a slave.

Most of what we know of Luke comes



**The November/December envelope packet should be arriving in the mail soon. To be sure that Christmas donations are properly credited, please do not submit Christmas donations until after December 8th.**

## THE WEDDING GARMENT

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I like to think that any self-respecting doomsday prepper would find something to admire in my van's stores of extra clothes, snacks, boredom-busting toys, sunscreen, and seasonal outerwear. You never know when you're going to pass a free splash pad or a particularly amazing sledding hill. And you never know when one of the kids is going to find the world's most irresistible mud pile or fall into a river.

All this pre-planning for fun and disaster, and still, I usually devote a fraction of that effort to spiritual preparedness.

I swap out my traveling first-aid kit every season, imagining hypothetical emergencies — and I push confession off another week. "I haven't committed any mortal sins," I tell myself, "And I'm just so busy."

I shove extra outfits into my car's trunk on the off-chance my son decides to paint himself in Go-Gurt — and I shrug off the daily examinations of conscience that could help me overcome a persistent sin.

I stock my purse with bags of Cheerios to ward off sneaky attacks of kid hunger — and I fall asleep without saying the Rosary, murmuring to myself: "I'm so tired. Mary understands."

I am overwhelmed by the here-and-now, consumed by the minutiae of earthly life, that I forget there is only one eventuality I — or any of us — can expect with any certainty. We will all be invited to the feast.

Is my van stocked for that?

*"The king said to him, 'My friend, how is it that you came in here without a wedding garment?'"*

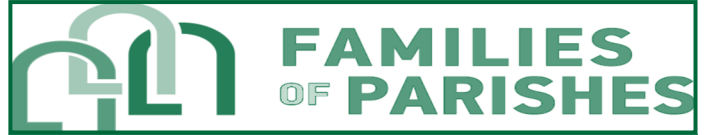
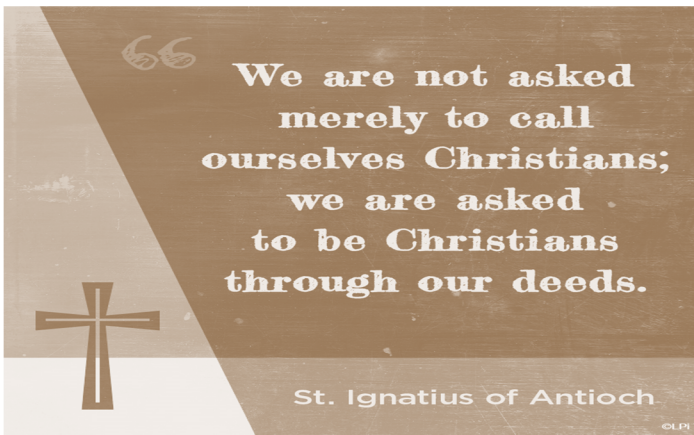
— Matthew 22:12 ©LPi

from Scripture, he was an eloquent and proficient writer, penning with accuracy the events he recounted. He is viewed as one of the best historical sources of the time.

Luke was a close companion of Paul's, joining him at Troas about year 51 and going with him to Macedonia and Philippi. Their paths diverged and met again as they journeyed to spread the Good News. Luke remained with Paul until the latter was martyred in Rome.

Saint Luke's Gospel is viewed as one of social justice, giving special attention to the poor. He also emphasizes gentiles hearing the message of Christ. It is the only Gospel with Mary's Magnificat, and spends the most time illuminating the lives of the other women around Jesus.

Accounts of Luke's death are conflicting, some say he was martyred shortly after Paul others that he lived a long life completing his Gospel in Greece and dying at 84. He is the patron saint of physicians. ©LPi



**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



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 7/8**

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	94		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 5,131.66	(162.00)	(1,671.28)
Energy	289.00	\$ 395.00	106.00	(400.08)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	197.00	(918.39)	(14,273.29)
Mass Intentions	n/a	30.00		1,420.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement	n/a	25.00		1,175.00
AOD Collections: Mission Appeal	n/a	150.00		5,500.00
All Holy Days	n/a	70.00		786.00
Budget deficit donations		131.00		3,679.00



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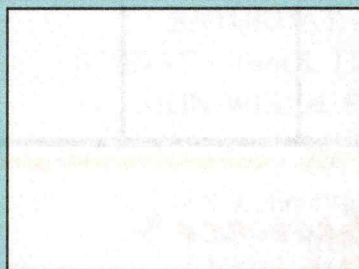
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