



# St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

April 14, 2024 † THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

## From The Pastor

This sign of the Cross is both an external and internal sign of faith for those who believe. Externally the sign of the Cross is a simple gesture of self-blessing. It is either public in a liturgical service or private as a devotional beginning of personal prayer. Signs have meanings. They serve a purpose. When used reverently with sincere faith they elicit the power of grace.

In the early Church, the sign of the Cross was small, made only on the forehead of the believer. In time, the sign of the Cross was expanded to include the forehead, chest, and shoulders. What does this sign mean, and why is it important?

The sign of the Cross is the sign of our redemption in the dying and rising of Jesus. In the spirit realm it serves as a protection as a shield of faith over the believer. Notice the movements that are made and what they signify. The sign of the Cross is a covering of grace, a profession of faith, and defense against the tensions of the world. The Cross bore the weight of our sin. Jesus carried the Cross on the road to Calvary. Once nailed to the Cross, it was the Cross that carried Jesus. Ponder that. Consider thanking the Cross for bearing the weight of your sin and mine in the person of Jesus.

The sign of the Cross is a visible expression of faith. We start at the top with the right hand touching the forehead saying, "In the name of the Father." Why? The Father is the beginning, the source and principle of life. The right hand then moves down to the heart saying, "and of the Son." The Father sends the Son from heaven to share in our human experience. A pure gift of becoming one with us. Jesus lives in our hearts with love. This coming down is a clear expression of the Incarnation. God chooses to share our humble human state.

From the heart, the right hand moves to the left shoulder and back to the right shoulder saying, "and of the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit is the communion of love shared between and among the three persons of the Holy Trinity. The work of the Holy Spirit is to sanctify, to make us holy in the holiness of Jesus. The Holy Spirit also works to bring unity within each person and among all persons. It is the Holy Spirit that connects us not only to God, but also to one another. As the Holy Spirit proceeds forth from the Father and the Son, it is the Spirit within us that leads us to love others in unity and connected community. Our whole life is dependent on and enriched by the power of the

Cross and the Divine life it conveys to us.

The sign of the Cross is a sign of both giving and receiving. As the priest blesses us in the outward motion of his right hand toward the people, the people with an inward motion of the right hand receive the blessing given as they mark themselves with the sign of the Cross sent to them. This is an important action. A gift sent can only be a gift if it is received. I find this particularly notable in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. As the priest prays the prayer of absolution, making the sign of the Cross over the penitent, the penitent receives the action of forgiveness by making the sign of the Cross over them self.

The sign of the Cross is a common gesture. Common things are often done half-heartedly. The sign of the Cross is powerful and meaningful. Use it as a sign of faith with an active desire to accept the fruit of your redemption in the grace it conveys.

The sign of the Cross for the disciples was Jesus himself. Notice their response to his physical presence on the evening of the Resurrection. They are startled and terrified, only consoled by the words of Jesus, "Peace be with you." Familiar words in a familiar voice. Jesus further proves his authentic presence inviting the others to touch him, to see his hands and feet to confirm his identity. With the disciples now filled with joy, Jesus persists in his confirmed presence. "Have you something to eat?" He was given a piece of fish and ate it in front of them.

Jesus is giving witness to himself as risen from the dead. He had no need to prove his death. That was all too real. Jesus affirms his reality through the words of Moses, the prophets, and his own words to his dearest friends. All that was promised by those who preceded him is now fulfilled.

The gospel is dependent on signs and wonders. Words alone are powerful, but they are made authentic by actions, and lived experience. Through a personal encounter with the risen Lord the disciples confirmed the Resurrection. The fact that many of them were so convinced of the Lord's living presence, they gave their lives in his name. We are called to do the same. The sign of the Cross is also a commissioning, a sending forth to serve in love. As the gospel concludes, "You are witnesses of these things." Go forth and love in the name of Jesus. Begin each day by making a devoted sign of the Cross over yourself.

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 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, April 15, 2024

8:00am Mass: David Rudy† req. by Eileen Smith

### TUESDAY, April 16, 2024

8:00am Mass: Linda Karolski† req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

### WEDNESDAY, April 17, 2024

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

### THURSDAY, April 18, 2024

8:00am Mass: Kathleen Vertel† (11th R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

### SATURDAY, April 20, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Linda Karolski† req. by Carl Copen  
Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom  
Genevieve Szeliga (50th R.A.) req. by Son, Tony & Jeanette Szeliga

### SUNDAY, April 21, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family  
Leonard Kwapis† req. by Members of the SVF St. Vincent de Paul Conference

Jacqueline Mason req. by Patricia Mason

Dianne Karolski† req. by Jessie Giszczak

Linda Karolski† req. by Jessie Giszczak

John Lamerato† req. by Sam & Meg Lamerato



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### April 14, 2024

- Sunday: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19/Ps 4:2, 4, 7-8, 9 (7a)/1 Jn 2:1-5a/Lk 24:35-48
- Monday: Acts 6:8-15/Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30/Jn 6:22-29
- Tuesday: Acts 7:51—8:1a/Ps 31:3cd-4, 6 and 7b and 8a, 17 and 21ab/Jn 6:30-35
- Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8/Ps 66:1-3a, 4-5, 6-7a/Jn 6:35-40
- Thursday: Acts 8:26-40/Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20/Jn 6:44-51
- Friday: Acts 9:1-20/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 6:52-59
- Saturday: Acts 9:31-42/Ps 116:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Jn 6:60-69
- Next Sunday: Acts 4:8-12/Ps 118: 1, 8-9, 21-23, 26, 28, 29 (22)/Jn 3:1-2/Jn 10:11-18



When I was a kid, a friend at my home parish told me, “If you get to Mass by the Gospel reading, it counts!” As a lifelong late-arriver, it’s something I have told myself many times, especially in my earlier years as a Catholic. If

the “it counts” is justifiable on a pathetically minimal scale of liturgical legalism, then the Gospel reading today shows how insanely wrong-headed it is, and how helpful it is to re-think the Mass in its light.

The famous “Road to Emmaus” story recounts, on that first Sunday of the Resurrection, the basic two-fold structure of the Mass: *Word*, followed by *Eucharist*. Jesus spends a significant period of time with two dismayed disciples, as he connects a wide swath of the Hebrew scriptures with his own suffering, death, and resurrection. They would later report that this Liturgy of the Word touched their hearts with an inexplicable fire. This Word-induced flame alone is what leads the two disciples to discover Jesus’ presence in the “breaking of the bread.”

With this in mind, how can we possibly think that the Liturgy of the Word is unnecessary or incidental? The two disciples needed the Scriptures explained to them in order to experience Jesus alive in the eucharistic breaking of bread. Sure, we say, but they had the Risen Jesus. But that’s precisely the point: Jesus is risen and accompanies us in both parts of the Mass. Imagine how much our experience of Jesus in the Eucharist would deepen if we (preachers and listeners) took even more seriously that Jesus himself sets our hearts ablaze with his Word *so that* we know him in the Eucharist. That Word-induced fire counts, too!

— *Father John Muir*  
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## INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES ARE NEEDED TO HOST THE TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE



Please commit to hosting the Traveling Vocations Chalice for one week. Prayers come with the chalice. Sign up sheets are at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert door entrance.

## The Benefits of Mobility

In the time of Jesus, they traveled by foot, donkey, or water. A day’s trip could be up to 20 miles. Today mobility is assisted by cars, planes, motorized boats, and any variety of recreational vehicles. We only walk to exercise, work, or shop. Mobility is now and as it was in Jesus’s time the foundation for living a healthy and independent life.

Mobility represents the ability to move joints freely through their complete range of motion. This ability is necessary for daily activities, bending over to tie shoes and to maintain balance while walking. As we age, factors such as sedentary lifestyles and muscle tightness can compromise mobility, leading to stiffness and increased susceptibility to injuries.

Improving mobility involves a combination of stretching, flexibility exercises, and joint movements. Daily routines that focus on areas like the neck, shoulders, hips, and ankles help maintain movement. Regular engagement in exercise enhances our overall mobility as well as our mental well-being.

The advantage of mobility training includes all ages and fitness levels to foster a healthier, more active lifestyle. For seniors’ mobility training enhances flexibility, balance, greater range of motion, increased stability, reducing the risk of falls and promoting independence. For office workers, mobility training can counteract the effects of prolonged sitting by improving posture and preventing stiffness. Mobility training for athletes can optimize joint function, increase muscle strength, and prevent injuries. For those who are recovering from surgeries or injuries, training promotes recovery of movement. For all of us mobility reduces fatigue. Always consult your doctor before starting a new exercise routine, especially if you have existing health conditions.

Albert Einstein said, “Life is like riding a bicycle, to keep your balance, you must keep moving.” If you would like copies of some mobility exercises, I would be happy to mail them to you. Contact the Parish Office.

*Angela Maynard*, Parish Nurse







...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*

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter  
 Monday: Tax Day  
 Next Sunday: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter; World Day of Prayer for Vocations

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### Women's Sacred Journey

**SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH -  
 9:00AM**

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE  
 SVF SCHOOL BLDG.**



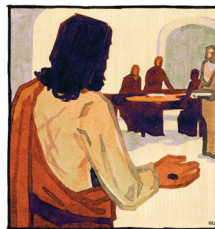
All women in our Family of Parishes are invited to join other women to pray and reflect on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required.

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** This term means giving 10% of one's income to the Church. What is this term?

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**Answer:** To tithe, or tithing.



## The Twist Ending

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Any reader of psychological thrillers will come across the “dead main character trope” fairly often.

This is the famous *Sixth Sense* twist ending (I would say “spoiler alert,” but the movie is older than most of the people who work in Youth Ministry at your archdiocese, so you’ve probably seen it by now) where the reader finds that the main character has been dead for all or most of the story.

I’m always a little disappointed when this happens. It delivers shock value, sure, but it also undermines everything that happens in the story. You’ve come on a journey with this character, only to find out that nothing you saw transpire was real in the way you thought it was. You feel a little stupid, because the whole time you only had part of the truth.

I suspect Jesus knows this about us. He knows we don’t like to have the rug pulled out. It’s why he is so up-front about his humanity following the resurrection. See how Jesus, resurrected, shows the disciples his feet, his hands. See how he asks them for food and lets them watch him eat it. See how this creates in them an understanding, a belief.

The humanity of Jesus Christ is absolutely crucial. It’s what bridges the divide between the sons of Eve and the God she defied. Our reconciliation with God cannot happen unless human flesh pays the price that will balance the scales. Human flesh: skin that can tear and bleed, bones that can break, a mouth that can thirst, a stomach that can ache with hunger.

The passion and death of Jesus Christ is not a thriller with a twist ending: *he was a ghost the whole time!* The twist, if anything, is this: he was human the whole time.

*“Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have.”*

— Luke 24:39 ©LPi

### St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

**Theresa Ingels**

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!





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

**ANGELS**

**Question:** I’ve heard that we become angels when we die. Is this what the Church teaches?

**Answer:** As human beings, we are both spiritual and corporeal.

We are body and soul. This makes us unique in all creation. No other physical creature — plant or animal — possesses an immortal soul made in God’s image and likeness. Like the distinction with plants and animals, angels have an entirely different sort of existence. Angels are pure immortal spirit, and they have been so since the moment of their creation. While they may take on an appearance of a body in Biblical history, they are not a body like we are. Angels are neither male nor female, despite the art we often see.

As the result of the Fall, human beings experience death. Our souls are temporarily separated from our bodies. However, we do not become something other than human. Every Sunday in the Creed we profess “I believe in the resurrection of the body.” As Jesus was united with his body on the third day, so too will we be united with our bodies at the end of time.

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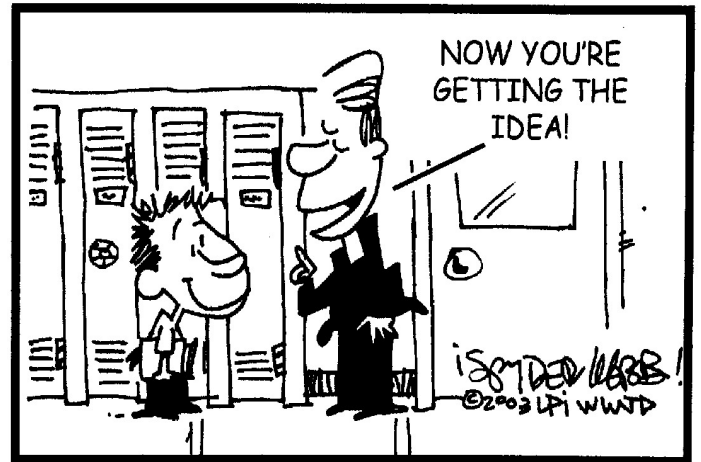
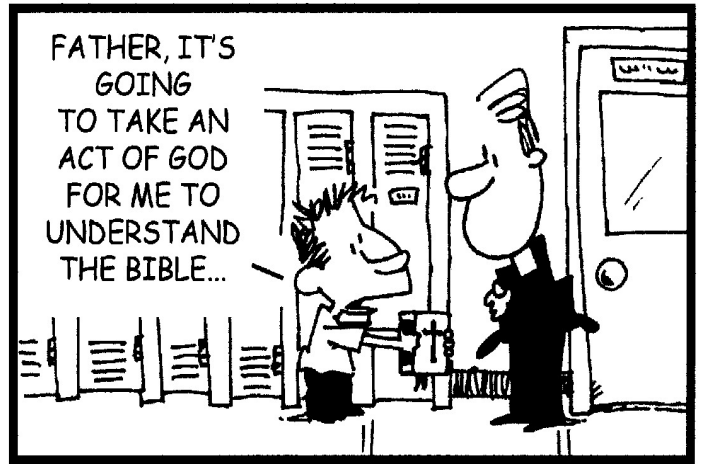
**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION**

**First Reading:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19  
Peter challenges the religious leaders of Jerusalem who put Jesus to death to repent of their sins and be converted. Have you ever seen someone have a conversion to the Faith?

**Second Reading:** 1 Jn 2:1-5a  
John tells us that we should turn to Jesus, our Advocate, when we sin and fail to keep his commandments. Can you think of a time when you sought Jesus in a time of need?

**Gospel:** Lk 24:35-48  
The resurrected Jesus taught the disciples how they were witnesses to the Scriptures being fulfilled in his suffering, death, and resurrection and that forgiveness of sins was to be preached in his name. How might you share your faith this week at home or at work?

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<b>Ministry Schedule</b>		
April 20/21, 2024		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	T Riley	D Gray
Reader #2	P Miles	L Yolkiewicz
EME	T riley	C McCarthy
	R Pasiak	N Virga
	M Simmons	M Black
Greeters	R Juska-Svoba	M McLaughlin
	L Collins	D McLaughlin
	M Smith	B Gutowski
	J Ballantine	B Turchin
<b>Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of April 20/21, 2024</b>		
Duane & Marge McLaughlin		

***EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES***

**VENERABLE FRANCIS-XAVIER  
NGUYỄN VĂN THUẬN**  
(1928 –2002)

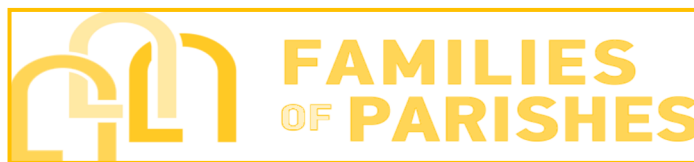
Venerable Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận was born in Huế, Vietnam and was the nephew of South Vietnam's first president. He entered seminary when he was a teenager and was ordained in 1953 at age 25. By 1975 he was appointed as the coadjutor archbishop of Saigon, just as the Vietnam War came to an end. Only six days after his appointment, Saigon fell to the North Vietnamese Army and Francis-Xavier, targeted for his faith and connections, was arrested, and detained by the regime. For the next 13 years, he endured immense hardships in captivity, including nine years of solitary confinement.

Throughout his imprisonment, Francis-Xavier's devotion to Jesus sustained him. Denied access to the Mass and to the Sacraments, he secretly celebrated Mass while confined with whatever resources he could find — even if he only had a few drops of wine and a piece of bread as the elements for the Eucharist.

While imprisoned, he became known for his joyful spirit, sharing hope and encouragement with fellow prisoners, and writing powerful faith reflections on scraps of paper, which were smuggled out and circulated among Catholics worldwide.

Released from prison in 1988, Francis-Xavier continued to inspire the Church from house arrest as well as from exile in Switzerland. In 1994, Pope John Paul II appointed him as the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, recognizing his dedication to promoting peace, reconciliation, and social justice. Fourteen years later he died of cancer in Rome at the age of 74.

In recognition of his heroic virtues, Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận was declared Venerable by Pope Francis in 2017. His cause for beatification is ongoing, and he continues to be an important figure for those facing oppression and adversity, inspiring them to remain steadfast in God's love. Venerable Francis-Xavier Nguyễn Văn Thuận, pray for us!

**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

***INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK***

*Sometimes when God appears in our  
path, we do not recognize him.*

*In these moments, Jesus invites us  
to reach out and touch him.*

*Remember that Christ is real, Christ  
is alive, and Christ stands before  
each one of us — so reach out.*

*Touch him.*

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**USE YOUR PRACTICAL SKILLS TO HELP NEIGHBORS IN NEED!**

Volunteers are greatly needed to help frail, older and disabled adults in our community with:

- MINOR HOPE REPAIRS**
- INDOOR/OUTDOOR CHORES**
- BASIC HOUSEKEEPING**

For a frail older adult or a person with disabilities, simple tasks like dusting & vacuuming, changing light bulbs or raking leaves can be impossible. Many minor home repairs are often well beyond their abilities, and far too expensive for them to purchase professionally. The Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers program helps our older and disabled neighbors with such tasks so they can remain safe and independent in their own homes. If you can help weekly, monthly or even just a couple times a year, please call us today. The time you give will make a real difference in someone's life. Call (586) 757-5551.

**Learn more about our work at [www.ivcinfo.org](http://www.ivcinfo.org)**



**A reminder to those still fulfilling their 2023 pledge...  
CSA 2023 Campaign ends April 30, 2024.**

St. Mary Moms + Tots

# MOM 2 MOM SALE

**Saturday April 27, 2024**  
**8:30am - 1:00pm**  
**St. Mary Fellowship Center**

St. Mary Catholic Church  
730 S. Lafayette Ave  
Royal Oak 48067

40+ tables of gently used or outgrown baby + kids clothes, toys, books, & maternity clothes that are perfect for your growing family. Plus large items such as toys, strollers, high chairs, cribs, bikes & much more.

- 8:30am - 9:30am**  
\$3 Early Bird Admission
  - 9:30am - 1:00pm**  
\$2 Admission
  - 12:00pm - 1:00pm**  
Discounted Items
- Only cash will be accepted at the door for admission. Shoppers under 18 years old are free.
  - Strollers are allowed.
  - This event is being hosted by the St Mary Moms+Tots Group.
  - All questions can be emailed to: [M2MSaleStMaryRO@gmail.com](mailto:M2MSaleStMaryRO@gmail.com)



**SELLERS WANTED!**  
Scan QR Code for seller application



**FACEBOOK EVENT**  
Scan QR Code for Facebook Event

**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING APRIL 6/7**

<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	\$4,836.17	(456.83)	(9,294.26)
Energy	289.00	461.00	172.00	(1,538.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	146.00	(969.39)	(36,188.90)
Mass Intentions	n/a	320.00		5,055.00
Holy Days: Easter	n/a	344.00		6,004.00
Budget deficit donations		91.00		7,482.00
2023 CSA overage (pledges outstanding - 2,451.36)				7,319.64



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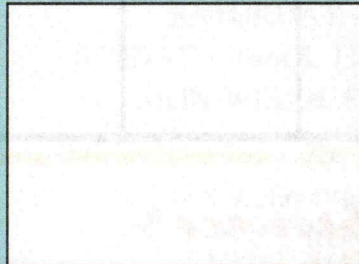
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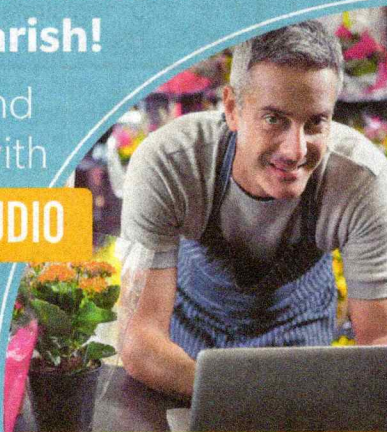
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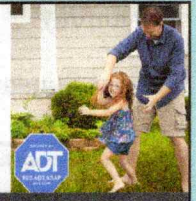


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