



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

NOVEMBER 5, 2023 † THIRTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

I do not know the origin of the phrase, but it is a good fit for religion and the spiritual life. ‘If you talk the talk, can you walk the walk?’ To walk the walk is to back up the talk with action. This is a truism in Christianity. It is comparative to faith and works. Some say redemption is by faith alone. Others believe it depends on works that puts faith into action. What is the answer to the riddle? The answer is ‘yes,’ it takes faith in action to walk the path of a redeemed life.

We are finishing a section in Matthew’s gospel where the Scribes and Pharisees seek to discredit the words and works of Jesus. The primary movement of their jealousy exposes the hypocrisy of those who present themselves as teachers of the Mosaic Law yet neglect its practice.

Today’s reading begins a new section that leads to a series of ‘woes’ spoken by Jesus against false religion and those who use God and religion for their own gain. We have pondered these issues through the virtue of truth. Jesus is the truth of God confirmed in the visible and living evidence of his constancy, fidelity, and merciful compassion. The words and the works of Jesus match. He speaks of love, forgiveness, and mercy. His words are confirmed in deeds of compassionate acceptance shown to sinners through merciful forgiveness.

It might seem the harsh words of Jesus are out of character for his gentle manner. This is not the case. Jesus speaks truth to power that cannot be denied or defended. Why is Jesus so strong against the leaders of his own religion as a Jew? As the revelation of Divine Love, Jesus lived above both the blessings and limitations of church religion. Jesus deeply valued his Jewish faith but would not tolerate hypocrisy against the name and nature of the living God.

What is the evidence? Jesus tells the crowd and the disciples to follow the teachings of the Scribes and Pharisees, but not to follow their example. Their teaching was true, but their example and way of life betrayed what they taught. Jesus wished to expose the mask of their false piety against God and the people.

Some religious leaders of Jesus’ day, and our own, became more enamored with their role and position of honor and importance more than for the honor and glory of God. Believers suffered the loss of knowing God’s true nature.

Living behind an ego of self-importance, some religious leaders lost the ability to hold faith as effective agents of God for others. These leaders lost the capacity and desire to trust the possibility of a self-

surrendering God of love and mercy who is generous to both saints and sinners. God had become the mask of a pious ego in the desire for honor and importance that only serves the self. Such a stance blocks them from knowing the living God. It also hinders the faith of those who long for a God of love, acceptance, and hope for salvation.

Every human being seeks love. But love is hard with painful losses and disappointments. Seeking a path of ego comfort through power and self-importance is an easy temptation. However, it comes at a heavy cost. Such a person will not know them self in a true way. They lose the capacity for mature and life-giving relationships of love. Love is present but denied or buried under the mask of inflated self-importance.

What is the remedy for living in a false self? This is the challenge and the grace of a life-long effort to know yourself as loved and valued by God. Saint or sinner, God values each of us through the undeniable mercy and sacrifice of the Lord Jesus. To know and love yourself will reveal your inner power. This kind of power grows from secure faith, maturing love, and persistent hope. It matures with self-honesty and forgiveness through which a person finds peace with themself.

This kind of self-awareness means a person’s inside and outside match. The peace and goodness of self-love on the inside is evident in the acceptance and love of others on the outside. Too often people present a pious outside image that betrays a lack of peace or virtue on the inside. Persistent inner division makes it increasingly difficult to engage in active trust of the Lord’s mercy.

This may sound like a lot of work that could be scary and easily resisted. This may be true, but it is also the reason it is so important. A simple way to think about this is to ask yourself, is my life moving toward God or away from God? Am I happy or unhappy with myself? Can I name the cause of my unhappiness? Am I secure enough to bring my feelings and concerns to God with confidence that God will kindly hear me? Do I trust God’s goodness?

These are simple movements of faith that can reap great rewards. Such work can save us from the masks and defenses that block us from God and others. To humble yourself is to find God. To exalt yourself falsely is to lose the truth of your inner goodness and the peace of knowing yourself in Christ.

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,
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, November 6, 2023

8:00am Mass: Deceased Clergy & Religious who served at St. Vincent Ferrer & St. Dennis

TUESDAY, November 7, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom
7:00pm Mass: Mass of Remembrance for deceased parishioners and those whose funerals were at SVF this past year.

WEDNESDAY, November 8, 2023

8:00am Mass: Elijah Moony† req. by Bill & Sue Gordon

THURSDAY, November 9, 2023

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

SATURDAY, November 11, 2023

4:00pm Mass: All veterans
Elizabeth Buccit† req. by Elia & Family
Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom
Deceased Clergy of the Archdiocese of Detroit

SUNDAY, November 12, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Fr. Heary Knights of Columbus Living & Deceased Members and Family
Lorraine Kuczborski† req. by Linda Karolski
Celso Guiang† req. by Shirley Borscane
Joseph & Maria Manh† req. by Ryan Vu Family
Deacon John Ball (for health) req. by Mary Jane Guc
Intentions of Jessie Giszczak & Family req. by Mary Jane Guc



NOVEMBER
Month of
Remembrance

Readings for the Week

November 5, 2023

- Sunday: Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10/Ps 131:1, 2, 3/1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13/Mt 23:1-12
- Monday: Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/Lk 14:12-14
- Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/Lk 14:15-24
- Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/Lk 14:25-33
- Thursday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22
- Friday: Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk 16:1-8
- Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11/Lk 16:9-15
- Next Sunday: Wis 6:12-16/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (2b)/1 Thes 4:13-18 or 4:13-14/Mt 25:1-13

**World Kindness Day
Make a Difference in Someone's Day**

World Kindness Day is observed on November 13 each year. This day was started in 1998 to encourage kindness and goodwill towards others and celebrate positive human interactions. We have a very generous and caring parish so let's share these ideas with all we meet.

Goal: Make a difference in someone's day with understanding, empathy, cooperation, harmony and caring.

Benefits: It is said that giving and receiving kindness is helpful to our mental and physical health. It helps us live a happier life, decreases stress and anxiety, lowers blood pressure, inspires kindness, increases our confidence, and improves relationships.

How: Throughout your day consciously perform acts of kindness. Help a neighbor, compliment someone, donate your time. Write letters of gratitude to those in public service.

Spread positivity. Share uplifting messages on your social media to inspire others to be kind.

Volunteer/Participate for a local charity or participate in our church activities, such as, our prayer blanket, card, and flower ministry. Attend Men's Fellowship or Women's Sacred Journey groups. Bring someone to church with you.

Donate to humanitarian aid, education, or health care. Donate eyeglasses, hearing aids, food for the seniors collection or Thanksgiving Baskets, and participate in the Giving Tree.

Teach kindness to others. Teach by example.

Random acts of kindness such as buying someone coffee, complimenting your server, or leaving a nice note.

Be kind to the planet. Plant flowers or trees. Recycle.

Be kind to yourself in mind and body. Healthy diet, exercise, massage, relaxation and mindfulness.

Last, but not least, pray, participate in adoration, be thankful and praise God for all your blessings and God's blessings in disguise. Host the Traveling Vocations Chalice for a week to pray for men to enter the priesthood.

"Be the blessing other people count on." Thank you for all you do!

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse.



Tuesday, November 7th - 7:00pm

All are invited to our Mass of Remembrance this Tuesday, November 7th at 7:00pm to pray for all of our beloved deceased, especially those from our parish who died this past year.

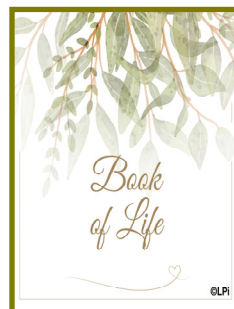
We Remember...

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <i>Michael Higgins</i> | <i>Joyce Palmer</i> |
| <i>Sam Balistreri</i> | <i>Walter Olkowski</i> |
| <i>Norman Podgorski</i> | <i>Cecilia Stokes</i> |
| <i>Gaeton D'Arca</i> | <i>Thomas Fizia</i> |
| <i>Gregory Hasho</i> | <i>Michael Kapolka</i> |
| <i>Gene Fox</i> | <i>Jeffrey Williams</i> |
| <i>Patricia Podgorski</i> | <i>Timothy Wrobel</i> |
| <i>Annabelle Malotke</i> | <i>Marilyn McAuliffe</i> |
| <i>Gary Sebastian</i> | <i>Robert Kevin Brettnacher</i> |
| <i>Sally Doyle</i> | <i>Ernest Szwarc</i> |
| <i>Ray Danielski</i> | <i>Thomas Christopher</i> |
| <i>Richard Lapham</i> | <i>Lorraine Kuczborski</i> |
| <i>Theresa Bickel</i> | <i>Jeanette Julian</i> |
| <i>Richard Collins</i> | <i>Paul Marion, Jr.</i> |
| <i>Dennis Menard</i> | <i>James Palmer</i> |

May all our deceased loved ones be welcomed into paradise.



"The soldier above all others prays for peace, for it is the soldier who must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." —Douglas MacArthur



During the month of November, the Book of Life, remembering our beloved deceased will be displayed in church. In it, you will find the names of the deceased of our parish and those whose funerals were celebrated at St. Vincent Ferrer this past year.

You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones for our remembrance.



Give Thanks to the Lord

Help us provide a hearty Thanksgiving Dinner to a local family!

Non-Perishable Food Collection - Nov. 4 - 19
FOOD ITEMS CAN BE REGULAR OR SUGAR FREE

Stuffing	Olives
Gravy	Canned Vegetables
Rice	Yams
Applesauce	Soups
Cranberry Sauce	Canned Fruit
Pickles	Cookies


Monetary donations can be made electronically at our website by clicking on line giving button (under the donations tab) and choosing Thanksgiving Baskets. Envelopes with monetary donations should be marked "Thanksgiving baskets" and left in collection baskets in church or brought to the Parish Office.

If you are aware of a struggling family that would appreciate a Thanksgiving food basket, please contact the parish office at 248-542-8720.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is it called when someone prays all 15 decades of a traditional Rosary? ©LPi

Answer: The Dominican Rosary

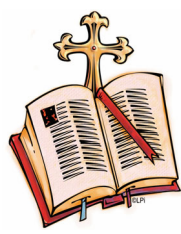
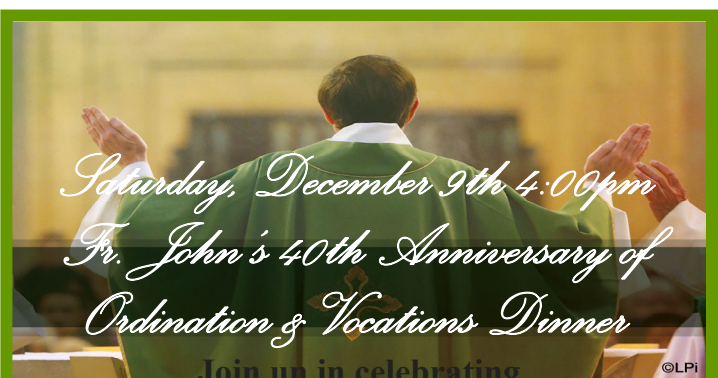


To be sure that Christmas donations are properly credited for Christmas, please do not submit them until after December 8th.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, November 11, 2023 at 9am
Faith Formation Office in School

The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome. No registration is required.

Saturday, December 9th 4:00pm
Fr. John's 40th Anniversary of Ordination & Vocations Dinner

Join us in celebrating
Fr. John's 40th Anniversary of Ordination as a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit.
MASS 4:00PM IN CHURCH
DINNER 5:30PM IN SOCIAL HALL

Menu: country baked chicken, breaded pork cutlets, mostaccioli, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls, veggies, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and beverages

Following dinner guests will be entertained by famed Catholic illusionist, Giancarlo Bernini, who appeared on Penn & Teller's "Fool Us". He has astounded international audiences with an incredible show experience and has appeared on multiple national television programs.

Tickets: \$35 per person
No tickets available at the door.

Purchase tickets TODAY after Mass in back of church or at the Parish Office during the week.

You are invited to



Advent Tea

Topic for Reflection:
Mary, The Perfect Christian

Sunday, December 3, 2023
2pm to 4pm - Administration Bldg.

It will be a prayerful, peaceful, relaxing atmosphere in which you can escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season for a few hours. Join with friends to reflect upon Mary, the Mother of Our Lord, Jesus, the true reason for the season.

If you would like to host a table, or be a guest at someone's table, you will be able to sign up after Masses on November 11/12, 18/19 & 25/26 or you can call the Parish Office.

RSVP by November 27th.
A free will offering of a baby gift will be donated to Women's Pregnancy Aid Center in Madison Hgts.

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

SIN ON THE SOUL

Question: Why do some sacraments leave a character or mark on the soul? Don't all sacraments affect the soul?

Answer: All sacraments mediate grace and connect us to Christ and to the Church. Some sustain us in our faith journey, while others help us heal from the effects of sin. Each one offers a share in God's life, giving us what we need to be faithful followers of Jesus. But some sacraments change us in ways that are irreversible. The three sacraments that leave a character are Baptism, Confirmation, and Holy Orders. We are literally different people because of the effect of the grace of those sacraments. We are changed at the core of our being in such a fundamental way that we can not go back to what we once were.

In Baptism, we are freed from original sin, initiated into the Body of Christ as adopted sons and daughters. In Confirmation, we are given the fullness of God's Spirit, sealed in his grace and gifted with what we need to live a Christian life. In Holy Orders, a priest is marked as an 'alter Christus,' another Christ, and is once and forever a priest who offers sacrifice, forgives sin, and acts in the person of Christ. In these three sacraments, we are conformed more closely to Christ, reflecting his love and truth.

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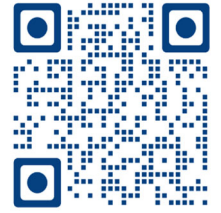


Pray for... all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful solution to world tensions.
 ...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, floods, earthquakes and disasters
 ...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting 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

**Regarding
"Reproductive
Health Act"**



Michigan Catholic Conference has been heavily engaged in efforts to defeat the Reproductive Health Act, legislation that promotes an unregulated abortion industry in Michigan. Members of the faithful are encouraged to send their elected officials a message to vote no on the Reproductive Health Act. To write your elected official, visit www.tinyurl.com/3eu5n6wr or scan the QR code to the left to be directed to the Michigan Catholic Conference website.



**PRAYER BLANKET & CARD MINISTRIES MEETING
DATE CHANGE TO NOVEMBER 16 THIS MONTH**

The Prayer Blanket and Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministries will be meeting on Thursday, November 16, 2023 from 6-8 pm in the church social hall due to Thanksgiving holiday. All are welcome to join us. You don't have to be artistic, just willing to give some of your time in service to others.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures next Sunday after Mass at our Coffee & Donut hospitality.

Ministry Schedule		
November 11/12, 2023		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	R Pasiak	P Allen
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	P Allen
	R Pasiak	A Goll
	M Simmons	T Karolski
Greeters	R Pasiak	M McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	D McLaughlin
	J Ballantine	D Vu
	L Proszkowski	P Miles
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of November 11/12 Tim & Nancy Oparka		

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...



SAINT MARTIN OF TOURS NOVEMBER 11

Saint Martin of Tours was born a pagan in what is now Hungary around 316, but he was raised in Italy where his father, a tribune, was posted. At 15 he was compelled to serve in the Roman military, though he was already a catechumen. There is a popular legend that while on campaign the saint cut his cloak in half to share with a cold beggar. That night he dreamed of Jesus and his cloak was restored. He was baptized at 18. Only two years after his baptism, he was released from the military, he had refused his battle pay and to fight saying he was a soldier for Christ. He is the first recognized conscientious objector.

After his release from the military, he became a disciple of Hilary of Poitiers. He worked diligently against the Arian heresy, which denies the divinity of Jesus Christ, and established a community of hermits near Poitiers in 361, the first French monastery.

In 371 he reluctantly became bishop of Tour. Nearby, he founded a second monastery, Marmoutier, because he preferred the life of a monk he retreated often. In 384 there was a popular heresy infecting the Church in Spain, led by the bishop Priscillian and his followers. The emperor Magnus Maximus became involved, ordering the execution of the heretics. Saint Martin opposed the executions and protested the emperor's involvement in Church matters. Unfortunately, the Priscillians were executed anyway.

Saint Martin died in Candes-Saint-Martin, Gaul in 397. He is notably one of the first saints who was not martyred. He is the patron saint of France.

©LPI



Please ask Our Lord for more dedicated, holy priests, deacons, and consecrated men and women. May they be inspired by Jesus Christ, supported by our faith community, and respond generously to God's gift of vocation."

USCCB

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**

A Glimpse of Heaven

There are times in our lives that we get the chance to see a glimpse of heaven. It may be through the love of another, loved one or stranger. Sometimes it may even be an event that seems unexplainable, perhaps even supernatural. These occurrences may be the answer to prayer or they may surprise us by coming out of nowhere. But no matter their nature or origin, they give us hope and strength to carry on through life.

When we journey on a pathway of stewardship, we are bound to experience moments of grace where we see even the smallest seeds we planted grow into something amazing. At these moments, we are reminded that God is real and that our stewardship is not in vain. The giving of our gifts and talents is not just a response to God's calling. The giving is one way that God breaks through into the lives of others. As we use what God has given us for his glory, he uses us as instruments of grace to be truly present to others.

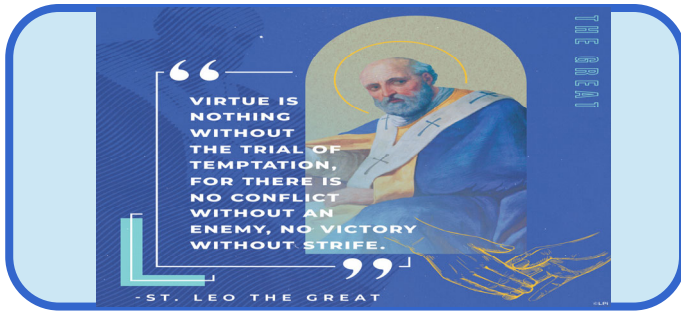
The greatest example of this occurs at the Mass. Through the hands of an ordained priest taking the gifts of bread and wine, God is really present with us. When



we then take Christ into our bodies, we accept the offer to take him into the world to others. The world cannot see Jesus in us with human eyes, but through our works of stewardship, they can see Jesus in us. One could say they even have a chance to see a glimpse of heaven

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

© Liturgical Publications



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Christ turns the way of the world upside down: the great become the small and the honored ones become humble. Be small, and you will feel his greatness. Be humble, and you will know the honor of Heaven. ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10
 The prophet Malachi informs the priests of Israel that God is aware that their instruction has caused many to stumble in their faith. Have you ever had to help someone who has lost their faith?

Second Reading: 1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13
 Paul expresses his gratitude to the Thessalonians for their openness to hear and believe the word of God taught by them. Who in your life might be open to hearing the word of God from you?

Gospel: Mt 23:1-12
 Jesus challenged the crowds and his disciples to be as servants to each other, acting always in humility. How might you be a servant to someone at work or at home? ©LPi

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time; Daylight Saving Time Ends; National Vocation Awareness Week
- Tuesday: Election Day
- Thursday: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
- Friday: St. Leo the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
- Saturday: St. Martin of Tours, Bishop; Veterans Day
- Next Sunday: 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



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 28/29

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	103		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 4,490.95	(802.05)	(2,991.00)
Energy	289.00	\$70.00	(219.00)	(965.08)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Trees, Candles etc.	\$ 1,115.39	389.00	(726.39)	(17,100.38)
Mass Intentions	n/a	170.00		1,770.00
AOD Priest Retirement Fund		5.00		1,187.00
AOD Collections: World Missions/Propagation of the Faith	n/a	740.00		1,342.00
Holy Days: All Saints, All souls, Immaculate Conception	n/a	445.00		1,356.00
Budget deficit donations		133.37		1,560.37

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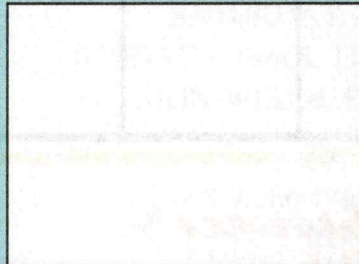
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**SUPPORT
OUR
PARISH**

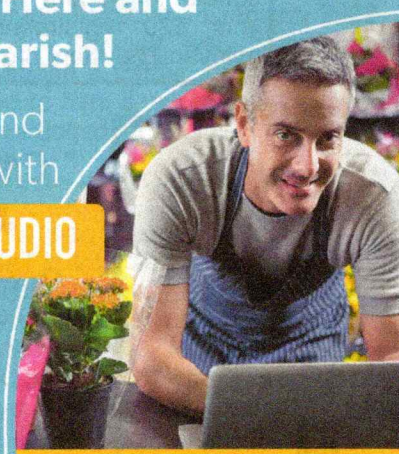
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