



# St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

**MAY 26, 2024 † THE MOST HOLY TRINITY**

## From The Pastor

Church religion is not always the entry point that leads to faith. Increasingly, in this post-modern world, formal religion is less likely to be the incentive that leads a person to active faith. What is it that draws us to God and inspires faith? Love is the root and the foundation that stirs an awakening to God that inspires a relationship of faith and trust.

Prior to the development of formal religion, people like Abraham and Moses were drawn by an inner encounter that touched them deeply. These ancient believers looked to the heavens gazing upon the stars with their hearts in awe. Something inside them stirred, and they began to listen to an inner voice that called them to a relationship with the Divine. God was making the Divine presence known for the sake of relationship. Abraham and Moses trusted this personal encounter that led to a relationship of faith.

To understand the Trinity, we must start at the beginning. God is love. God is a unity of love expressed in three foundational movements. God creates in love. God becomes incarnate in the Divine Son to redeem creation. God enters and remains in the human person and all creation through the Divine Spirit of Love. Love is our common nature and identity as human beings. Love is what makes us human, gives us dignity, instills a desire for unity and connection, and satisfies our fulfillment here and hereafter.

The Trinity is most often described as a mystery. It is a mystery, but not a hidden or unknowable one. God is a mystery because this side of heaven we cannot know the fulness of God as the Essence of Divine love. The power of Divine love creates out of nothing, surrenders to human sin through an incarnate Son who redeems all that is, and dwells in human beings and all creation in the Holy Spirit. Life is meaningless and unsustainable without love.

Why does the Trinity remain such a mystery? Because we look for its meaning outside ourselves. We look for a knowable understanding outside ourselves when the deepest meaning of the Trinity can only be known within us. God is the essence and origin of our being, our existence. God is within us. In the realization and acceptance of this reality, we discover the awareness of God in the joy and happiness God intended for us.

Love is our common identity as human beings. Growing in the awareness and acceptance of self-love is a lifelong task with innumerable ups and downs. Self-love reveals and awakens a person to the presence of God within. Self-love is an act of faith because it is an

action and a gift of God meant for every human being. Self-love leads to a maturing self-identity that looks beyond the self toward relationships and connection with others. Love realized and accepted becomes love for and with others. Why? Because God is a pure relationship of love in a unity of persons in mutual self-giving. Each person of the Trinity is nothing without the unitive love of the others. The love of each person in the Trinity, Father-Son-Holy Spirit, Creator-Redeemer-Sanctifier, continuously flows each to the other in an endless dance of Divine energy.

This action is seen and experienced by those who accept God's love and freely share it with others. Acceptance of Divine love honors the Creator, accepts the forgiveness of the Redeemer, and acts in the movements of the Holy Spirit. Mature love always has a humility that realizes it is not self-generated, created, or of itself sustained. God is the source. We do not and cannot redeem, heal, or forgive ourselves. This is the work and the gift of Jesus the Redeemer. We cannot animate or give ourselves meaning in the isolation of personal success. Any worthy activity motivated by love is the action of the Holy Spirit who dwells in us. If this seems high and heady to you, consider the movements of love in your life. Do so with an interior awareness from the heart, and not an exterior or outer looking.

What moves, motivates, or inspires you? If you are looking from the heart, love is the truest response. Where there is love, God is present. Grandchildren motivate and inspire grandparents. Love is given and received. People love their cottages, the lake, and summer campfires. Often God is unnamed, but on everyone's mind or felt perception. Enjoyable hobbies, recreation, satisfying work, gardening, woodworking and the like all serve as avenues to the presence of God.

Human relationships are a privileged place to experience God. Love, affection, friendship, camaraderie, group support, and faith communities all reveal and inspire the security, stability, and happiness of God's presence. Forgiveness of wrongs, resolution in conflict, and tolerance in change all reveal the action and presence of the Holy Trinity. Feel and appreciate the love in your life and give thanks and praise to God who is the source and origin of it all. Embrace the gift of your life, the redemption of your soul, and the inspiration of your love. All praise and glory to the Holy Trinity of God.

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,  
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 27, 2024 MEMORIAL DAY**

9:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

**TUESDAY, May 28, 2024**

8:00am Mass: Pat & Bernadette Pantano† req. by Family

**WEDNESDAY, May 29, 2024**

8:00am Mass: Ralph Orlando† req. by Family

**THURSDAY, May 30, 2024**

8:00am Mass: Terri Primeau (Birthday Blessings) req. by Jane McKay

**SATURDAY, June 1, 2024**

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

**SUNDAY, June 2, 2024**

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family  
Helen Whalen† req. by Linda Knechtl  
Sr. Margaret Roman† req. by Linda Knechtl  
Linda Karolski† req. by Corrine McCarthy

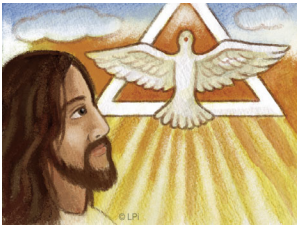


**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**May 26, 2024**

- Sunday: 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
- Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9/Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9 and 10c/Mk 10:17-27
- Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Mk 10:28-31
- Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25/Ps 147 :12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Mk 10:32-45
- Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12/Ps 100:2, 3, 4, 5/Mk 10:46-52
- Friday: Zep 3:14-18a or Rom 12:9-16/Is 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Lk 1:39-56
- Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 11:27-33
- Next Sunday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 (13)/Heb 9:11-15/Mk 14:12-16, 22-26





## Something to Ponder

Perhaps when you were younger, you were explained the three in one aspect of the Trinity using a shamrock, or a triangle or even the stages of water. All of these are relatively good examples, but humans are “made in the image and likeness of God”. Is there a three in one concept in humans? In one of his sermons, St. Augustine puts forth an answer to ponder...

“I begin by insisting that what I am going to say is very, very remote from God... How like or unlike these things are to the omnipotent Trinity I am not now considering but at this lowest and changeable created level we can find three somethings which can be indicated separately and which operate inseparably.”

...This is what I am saying, this is my question: Man, have you got memory?. If you haven't, how have you retained what I have been saying? But perhaps you have already forgotten what I said just now. All right then, take just this that I say: “I said,” two syllables which you could only retain through memory. After all, how could you know there are two of them if you have forgotten the first while the second was being uttered? ...you have got memory.

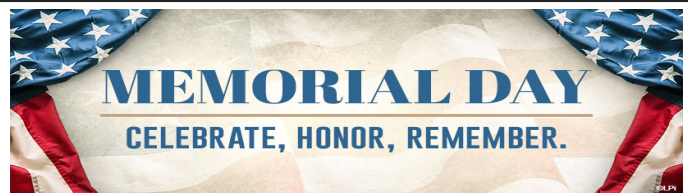
Another question: have you got understanding? ...If you didn't have memory, you wouldn't retain what I have said; if you didn't have understanding, you wouldn't be able to assess what you have retained. So you have got this too. You apply your understanding to what you retain inside you, and you see it, and by seeing it you are formed by it, so that you can be said to know it.

Third question: You've got memory, by which you retain what is said; you've got understanding, by which you understand what is retained; about these now I ask you a further question: Have you been willing to retain and understand? 'I've certainly been willing,' you say. So then you have got will. These are the three things which I promised I would declare in your hearing and to your minds; these three which are in you, which you can count distinctly, and which you cannot separate. So these three, memory, understanding and will; notice, I say, that these three are uttered separately, but operate inseparably.

...So too, the Trinity produced the flesh of Christ, but the only one of them it belongs to is Christ. The Trinity produced the dove from the sky, but the only one of them it belongs to is the Holy Spirit. The Trinity produced the voice from heaven, but the only one of them the voice belongs to is the Father.

...So let none of you say to me...“So which of these three, which you have pointed out to us in our minds or souls[memory, understanding, will], which of these three belongs to the Father, that is to some sort of likeness of the Father, which of them to some sort of likeness of the Son, which to some sort of likeness of the Holy Spirit?” I can't tell you, I can't explain. Let's leave something as well to people's reflections... “

*Excerpts From St. Augustine's Sermon 52*



**MONDAY, MAY 27th**  
**MASS 9:00am**  
**The Parish Office will be closed,**



## Prayer for the Fallen

*God our creator and sustainer,  
 today our country brings to our memory  
 those who have defended this nation in times  
 of trouble.*

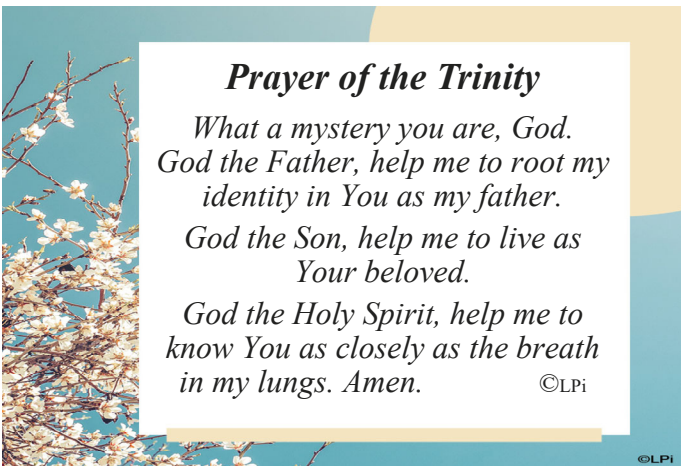
*They have sacrificed their lives to protect our  
 shores from those who would limit our  
 freedoms or enslave us to ways that are  
 against your will.*

*Bring all those who have died in service to  
 our country into your heavenly presence.*

*We humbly call down your blessing on those  
 still serving; grant your heavenly protection  
 to these men and women, and open your  
 Sacred Heart to give them peace and comfort.*

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and  
 of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen.*



### Precious Things

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I once wrote an article about a school that embraced the Reggio Emilia approach to education. This meant, in practice, a lot of fascinating things, and it was a fun piece to work on. But all these years later, I could not accurately describe the Reggio Emilia style of learning to anyone except to say this: they give the kids glass bowls and china plates.

That's what stuck with me, and that's what sticks out in my memory amidst the hundreds of intervening articles and interviews on other equally fascinating topics. I remember those glass bowls and cups lining the shelves, the fine china dishes, the beautiful shiny cutlery the children used for lunch.

This was a pre-school, and these students were three-year-olds. "If they drop a cup and it shatters, then they learn that glass can break. We clean it up," the teacher said with a shrug. The idea was that a child will never learn to handle a fragile, precious thing — and grow into an adult who can respect and cherish a fragile, precious thing — if they are not sincerely trusted with a precious thing whose fragility they bear personal witness to.

The breaking, you see, was part of the education.

*The disciples worshiped, but they doubted.* And yet, Christ gave them the Great Commission anyway, something fragile and important, something that could be easily dropped and easily broken. Christ knew who they were, what they were. They were mere human beings, deeply imperfect, scared and hesitant, a little slow on the uptake. He knows that's exactly what we are, too. But he gives us the Great Commission just as he gave it to them. Because that is what the Faith is: it is something perfectly beautiful, passed from one flawed person to another, throughout the ages — constantly dropped, constantly broken, and constantly, miraculously, pieced back together again.

*"Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations."*

— Matthew 28:19-20 ©LPi



*...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*



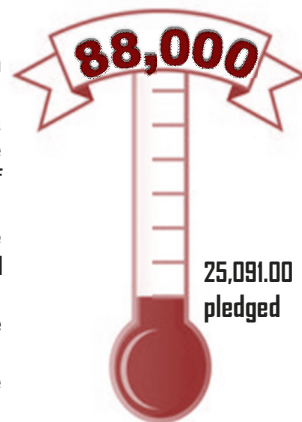
### Please help us reach our goal of \$88,000.

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.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.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



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

**SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

**Question:** What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

**Answer:** The practice of making a “spiritual communion” dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as “an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him.” Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way. ©LPi

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION**

**First Reading:** Dt 4:32-34, 39-40

Moses taught the Israelites the best response we can give to God’s fidelity and love is to keep His statues and commandments. How do you respond to God’s generosity in your life?

**Second Reading:** Rom 8:14-17

Paul taught the Romans that as believers we are led by the Spirit of God. Where do you sense God’s Spirit leading your family?

**Gospel:** Mt 28:16-20

Jesus’s final command to his followers is to make disciples of all nations and baptize them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. How can we encourage others to follow Jesus? ©LPi

**Women’s Sacred Journey**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 1ST - 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.

**Ministry Schedule**

June 1/2, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	J McCown	A Goll
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	M Simmons	A Goll
	J McCown	P Allen
	M Kairis	M Waskowski
Greeters	L Collins	T Oparka
	J Ballantine	N Oparka
	M Smith	B Gutowski
	P Miles	T Lane

**God Doesn’t Take a Break**

An acquaintance who works in church ministry once told me a story about one of the students she had in Faith Formation. This student informed my friend that his family doesn’t come to Mass in summer. “God takes a break in summer, and so do we,” he said.

There’s a lot to unpack here. First, it’s tragic to think of anyone voluntarily missing out on the Eucharist for so long. It’s also a real problem in the church today that a lot of our folks don’t understand the beauty of the Sunday obligation. But if I had to dissect this situation and pinpoint the thing I find most troubling, it’s the idea of God taking a break.

I hope it’s starting to look like summer where you are. We’ve still got a few weeks left before it’s official, but the school year should be winding up for most kids, the birds should be chirping a little louder, and hopefully your lawn is starting to green up nicely. You’re probably daydreaming about the annual cabin getaway weekend or waterskiing on the Fourth of July.

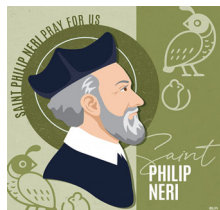
All in all, summer is going to be a nice break, even if — like typical Americans — our break is full of productive work.

Thank God — literally — that He doesn’t take a break, even if we do. Can we try to remember that, even in the midst of our many wonderful distractions? Let’s enjoy this summer. Let’s live it to the full. But let’s see it for the gift that it is — and remember the thanks we owe the Giver. — Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

**Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of June 1/2, 2024**  
Bernie & John Turchin



### GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



**ST. PHILIP NERI - MAY 26**  
(1515 – 1595)

St. Philip Neri was born in Italy and went to school as a child at the Dominican monastery in Florence. His family had hopes that he would work with his uncle, a wealthy merchant, and ultimately inherit his business and fortune but, shortly after beginning his work with him, Neri had a personal conversion. He decided to move to Rome to live a life of service.

For 13 years in Rome, Neri lived as a layperson, daily engaged in prayer and the apostolate. Even as a layperson he brought the Gospel of Jesus to everyone he met. He was eventually ordained to the priesthood and became known as a compassionate confessor, quick to disarm those around him with a joke or a kind word.

He is remembered as extremely approachable and jovial. He was kind, entertaining, and spontaneous in his approach which inspired many. He led prayer groups and excursions to visit other churches which often included music and picnics, and his council was sought by rich and poor alike. He was a strict vegetarian and was known to relocate animals and birds found inside the church back into the wild.

St. Philip Neri founded The Congregation of the Oratory. This secular order included priests and brothers and did not bind them under religious vows, but instead by a bond of charity. These men lived together in community and served those in need with happy hearts.

St. Philip Neri’s ability to increase his fellow religious leader’s faith coupled with his closeness with the common people in Rome cemented his reputation as the Apostle of Rome, called by God to evangelize the Holy City. His Congregation of the Oratory is still active today accomplishing the same mission. St. Philip Neri, pray for us! ©LPi

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** Who is the patron saint of stock-brokers and bankers?

©LPi

**Answer:** St. Matthew

#### ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION

**Administration Bldg. Patio**  
**June 3, 2024 - 7pm**



The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the first and third Mondays of June thru August.

If the weather is intolerable, we will not meet but ask all to pray the rosary in private. The Immaculata group prayers will be at 6:30 pm and the Rosary will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

### We Are Heirs with Christ

My wife and I have used the same baptismal gown for all 3 of our children. It is a very long traditional gown made with fabric taken from my wife's first communion dress and my mother-in-law's wedding gown. It is a symbol not just of each child being washed clean by the sacrament, but also of family and how faith has been passed down through generations. Faith is a gift and that gown shows how this family has taken seriously the cultivation of that faith and the sharing of it with those we love the most.

By our baptism we are called to a discipleship that compels us to share our faith with others. It is not always easy, but it would be wrong to hoard that faith and not let it shine for others to see. When we think about a stewardship way of life, we sometimes focus on material goods, our talents and skills, or our time. But faith is a gift that needs to be treated in a similar way. We are heirs with Jesus Christ to this rich tapestry of faith and the Church. If all of us were to hide that faith and not seek to share it with others, that lineage would end with us.

We live during a time in history where in some lands people are finding Jesus in huge numbers, while in other places the numbers of people in the pews is declining sharply. We can spend all our time talking about these realities or we can choose to respond to our baptismal call. Jesus commanded us to go forth and make disciples of all nations. Maybe we can begin with our neighbor. --Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

#### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

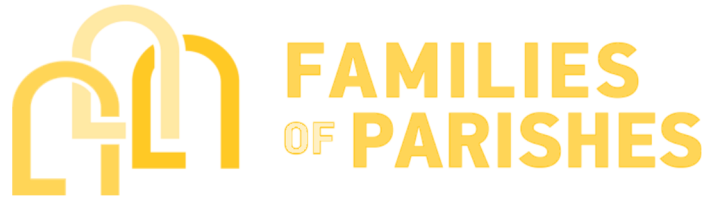
We are children of God, and as His children God shares with us a magnificent inheritance: suffering that becomes glory, fear that becomes strength, death that becomes life. With this mighty gift in our hearts, let us go confidently into the world.

©LPi

**OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK**

Sunday: The Most Holy Trinity  
 Monday: St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop; Memorial Day  
 Wednesday: St. Paul VI, Pope  
 Thursday: St. Joan of Arc  
 Friday: The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary  
 Saturday: St. Justin, Martyr  
 Next Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ

©LPi



**MASS SCHEDULES**

***National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica***

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY- 8:30am and 4:30pm (livestreamed)  
 SUNDAY-7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am 3:30pm (Spanish), and 6:00pm  
 WEEKDAYS (*Monday thru 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)

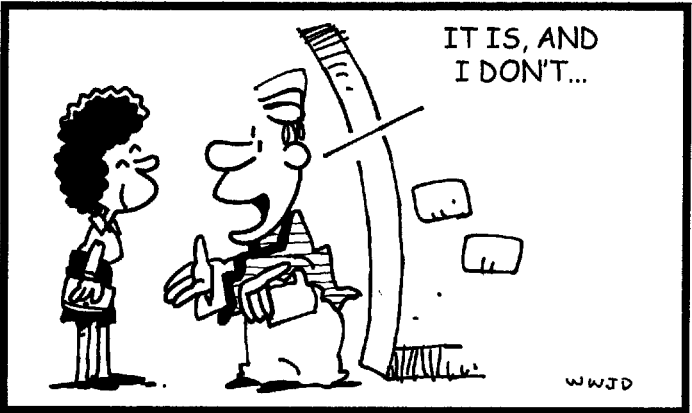
SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Justin  
 SUNDAY - 9:00am & 11:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

MON-WED & FRI- 9:00am  
 Communion Service - 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 18/19**

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	93		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 4,377.01	(1,008.99)	(2,892.79)
Energy	289.00	115.00	(174.00)	((2,113.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	148.00	(967.39)	(34,705.08)
Mass Intentions	n/a	40.00		5,525.00
Holy Days:	n/a			
Budget deficit donations		228.00		5,791.00
CSA 2024	Pledged 25,155.00			Paid 16,928.75



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