



# St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

JANUARY 14, 2024 † SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

How do people like Samuel and John the Baptist come to know and accomplish God's will? It is easy to see that God had a particular call and purpose for Samuel and John. This is true of all the major Prophets including Isaiah, Jeremiah, and Ezekiel, as well as minor Prophets like Hosea, Amos, or Micah. History makes it evident that God had a call and purpose for their life.

What about you and me? What about everyday people of faith, committed to God, who deeply value the Christian way? How are we to know the call of God on our life? How do we learn to perceive the voice of God or the movements of the Holy Spirit in us? God desires to speak to each of us. God wants an active relationship with all persons, particularly those who profess an active faith in the Lord Jesus. God's call is not only for those who choose to live a religious vocation of ministry in the Church. God desires to engage each of us in building the Kingdom of God proclaimed by Jesus.

Admittedly, Samuel and John the Baptist were particular cases. They both were born through Divine intervention. Hannah begged God for a child, and when Samuel was born, she consecrated him to God for Temple service. This was all in anticipation of Samuel's role as a Prophet in Israel. The birth of John was revealed at the time of Mary's Annunciation through the pregnancy of Elizabeth.

Beyond these Divine interventions, we can use both these actions of God to learn how to listen and respond to God's call. Consider John the Baptist. After a strong formation in the Jewish faith and its history and parental influence, how did John come to his position in life? John embraced a deep faith in God with a desire to direct his life in the will of God. Few, if any of us, will spend a prolonged period of time in the desert seeking to hear from God. However, the manner of John's desire is a path we can follow. John desired to know and hear from God. With careful attention to both mind and heart, John listened to his inner self to perceive God's message to him. He set himself in a quiet place, free from undue influence or distraction to learn how to hear the Lord deep within himself.

God always initiates. God calls us. We choose to respond or not. John said yes to God's offer. God honored his yes and formed his life to become the preparer for the coming of the Christ. John accepted this call, and the work of the Spirit was put into action.

Why did John act as he did in the company of his two disciples? This was an action or movement of the

Holy Spirit because his words became a revelation of his role and purpose. "Behold, the Lamb of God." In the Spirit, John is acting in his call. Notice how the interaction unfolds. Andrew and his companion listened to John's words and acted on them. They too are moved by the Spirit. They follow Jesus who John points out.

Jesus perceives their presence and receives them. "What are you looking for?" This is the invitation. The response, "Where do you stay?" In other words, "can we be with you. Can we know you?" Jesus invites them, "Come and see." The journey begins. Notice further that the encounter had an effect. These two disciples of John are moved to acclaim Jesus as the Messiah. First thing Andrew does is go and tell his brother Peter, "We have found the Messiah." Powerful words inspired by God in people who longed for and had faith in a coming Messiah.

What about us? The structure and dynamics are the same. It begins with faith in the desire to know and follow the Lord in a meaningful way. Faith comes from hearing. One way or another, we hear the Word of God, and it stirs in our soul. To seek God's will you must desire it and listen. Samuel is a good example here. Unknowing, but with strong desire, he hears what he thinks is the call of Eli, the priest. With direction, he learns it is the Lord calling and readily responds when he hears again the call of the Lord.

The question of Jesus is a good entry point. "What are you looking for?" he asked the two disciples. What are you looking for in God, in your faith, for your life, as it relates to God? Learn to listen from your heart rather than your mind that often has a pre-planned idea. Feel yourself in the awareness of God's presence with a desire to know him. Listen to what you hear and ponder what it might mean for you. Is what you hear from the Lord, from you, or another source? Attend and listen. An answer will come. Talk to God about what you hear and how you feel about it. Align it with your desire to love and serve the Lord and see how it fits. Is it a call from God or your own idea? Check your perception of the presence of the Holy Spirit. If you perceive the Spirit, the word or perception is likely from the Lord. How do you want to act on it?

We can all be instruments of the Lord in the work of building the Kingdom of God. The more we seek God's will in a personal and meaningful way, the more deeply we will perceive the invitation and action of God in our lives. Try it!

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 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, January 15, 2024**

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

**TUESDAY, January 16, 2024**

8:00am Mass: Vernon Shannon† req. by Corrine McCarthy

**WEDNESDAY, January 17, 2024**

8:00am Mass: Diane Karolski† req. by Virga Family

**THURSDAY, January 18, 2024**

8:00am Mass: Edward Gauronskas† req. by Daughter, Debbie Ager

**SATURDAY, January 20, 2024**

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

**SUNDAY, January 21, 2024**

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Jim McCown† (8th R.A.) req. by Judy McCown  
Dianne Karolski† req. by Corrine McCarthy  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family  
Living & Deceased Members & Families of Fr. Heary K of C

**Our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality will be NEXT Sunday, Jan. 21st.**

**JAN. 21**

**We welcome St. Mary's parishioners who will be using our facilities THIS weekend.**

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**January 14, 2024**

- Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10 (8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42
- Monday: 1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mk 2:18-22
- Tuesday: 1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/ Mk 2:23-28
- Wednesday: 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2, 9-10/Mk 3:1-6
- Thursday: 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12
- Friday: 1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/ Mk 3:13-19
- Saturday: 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/Mk 3:20-21
- Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

## ATTENTION SVF MINISTERS:

**SACRISTANS, GREETERS, READERS &  
EMES**

Please plan on attending an evening of renewal and reflection Tuesday, January 30th at 7pm in Admin Bldg. Fr. John will lead us in prayer, praise, and thanksgiving for our ministries. The evening will also attend to tasks and format of the individual ministries.

**This meeting will also meet the requirements of the Archdiocese to recertify ministers every 3 years.**



## Adoration Monday, January 22nd

Monday, January 22nd is designated as a “Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children”. There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following the 8am Mass until 10:00am that morning.

Note: Recent changes in the Michigan Constitution allow access to abortions thru all 9 months including without parental consent of minors.

**Come and offer prayers to change hearts and respect life.**

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“Come and see,” Jesus said to the disciples who were curious to know about him. Today, he whispers this invitation into the deepest place of our heart. Have courage — go, and see what Christ has to show you.

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## 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

As a priest, I’m amazed how happily married couples remember the tiniest details of their earliest encounters. They effortlessly report things like: “he wore a blue shirt,” “we ordered brussels sprouts,” “her hair was up in a bun,” and “he spilled shrimp cocktail sauce at my family’s open front door when it was ten degrees below zero,” (that one’s courtesy of my mom). We delight in remembering and speaking of when our new life of love began. The little details are glorious reminders that it’s all *real*.

It’s similar for John the Apostle. He tells us of the two disciples who followed Jesus into his house, “...they stayed with him that day. It was about four o’clock in the afternoon.” Why does that tiny detail matter? Because *that’s the time of day when they encountered the love of Jesus the Messiah in their lives*. Our religion is not primarily about abstract truths about God, no matter how true or sublime. It is about God meeting and saving us in our human nature. It’s about a *human* relationship.

What was the time of day when you first recall encountering Christ and his Church? Who was there? What did you feel? How did things look and smell? What happened? Take some time to recall it in detail. For me, it was inside an old, rickety church on a hillside in Jerome, Arizona. It was about 9 p. m. on a Saturday evening. I was with my friends Jenny, Brad, and Laura. We were praying, singing, and laughing. When was it for you? Remembering the details isn’t empty nostalgia. It reminds us now that God’s love for us in our humanity is real.

— Father John Muir

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## FEBRUARY 2024 A GRIEF SUPPORT SERIES

Beginning on Thursday, February 1, 2024 from 10am to 11:45am in the Administration bldg. dining hall, Judy McCown and Mike Kairis will facilitate a 6 week grief support series. The purpose of this grief support group is to provide a safe place for people who have experienced the loss of a significant person in their lives to engage in the work of mourning. Using the “companionship” model developed by Alan Wolfelt, Ph.D., we hope to help participants support each other in their journey through grief. Each session will explore different aspects of grief and mourning with a sensitivity to each individual’s unique experience of loss and grieving. Through weekly reading, reflection, and sharing, group members will work together through the essential phases of grief and mourning from the reality of loss to moving forward in life with a sense of hope and gratitude. Space is limited.

**Advanced registration by Jan, 29th. Please call the parish office at (248)542-8720 with your name and phone number. There is no fee.**



## EVANGELICAL CHARITY

### MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION

January 20/21

#### 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 - January 21st

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

Pray  
for



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions.

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

## 2024 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

If you would like a copy of your 2023 contributions for income tax purposes, please fill out a request form found at the church entrance and drop it in the collection basket or call the parish office at 248-542-8720.

### Making Changes in 2024

Many of us make a New Year's resolution to look and feel better and improve our health. We can feel it in our bones that it's time for a change. Goals like losing weight, getting fit, or eating better are always popular resolutions that often fail. A simpler approach can be to translate goals into habits and build better health one habit at a time.

Building new, healthy habits takes preparation. The best intentions can fall short if we lose focus on why these changes are important. Old habits die hard. Changing our habits is a process and it takes a while before new habits become part of our routine. Here are some tips to help make lasting changes:

- Make a realistic plan. Write it down.
- Start small and break down your goals into small, manageable steps.
- Focus on one goal or change at a time.
- Involve a buddy. This often keeps us motivated and accountable. Sharing your journey makes it less stressful.
- Asking for support from those who care about us can strengthen our commitment to our goals.

Here are a few suggestions for a healthy 2024:

- Eat a daily salad.
- Once a week, try something new.
- Try doing 10 minutes of resistance training or take a walk to ward off cravings.
- Plan an activity to relieve stress and anxiety.
- Take your phone calls standing or walking.
- Give thanks every night for three things you are grateful for.
- Keep your loved ones close.
- Ask others what you can do to help.
- Use sunblock every day, even in the winter.

We can do it! Our brains take up to three months of daily repetition to develop the neural pathway that automates behavior. The biggest hurdle is the first month so it's important to stick with it. The habits you set now may be habits you stick with for life!

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

[www.aarp.org](http://www.aarp.org) and [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org) and [www.ascension.org](http://www.ascension.org)

### Do you need RSV and COVID Boosters?

RSV affects all ages. Each year the virus sends 165,000 adults over 65 to hospitals and kills as many as 10,000 according to the CDC. Older adults with diabetes, heart disease, lung disease or kidney disease and individuals who are immunocompromised or living in a group home or nursing home setting are at elevated risk. The CDC recommends adults 60 and older be vaccinated one time.

I've had several COVID boosters. Do I need another? The recent COVID vaccine that was recommended in September 2023 really isn't a booster. It is a new vaccine that targets the latest variant. So, despite getting a booster prior to September last year you are not fully protected against the current version of the virus. COVID is circulating along with the flu, cold, and RSV. It is not seasonal and will continue to be with us constantly.

Many of us travel south for the winter months and currently there is an uptick in many states south of us. I encourage you to talk to your physician for information about your own case. Praying for the blessing of good health to you all.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

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

**CHANGES TO MASS**

**Question:** Why do we make changes in the Mass? Some seem so small and unimportant. Are they really necessary?

**Answer:** The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our identity as Catholics. Our purpose as a Church community revolves around the Eucharist. Everything we are and everything we do is measured not only by how well we celebrate, but also by how well we live the sacrament. If that is so, then we as a community will always strive to celebrate the Mass as best we can. The reasons for some changes might seem more obvious than others, but there is a reason behind each one.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal is the introduction to the Missal that contains all the prayers for the celebration of the Mass. The Order of Mass we use now was issued in 1975 and, as often happens over the course of years, some questions have come up about the proper way of doing some things and whether or not other practices are acceptable. These changes clarify some things and make the celebration of the Mass more meaningful for everyone.

The opportunity is presented to us to better learn and understand each part of the Mass, which in turn should help us deepen our appreciation for its beauty and meaning. We will be a better Church if we have a clearer understanding and knowledge of Who and what we celebrate.

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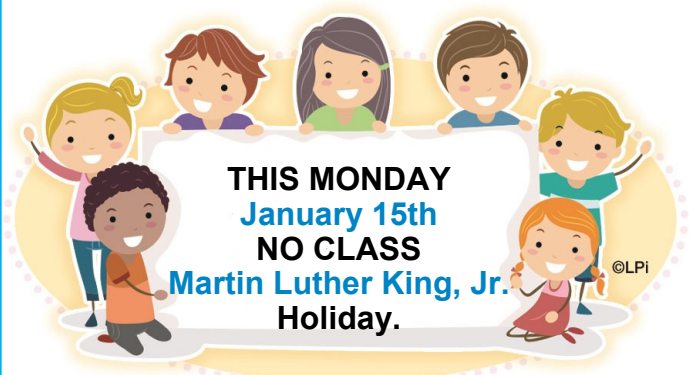
**Ministry Schedule**

January 20/21, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Simmons	P Allen
Reader #2	D Tourville	T Karolski
EME	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
	P Miles	C McCarthy
	M Simmons	P Allen
Greeters	R Bertolini	M Bessler
	L Collins	P Rarus
	M Smith	N Oparka
	R Juska-Svoba	T Oparka

**Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Jan. 20/21, 2024**  
Peter Miles

**CHILDREN'S FAITH FORMATION**



**Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into friend."**

Martin Luther King, Jr.

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION**

**First Reading:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19

In the Lord's call to Samuel, Eli teaches Samuel the importance of "listening" to God's voice. Can you name something you have heard from the Lord?

**Second Reading:** 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Paul saw our physical bodies as a temple of the Holy Spirit, destined to be raised after death just as Jesus was raised from the dead. What are some ways to treat your body with reverence and respect?

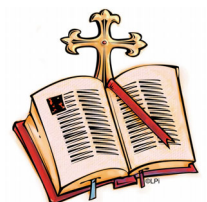
**Gospel:** Jn 1:35-42

In John's account of the call of the first disciples, we hear the first words Jesus speaks in the Gospel of John: "What are you looking for?" How can you convince family or friends that Jesus is what we all should be looking for?

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**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

**Saturday, January 20, 2024 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.

**EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES**



**ST. CLARE OF ASSISI (1194-1253)**

St. Clare of Assisi, was born into a wealthy, politically influential, Catholic family in Assisi, Italy. When she was 12, her family decided she should marry. She begged them to allow her to

wait until she was 18 and they eventually agreed.

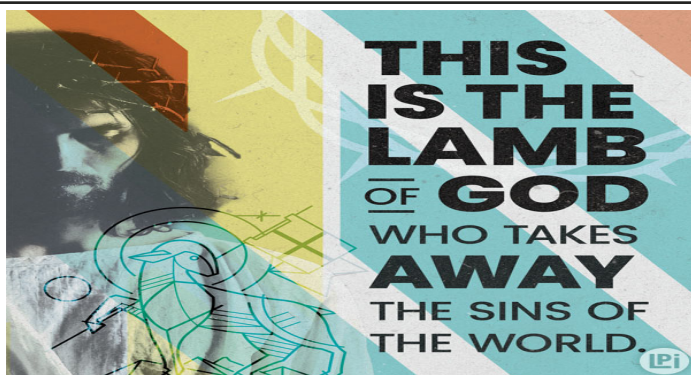
As a teen, Clare learned of a priest named Francis (St. Francis of Assisi). After hearing him preach, she decided that her calling was to “live for the Gospel.” She admired how Francis lived — in poverty, community, and service to the poor. After receiving permission from the bishop of Assisi, she left her family to join Francis and his followers. Once with them, Clare left her fancy life behind, donning a plain robe, simple veil, and cutting her hair short, a symbol of her desire to reject marriage and live a religious life.

Studying early on with the Benedictines, she was joined by her sister. Fearing for their safety from Clare’s family who were determined that the daughters return, Francis and his followers built a home for them next to a church they restored, San Damiano, for their protection. While there, Clare and Francis established the Order of the Poor Ladies of San Damiano.

Daily Mass, adoration, and the Eucharist were integral to the lives of Clare’s Poor Ladies. The growing community’s radical devotion to strict poverty set them apart from other congregations. Following her order’s eventual approval by the Pope, she wrote the order’s Rule of Life based on the teachings of St. Francis — the first monastic rule known to be written by a woman.

After St. Clare died, the Poor Ladies were renamed the Order of St. Clare or, the Poor Clares, in her honor. She passed away at the age of 59, one day after her Rule was approved. St. Clare, pray for us!

©LPi



**Those Who Seek the Truth**

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

In my work as a freelance writer, I have a regular column in the archdiocesan paper writing profiles of ordinary people in the local church. Laity, religious, and clergy alike — I hound them all to give me an interview, and when I do, the answer is almost always this: “You don’t want to talk to me. There’s nothing special about me.”

I always try to convince them that there is something remarkable about everyone who is searching for the truth. It is easy to think we are not made for holiness because we are ordinary people with ordinary habits, ordinary abilities, and ordinary sins. It is easy (and very convenient) to designate holiness as something belonging to Better People. People like the saints. People like the Disciples.

The Bible gives us next to no personal information about the disciples. There is no archdiocesan newspaper profile on Andrew and Simon that can give us insight into who they were before they became St. Andrew, Inaugural Disciple and Announcer of the Messiah, and St. Peter, First Pope and the Rock-Upon-Which-Christ-Built-His-Church.

Yet I find myself insatiably curious about it. What was their childhood like? What games did they play with each other as the sun set, before their mother called them into bed? What did they think of as they fell asleep at night? What secret jokes did they share to make each other laugh? What were they afraid of? What did they hope for? Who did they want to be?

Before they were towering figures of salvation history, Simon and Andrew were just two men searching for the truth. When they looked at Christ, there was something that made it click. Perhaps they themselves could not identify what it was, but their hearts whispered it nonetheless: *There it is. We finally found it.*

Isn’t that the best we can all hope for?

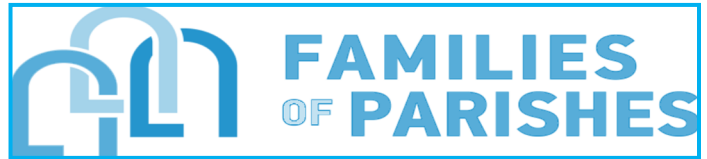
“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’” — John 1:38

©LPi

**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK**

- Sunday: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: Martin Luther King Day
- Wednesday: St. Anthony, Abbot
- Thursday: January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
- Saturday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr
- Next Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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## 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*

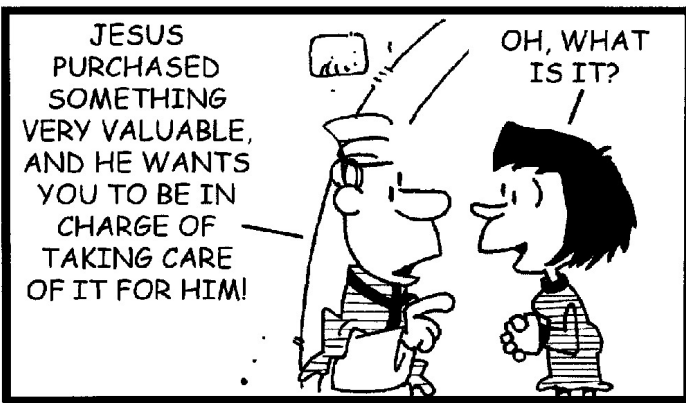
730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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

WED - 12:10pm



### *Prayer of Discernment*

Dear Lord,  
Here I am! Help me to know the path You would have me walk, to speak the words You would have me speak, to love and serve those You put in my path. Amen.

©LPi

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What are the four cardinal virtues? ©LPi

**Answer:** Fortitude, Temperance, Justice, and Prudence

## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JANUARY 7/8

Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	95		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 5,293.26	.26	(4,089..59)
Energy	289.00	468.00	179.00	(904.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	56.00	(1,059.39)	(25,671.69)
Mass Intentions	n/a	510.00		3,305.00
AOD Collections:	n/a			
Holy Days: Mary Mother of God	n/a	108.00		4,492.00
Budget deficit donations		27.00		5,342.37
Christmas		2,054.19		28,454.51
2023 CSA overage returned (3,552.00 unpaid pledges remain)				6,218.92

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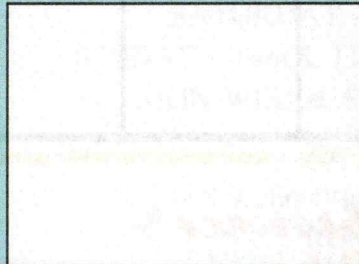
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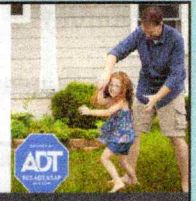


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