



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

MAY 19, 2024 † PENTECOST SUNDAY

From The Pastor

'Beloved, let us love one another because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love.' 1John 4:7-8. This verse from the first epistle of John makes the gift of the Holy Spirit indispensable for those who believe in God and seek to live the way given us in Christ.

These words are the truth of who God is and what God does. God is what God does; God loves. To live and measure life by the ways of the world will incline a person to question, doubt, or even reject the truth of God as love. Yet love is the ground and essence of what it means to be a human being. Why? Because we cannot live meaningful, effective, or happy lives without love. A person could be successful without love and live in the illusion of happiness, but at the end of the day any success in the world will pass away without meaning. Love remains because love gives life. Love can restore life within, beyond, and through the darkest nights of despair, loss, violence, lies, or confusion. Why? Because love is truth, and the truth of love has been given us by God in the person of Jesus Christ who died and is now risen from the dead. Jesus remains ever-present in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Consider the reading of the dry bones. God directs Ezekiel the Prophet to revive those who have lost hope, identity, and faith in God in a dark time of exile. The Israelites are suffering captivity in Babylon. Be mindful that Israel is an image or metaphor of all humanity. God did not choose Israel alone to be his chosen people. They are an image of all people, all humanity in the suffering of oppression, sin, and death. This is the power of the image of the dry bones. Without God, faith, trust, and fidelity to love, we are all lost in an exile of our own making. Without love, we become lifeless, dry bones without identity or meaning in God.

Notice God's direction to revive the hopeless and the despairing. God commands Ezekiel to speak to the bones: "Dry bones hear the word of the Lord." In other words, return to faith, listen to me, and I will revive you, giving you new life. Without the life and love of God in us, our lives fall apart, we become disjointed, out of shape, unable to be in motion. Persisting, God tells Ezekiel to 'call upon the Spirit of God and from the four winds to come down and breathe on those slain that they may come to life.' Is this the Pentecost of the Old Testament? It certainly could be.

Consider a time in your life, even now, when you have felt dry, anxious, discouraged, or without direction. What revived you? What might revive you now? Call on the Holy Spirit; seek a revival of faith and hope in the person and life of Christ given you in the Holy Spirit. Any expression of love can inspire.

The reading from Galatians contrasts the ways of the flesh against the ways of the Spirit. Here, flesh means the ways, comforts, temptations, and sin of the world. They will please, but only for a time. They have little capacity to satisfy in meaningful or spiritual ways. The list of comforts found in the disorder of sin, evil, idolatry, and hate are painfully present all around us. By contrast, consider the fruits of the Spirit. How are these present in you? Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. This is the work and evidence of the Holy Spirit. They give hope, purpose, and identity in God.

Lastly, consider the transformation of the fearful disciples locked in an upper room. Confused by the death of Jesus they are lost, hiding, and without sense. Jesus appears offering a word of peace. They rejoice and find their feet. Jesus continues. He breathes on them, a primal act of life-giving, and says: "Receive the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit is the Lord and giver of life, Divine life, life in love. The Holy Spirit is power, the power of love. It is the power of God that forgives us, that we may forgive others. There is no forgiveness without love. To forgive is an action of God given in the Spirit.

No longer afraid, the disciples go forward with great courage and zeal proclaiming the truth of the Lord Jesus. They experience every kind of resistance, scorn, and martyrdom, yet they persist. Clearly, they are under the power of the Holy Spirit. How is the power of the Spirit evident in your life? Look in places you experience love, give love, or are drawn to empathy and compassion. Where do you perceive the action of the Spirit in the trials you bear, in your worries and anxiety about your loved one, the Church, the world, and the state of things today? The Spirit is present. The Spirit is no more hidden than Jesus was in the flesh for those who learn to see and perceive with eyes of love.

In the Holy Spirit, you have power. The Holy Spirit is love, and love is the greatest and most abundant power on earth and in the heavens. Use Pentecost this year as a new starting point to realize the light, life, and love of Christ in you. Once found, share freely.

Father John Esper

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

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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

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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,
Closed Friday, 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, May 20, 2024**8:00am Mass: Deacon Francis Xavier Chau Doan† req.
by Immaculata Rosary Group**TUESDAY, May 21, 2024**8:00am Mass: Helen Gutowski† (21st R.A.) req. by
Bernadette Gutowski**WEDNESDAY, May 22, 2024**8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req.
by Mom**THURSDAY, May 23, 2024**8:00am Mass: Chico Miguel Rodriguez† (1st R.A.) req.
by Rodriguez Family**SATURDAY, May 25, 2024**4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Donna Dietrich† req. by FamilyPeter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom
Regina Szeliga† (10th R.A.) req. by Stepson, Tony &
Jeanette Szeliga**SUNDAY, May 26, 2024**9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Richard Collins

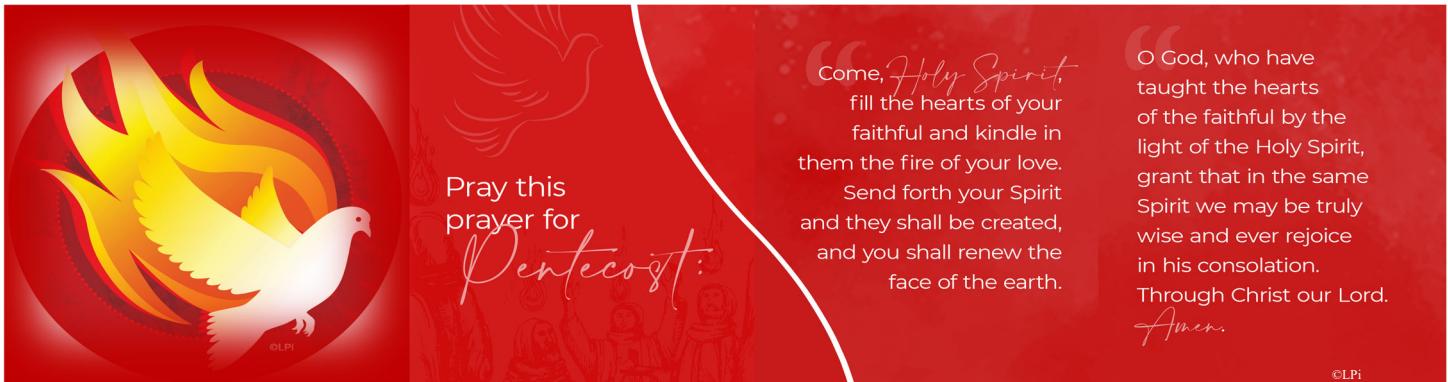
Maria Miceli† req. by Virga Family
 Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
 Jacqueline Mason req. by Patricia Mason
 Dod Marashi req. by File Dodja
 Lul Zefja req. by File Dodja
 Vitore Dodj req. by file Dodj

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

©LPI

May 19, 2024

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Sunday: | <i>Vigil: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/ Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22 -27/Jn 7:37-39</i>
<i>Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Gal 5:16-25/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15</i> |
| Monday: | <i>Gn 3:9-15, 20 or Acts 1:12-14/Ps 87:1-2, 3 and 5, 6-7/Jn 19:25-34</i> |
| Tuesday: | <i>Jas 4:1-10/Ps 55:7-8, 9-10a, 10b-11a, 23/Mk 9:30-37</i> |
| Wednesday: | <i>Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/Mk 9:38-40</i> |
| Thursday: | <i>Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk 9:41-50</i> |
| Friday: | <i>Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12</i> |
| Saturday: | <i>Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16</i> |
| Next Sunday: | <i>Dt 4:32-34, 39-40/Ps 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22 (12b)/Rom 8:14-17/Mt 28:16-20</i> |



PENTECOST SUNDAY

When I was twenty-two years of age in August of 2000, I experienced World Youth Day in Rome. As for many of my generation, the event was life-changing for me. Surrounded by joyful, hope-filled young people from seemingly every nation and tongue, we were gathered around the Pope, sharing a common Faith and love. The Pope spoke to us of our shared family bond in the Church and invited us to give our lives in service to others. Now twenty-four years later, my life as a priest, like that of so many others from those special days, continues on that same path of love and unity — despite my many weaknesses. What makes that continuation possible?

This week's feast gives the answer: the Holy Spirit. The gift of God — His very life — the third person of the Trinity, is the Spirit who animates the entire Church and each member of it. He makes us one-in-love in a way that utterly exceeds human capacity. For example, he makes the apostles speak with tongues of fire, and everyone hears them in his own native tongue. The Holy Spirit is the means by which Jesus establishes a new family, one that crosses all possible boundaries of time, space, and culture. The Holy Spirit never tires in enthusing us for mission.

Aren't we longing to experience the Holy Spirit in a fresh way? Today we celebrate this untiring flame, once ignited on earth and burning still. So, we humbly cry out: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in us the fire of your love!

— Father John Muir
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As clear transparent substances become very bright when sunlight falls on them and shine with a new radiance, so also souls in whom the Spirit dwells, and who are enlightened by the Spirit, become spiritual themselves and a source of grace for others.

St. Basil the Great, bishop

Two of our young people, together with other young people in our Family of Parishes will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Wednesday, May 22nd at St. Mary Parish in Royal Oak. We offer thanks to parents, clergy, catechists, Confirmation sponsors and all those who helped prepare these students for this sacrament.

HEALING MASS NEXT SATURDAY

MAY 25, 2024 - 4:00pm

Fr. John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass. Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.



Anointing of the Sick



2024

Please help us reach our goal of \$88,000.

Information on CSA Campaign 2024 has been mailed to all parishioners. Funds received by the Archdiocese of Detroit in excess of our assigned AOD target will be returned to our parish.

An anticipated increase in your generosity to CSA 2024 as a parish fundraiser will provide the \$50,000.00 excess needed for our parish budget. Please prayerfully consider an increase in your contribution or pledge to help reach our goal of \$88,000.

To make a pledge or contribute by mail, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided. Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN. Donations can be made online at our website: www.stvincentsferrer.net using the donations tab or see the other ways to give on the pledge card.

For those not registered, pledge cards are available at the parish office or at the long table alongside the chapel wall near the Herbert Street vestibule door.



Spirit to Spirit

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Talk to any couple who are devoted to one another. Ask them when they realized they were in love — call-me-in-a-crisis love, face-the-day-to-day-with-me love — and the answer will probably not be “When I realized he was only dating me to win a bet with his boss.”

If you know what movie that references, you and 12-year-old me would have been great friends.

Like any other self-respecting American tween of the early 2000s, I used to watch a lot of romantic comedies. I forget how old I was when I realized that romantic comedies are actually ... really boring. Not because they’re about love — true love is *fascinating*. I could watch real-life people talk about who they love for *hours*.

Because when we say we love someone — truly love them — what we mean is we love their spirit. We love what they are. We love the qualities that escape description, the attributes we have to talk around or reduce to cliche in order to define. We cannot love a body alone. We cannot love a name or a reputation. We cannot love a story that we’ve built around a relationship.

To be in love with someone you need to know their spirit. Intimately. And that knowledge cannot help but change everything about you. It changes your goals, your understanding of the world. It changes the amount of courage you have to face the life ahead of you. It changes your ability to be who God wants you to be.

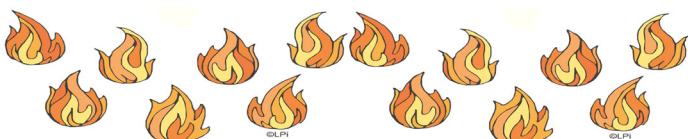
The disciples lived and ate and walked with Jesus for three whole years before they really knew his spirit. They didn’t know it on Good Friday when they scattered and hid and wept. They didn’t know it on Easter Sunday, when they couldn’t believe what they saw. They thought they loved him, but when push came to shove their love failed.

But by the end of their lives, the disciples knew the kind of love that sustained them even in the face of martyrdom.

What was it that changed? It was the Spirit. They finally knew the Spirit.

“No one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.” — 1 Corinthians 12:3

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MAY CROWNING

Last Sunday, following the 9am Mass, one of our young people, Giorgio Leong, helped us to honor Mary by placing a beautiful flower crown on our Blessed Mother statue.



...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.

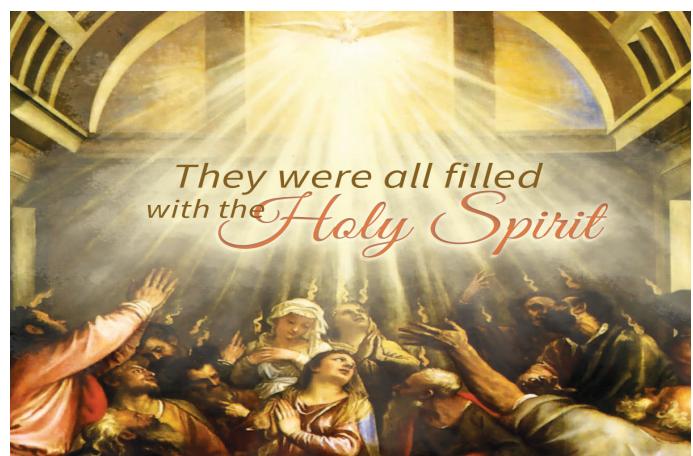
...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...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,

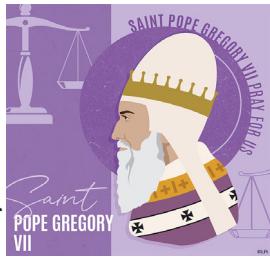
You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we 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



Getting to Know Our Saints...

ST. POPE GREGORY VII (c.1015-1085)

St. Gregory VII was born in Italy and originally named Ildebrando di Sovana which translates to Hildebrand of Sovana. He grew up in a devout Catholic family and his uncle, Laurentius, was abbot of a monastery in Rome.



As a young man, Hildebrand became close with Pope Leo IX. He was made a cardinal subdeacon and a legate. As a papal legate he served in France, Germany, and Italy. After Pope Leo IX's death, Hildebrand became a leading figure in the papal court of the next few popes.

Shortly after the death of Pope Alexander II, Hildebrand was quickly ordained a priest and raised to the papacy. He chose the name Pope Gregory VII in honor of the first Pope Gregory whose writings heavily influenced him. During his time as pope, Gregory VII worked hard to reform the Church he so loved.

At the time, the Church was facing corruption. People in leadership were selling sacred offices and sacramentals, some clergy were unlawfully marrying, and kings and nobles, were controlling the appointment of Church officials. Pope Gregory VII fiercely resisted these corruptions. In fact, in order to put an end to the Roman Emperor Henry IV's control over which bishops were appointed, he excommunicated him three times. Pope Gregory VII's desire was to reunite the Church under the banner of Christ and the Holy Eucharist, instead of under the banner of whoever was richest and desired the most control.

Pope Gregory VII is remembered as one of the most important popes in Church history and lends his name to the Gregorian Reform, the period of reform in the Church that secured freedom from the intrusion of civil rulers. Saint Pope Gregory VII, pray for us! ©LPI

"THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT IS LOVE, JOY, PEACE, PATIENCE, KINDNESS, GENEROSITY, FAITHFULNESS, GENTLENESS AND SELF-CONTROL."

*Stephen Webb
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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday:	Pentecost Sunday
Monday:	Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church
Tuesday:	St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
Wednesday:	St. Rita of Cascia, Religious
Saturday:	St. Bede the Venerable, Priest and Doctor of the Church; St. Gregory VII, Pope; St. Mary Magdalene de'Pazzi, Virgin
Next Sunday:	The Most Holy Trinity

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Like a stool that cannot stand on two legs alone, we need the Holy Spirit. The third Person of the Trinity is the puzzle piece whose testimony completes the beautiful picture of salvation. Let us never fail to say: come, Holy Spirit!

*Come, Holy Spirit!
Enlighten us! Embolden us! Inflame us!
Stir our hearts anew!
You have called us to live and minister in this time, in these spaces, to these souls.
Set us on FIRE with fresh inspiration and sacred direction! Amen.*

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which prayer is also called the Angelical Salutation? ©LPI

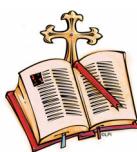
Answer: The Hail Mary.

IF YOU'VE EVER TAUGHT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RIGHT BEFORE SUMMER VACATION, I CAN TELL YOU THERE'S SLIM PICKIN'S AT THE ORCHARD.



**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP &
SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

Saturday, May 25th 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 fee or registration required.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Acts 2:1-11

We hear how the Holy Spirit allowed the mighty acts of God to be heard by people of all languages in every nation. Where do you see God at work in the world or in your workplace?

Second Reading: Gal 5:16-25

Paul encouraged believers in Galatia to be guided by the fruit of the Spirit (joy, peace, self-control) rather than by the works of the flesh (immorality, lust, idolatry) in order to inherit the kingdom of God. How might you practice the fruits of the Spirit this week?

Gospel: Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 15:26-27; 16:12-15

Jesus taught his disciples he would send the Advocate, the Spirit of truth, to guide them and offer them divine gifts. What guidance are you seeking from the Lord?

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THE CALL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

What we put on our bodies serves only as a reminder of what is really important during these liturgical celebrations. At Pentecost, it was the Spirit of God that filled those in the first Christian community. We wear red to call to mind that very Spirit, often depicted as a fire or flame. However, if we just use red as a reminder of the power of the Spirit without letting it change us, then our actions become merely sentimental.

We are filled with the Holy Spirit through the sacraments of the Church. God touches us and enters into us in a profound way, just like in that upper room at Pentecost. That first powerful movement of the Spirit led to a Church that grew and flourished and remains alive today. What is the movement of the Spirit within calling you to do today? Do we allow God to move us and do great things through us? Red is a bold color to wear at any time. But our actions should be even bolder.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

HOLY SPIRIT

Question: How do we know when we receive the Holy Spirit?

Answer: My brothers and I discovered something as we got older. There's a little bit of dad in us. Each time we catch ourselves using one of his gestures, expressions, or comments about a meal, we say, "I'm getting more like Dad!" Many laughs and good-natured kidding have come out of it. Mom loves it, and so does Dad, although I doubt he'd admit it!

When we are confirmed, we receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. There is no radical change in us that makes us seem suddenly different. Over a period of time, we come to see that there is a little bit of the Spirit in us. We catch ourselves using the gifts, and often end up wondering where a bit of wisdom came from, or why we were so patient, or we feel an intensity in our prayer. Perhaps we felt drawn to deepen our spiritual life or found courage in witnessing to our faith. That's when we know we have received the Holy Spirit. We take on his image. Yes, we grow in age, grace and wisdom, but we also grow in our awareness and understanding of the working of God in our life. We become more godlike, realizing we're getting more and more like God. Our thoughts, words and actions carry that quality and others too, see it in us. You might call it holiness. But be confident! There's a little bit of him in all of us.

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Ministry Schedule

May 25/26, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Simmons	R Grant
Reader #2	T Riley	T Karolski
EME	M Kairis	P Miles
	M Simmons	Y Yolkiewicz
	J McCown	M Waskowski
Greeters	L Collins	P Miles
	R Bertolini	T Lane
	R Pasiak	B Turchin
	T Pasiak	R Juska-Svoba

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of May 25/26, 2024
Kathy Bush



Widowed Friends "Mission Statement":
Widowed Friends offers widowed men and women of all ages caring companionship and the opportunity for healing, spiritual development, education and wonderful new growth. Our enrichment activities meet a variety of needs to facilitate the journey from loss to a new sense of joy and purpose. Widowed men and women of all faiths are welcome.

Activities include and are not limited to: breakfast and lunch gatherings, Mass, dancing, golfing, game nights, dinners, concerts, plays, and book clubs. The newsletter contains details on these events.

To sign up for the newsletter visit:
www.widowedfriends.org/sign_up

For questions visit widowedfriendsaod@gmail.com

National Eucharistic Congress

Indianapolis | July 17 - 21, 2024

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC PILGRIMAGE BEGINS

On the Feast of St. Paschal Baylon, patron saint of Eucharistic Congresses, the executive team for the National Eucharistic Congress is excited to invite Catholic communities across the country to be part of the historic movement to set hearts ablaze along four distinct routes that are part of a Eucharistic pilgrimage destined for the 10th National Eucharistic Congress in Indianapolis, IN. Rooted in daily celebration of the Mass and modeled after the Gospel account of Jesus' journey to Emmaus two millennia ago, the National Eucharistic Pilgrimage will kick off May 17-19, 2024 during the Feast of Pentecost. The routes, named for saintly significance corresponding to the geographical starting point, will pass through many major U.S. cities beginning in San Francisco, CA (Serra Route); Bemidji, MN (Marian Route); New Haven, CT (Seton Route); and Brownsville, TX (Juan Diego Route).

All routes lead to Indianapolis for the Eucharistic Congress.

For more information visit
<https://www.eucharisticpilgrimage.org/>



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 MAY 11 / 12

Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	26		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 11,929.22	6,636.22	(1,883.80)
Energy	289.00	243.00	(46.00)	(1,939.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	271.00	(844.39)	(33,737.69)
Mass Intentions	n/a	90.00		5,485.00
AOD Collections:	n/a			
Holy Days:	n/a			
Budget deficit donations		26.00		5,563.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 10,090.00				Paid 4,002.50



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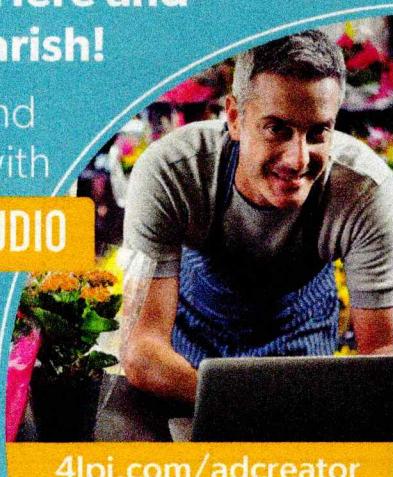
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