

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JUNE 2, 2024 † THE MOST HOLY BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST

From The Pastor

It is difficult to understand why so many Catholics struggle to believe in the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. If a Christian professes Jesus as Lord and Christ, incarnate through the Virgin Mary in the power of the Holy Spirit, who freely died on a Cross to defeat evil and forgive all sin, who then rose from the dead out of perfect love for each of us personally and all of us inclusively, why is it hard for Jesus to give himself to us in consecrated bread and wine as his Body and Blood? If Christians believe that Jesus rose from the dead in the power of Divine love, why is it hard to believe He can give himself under the sacramental signs of bread and wine? Why would Jesus not want to be present to us, to be with us in this most personal way? Why would Jesus not want to give his love to us in the most personal way as to be eaten, consumed, ingested, and metabolized to become part of our bodies and souls? Why is the gift of the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist such a challenge that statistically most Catholics do not believe in it?

There is nothing God cannot do. There is no place God cannot go. There is nothing God cannot heal, forgive, redeem, and unite to the Divine nature, except those who choose to be left out. Who wants to be left out? Is the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist too much, too threatening, too close for comfort? This thought must be considered. Human beings in general and Christians in particular can often feel unworthy, guilt-ridden, and unforgiveable to accept so pure a love as the Real Presence of Jesus given to wayward sinners. If this is the case, the Church did too good a job of teaching the indelible mark of sin and its poison. This misses the Divine gift of human redemption in the unsolicited offer of God's free and passionate desire to unite us and all creation through the Incarnate Son of God.

Presence is a quality and expression of human love. Why wouldn't God offer the presence of Divine love for the sake of his beloved. If you are in love with another person, do you not hold an interior presence of awareness and desire for them when you are apart from each other? Do you not hold them in your heart longing for a time you will be together again? Do we not feel and hold the presence of our loved ones who have died close in our hearts? Of course we do. These are the bonds of love that hold us together through thick and thin, good times and bad, in grace and in failure. This is what love does.

Love is a hunger and the Bread of Love given in the Eucharist is real food that satisfies. The Eucharist is the most personal expression of the Lord's desire to be

with us always. This is not only for the sake of God's love for us. It is also our deep need to regularly be nourished and strengthened in the love God offers. The Eucharist calls us to express our love for God with deep gratitude for the life given us in the presence of Jesus. The Eucharist is healing. It is profoundly relational. The Eucharist is called Holy Communion because it is the bond of love we share with God in the person of Jesus that draws us to share the same communion with one another.

Biblical movements throughout the Old Testament are the foundation that culminates in the new covenant in the blood of Christ. Covenant making through blood sacrifice as a commitment to God's presence makes the Eucharist the pinnacle of the eternal covenant we now share with God through the dying and the rising of Jesus. Manna given to the hungry Israelites in the desert is a clear anticipation of the Eucharist to come. The story of Elijah and the widow of Zarephath when the jar of oil and the jug of flour never went empty until the rain came is another example. Also, the multiplication of loaves and fish to feed five thousand people is a direct reference to Jesus who is the Bread of life.

Today's feast of the Body and Blood of Christ gives us the rich opportunity to ponder the mystery of the Eucharist in the presence of Jesus that unites us in the faith, hope, and love we profess. If you find the Eucharist and the Real Presence hard to understand, make it personal. Bring it down to your lived experience. Consider those whom you love, living or deceased, that you hold in your heart with awareness. Consider those who hold you in their heart with love and concern. If we, in the movements of our human love, hold a loving presence to our dear ones, how much more would Jesus be doing so for us.

God totally gives himself to us in the person of Jesus. Jesus, in the perfect love of the Father, gives himself for our sake to share union with God. We need this spiritual food for this earthly journey. Jesus is real food and real drink. It is the food of love poured out and freely given for our sake. If you believe in the dying and rising of Jesus for the forgiveness of sin that reconciles us to God, the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist is an obvious step to believe in the immediacy of his love given us in this saving food.

Believe in the Real Presence. Receive with reverence and love. Allow the gift of the Holy Eucharist to fill you with love, joy, peace, and healing. It is true that we become what we eat. Allow the love of the Eucharist to transform you.

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,
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

Mass INTENTIONS

MONDAY, June 3, 2024

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

TUESDAY, June 4, 2024

8:00am Mass: Sherry Zajac† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, June 5, 2024

8:00am Mass: Chester Smith, Jr. (25th R.A.) req. by Family

THURSDAY, June 6, 2024

8:00am Mass: Larry Celmer† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

SATURDAY, June 8, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom Amy Tubbs (for health) req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

SUNDAY, June 9, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Giuseppe Tosto† req. by Virga Family Jaqueline Mason req. by Patricia Mason Larry Celmer† req. by Corrine McCarthy Intentions of Mike & Jean Pietraszewski req. by Family

MONTH OF
THE SACRED
HEART OF



JUNE

Readings for the Week

June 2, 2024

Sunday: Ex 24:3-8/Ps 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18 (13)/Heb 9:11-15/Mk 14:12-16, 22-26
Monday: 2 Pt 1:2-7/Ps 91:1-2, 14-15b, 15c-16/Mk 12:1-12
Tuesday: 2 Pt 3:12-15a, 17-18/Ps 90:2, 3-4, 10, 14 and 16/Mk 12:13-17
Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-3, 6-12/Ps 123:1b-2ab, 2cdef/Mk 12:18-27
Thursday: 2 Tm 2:8-15/Ps 25:4-5ab, 8-9, 10 and 14/Mk 12:28-34
Friday: Hos 11:1, 3-4, 8c-9/Ps 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 (3)/Eph 3:8-12, 14-19/Jn 19:31-37
Saturday: 2 Tm 4:1-8/1 Sm 2:1, 4-5, 6-7, 8abcd/Lk 2:41-51
Next Sunday: Gn 3:9-15/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7bc)/2 Cor 4:13—5:1/Mk 3:20-35

THE MOST HOLY BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST

The best way to understand the Eucharist is to recall God’s long, careful teaching process beginning in the Old Testament. This week in Exodus 24, we learn the basic pattern. Moses reads the dictates of God’s law to the people, who profess their allegiance to it. Then Moses takes representatives of Israel’s twelve tribes and splashes the sacrificed blood of animals in two directions: on the altar and on the people. It’s clear and serious business: clear, because the participants are entering a blood-bond with God Himself; serious, because the dead animals symbolize the life-and-death stakes at play.

Many centuries later, God uses the experience at Sinai to teach us something new. At the Last Supper, like a new Moses, Jesus proposes to “pour out” blood as a new covenant. It will land on the altar of the cross and the lips of his disciples. They have promised to be obedient to him who is God’s law in flesh. This renews and elevates the breath-taking romance God wants with His people, unfolding from Sinai to this Supper. The Body and Blood of Christ is the sacrificial action whereby this covenant is strengthened.

How hopeful that, like us, the Israelites and the apostles repeatedly fail to live up to their promises and discover that the blood of the covenant continually renews and refreshes them. Today the blood of Christ faithfully flows, to unite and renew, moving us forward toward where our great teacher is taking us. This week, we should say a renewed “amen” to God who so carefully teaches us how to be one with Him in this new covenant.

— *Father John Muir*
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ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION

Administration Bldg. Patio

**THIS MONDAY
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.



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

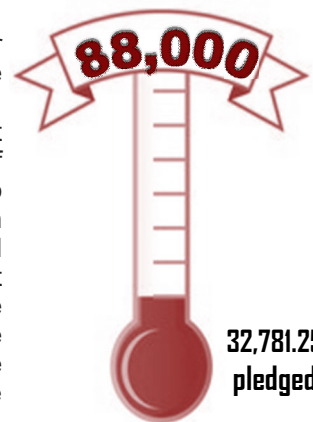
CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

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 using the donations tab or see the other ways to give on the pledge card.

For those who are not registered parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer, but who would like to help us reach our goal, pledge card packets are available at the parish office or at the long table alongside the chapel wall near the Herbert Street vestibule door.



On Wednesday, May 22, 2024 at St. Mary Parish in Royal Oak, two of our young people were confirmed by Bishop Walter Hurley along with other Confirmation candidates from our Family of Parishes.

*We congratulate **Leslie Cortez and Johnny Eggert** on this milestone in their faith life.*

The St. Vincent Ferrer Parish family offers its congratulations, prayers, and support to all of the young people who were confirmed. May they be strengthened by the gifts of the Holy Spirit and blessed on their faith journeys.

This Is My Body

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

A friend in high school once asked me why I wore a Crucifix around my neck. She was a Christian and very devout, so I was surprised at her confusion. "To remember Jesus' sacrifice," I said.

Her upper lip curled in disgust. "The cross is a sign of Jesus' sacrifice," she said. "He's not on the cross anymore. It's really weird that you wear his dead body."

As someone raised Catholic, the Corpus was an image I knew intimately. We had Crucifixes all over our home, everyone in my family did. And for reasons I couldn't quite explain, I actually preferred them over the plain crosses I saw elsewhere. The crosses seemed more elegant, more refined — but the Crucifixes felt more complete. More to-the-point.

My friend's disgust compelled me to reflect, in a way I never had before, on the image of Christ's body, wounded and twisted and tortured. Why was this a visual that compelled me? It didn't make a lot of sense for someone who abhorred dead bodies so much that I found it difficult to look into a casket at a wake. So, what was different about this?

My friend wasn't wrong: Christ is no longer on the cross. The sacrifice has been made. But does that mean it is over? We re-present it every single Mass. It's the point of everything that we do. Jesus did not sacrifice his spirit; he sacrificed his body. He bought us with every tear of the flesh, with every drop of blood.

The cross is crucial, yes. But that wood didn't bleed for us. If the body wasn't the point, Jesus would not have become human at all. Jesus needed the body.

We need it, too.

"While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, 'Take it; this is my body.' — Matthew 26:26 ©LPI



CCSEM SENIOR MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION June 8/9

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 SUNDAY, JUNE 9

Next Sunday, Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality.



Real Presence

"This food we call the Eucharist, of which no one is allowed to partake except one who believes that the things we teach are true, and has received the washing for forgiveness of sins and for rebirth, and who lives as Christ handed down to us. For we do not receive these things as common bread or common drink; but as Jesus Christ our Savior being incarnate by God's Word took flesh and blood for our salvation, so also we have been taught that the food consecrated by the Word of prayer which comes from him, from which our flesh and blood are nourished by transformation, is the flesh and blood of that incarnate Jesus."

- St. Justin Martyr, 2nd Century

On Sunday, May 26, 2024

Reverend John Esper

Administered the Sacrament of
Baptism to

Palmer June Collins

We welcome her into
Christ's family.

May she grow strong in her faith.

May God bless our newly baptized and her family.



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

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

FRUITS OF HOLY COMMUNION

Question: What are the "fruits" of Holy Communion?

Answer:

The Eucharist, like all sacraments, offers its own unique grace. We receive a special share in God's life that helps us in our faith journey. We are given all we need to sustain and nurture our relationship with God. The Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life. Everything we are and everything we hope to become is found in this sacrament. It is essential to the life of the church, to each member of the church. Without it, there is no church. The Eucharist is the center of our spiritual life and has enormous effects on our growth, our holiness, and our way of life. The fruits of Holy Communion are the benefits one receives from the sacrament. These fruits of Holy Communion are discussed in the catechism in the article on the Eucharist. The primary benefit is union with Christ. We become one with him sacramentally, just as we hope to become one with him for eternity. The Eucharist also separates us from sin, both past and future. It forgives the venial sins of the past and, by the love we receive, protects us from mortal sin in the future. The church community is also unified and strengthened by the Eucharist. It unites us to the poor and offers the pledge of eternal life.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Ex 24:3-8

We hear the Israelites' enthusiastic commitment to the covenant at Mount Sinai with their words: "We will do everything that the Lord has told us." What are you passionately committed to in your life?

Second Reading: Heb 9:11-15

Hebrews teaches us that through his death (Jesus's blood), believers receive the promised eternal inheritance. How often do you think about "eternity?"

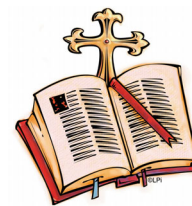
Gospel: Mk 14:12-16, 22-26

Jesus taught his disciples that through his death, his body and blood would be shed for many. How should we show gratitude for such a sacrifice?

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, June 8th 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.

SUN SAFETY



Everybody needs some sun exposure to produce Vitamin D and in Michigan the season of sun is short. But you can also get Vitamin D from supplemental vitamins, avoiding prolonged sun exposure. Sunscreen has been shown not to interfere with the absorption of Vitamin D. Unprotected exposure to the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays can cause damage to the skin, eyes, and immune system. It can cause cancer and premature aging of the skin. Your heredity and environment are also contributing factors to your risk.

There has been a lot in the news lately about the chemicals in sunscreen. In a review of sunscreen safety as far back as 1998 and 2011, it was concluded that sunscreen does not pose a threat to humans. Broad spectrum sunscreens have a favorable impact on reducing UV exposure. The chemicals in sunscreen can affect our coral reefs and you should look for reef friendly products when swimming in these areas.

When outdoors use a broad-spectrum (UVA and UVB) sunscreen SPF 15 or higher. Apply at least one ounce (the size of a golf ball) 30 minutes to exposed skin before sun exposure and reapply every two hours, or after getting out of the water or perspiring heavily. Old sunscreen loses potency, so discard after one to two years. If you are worried about sunscreen chemicals, find one with minerals like zinc oxide or titanium dioxide. Mineral sunscreens also offer the most protection from the sun because they create a barrier between you and the sun. For children, look for kid friendly sunscreens and sunscreen is not recommended for children under six months. Without sunscreen, skin can be damaged in as little as 15 minutes. Five million people are treated for skin cancers annually and 65,000 cases of melanoma are diagnosed.

Other things to think about, to stay safe and healthy in the summer, is how sunny weather can lift our spirits, but can turn dangerous when the temps and humidity soar. Here is a few safety tips for hot days.

- Wear clothing that is light-colored, breathable, and loose fitting.
- Don't overdo it.
- Take more breaks, ideally in a shaded cool area.
- Drink lots of water, stay hydrated!
- Avoid drinks with a lot of caffeine.
- If you feel faint or weak, go to a cool place.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse
Resources from Ascension Health and MD Anderson

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



MARTYRS OF 20TH CENTURY CHINESE PERSECUTION

Throughout the late 20th century and into more recent times, there have been many stories of Chinese Catholic heroism and Chinese priests, bishops, and laypeople who have been martyred at hands of anti-Catholic government officials. Many of these stories are associated with the Communist takeover of China under Mao Zedong but also include those persecuted for their faith during the Boxer Rebellion and even the 1911 Revolution.

Among the stories birthed by the long history of Catholic persecution in China, one legend often stands out among the whole of these unnamed Martyrs. That story is the legend of Little Li, the Child Martyr of the Eucharist.

Recounted by many different retellings throughout the years, the gist of her legend is this — Little Li was a Catholic child in China who was about 10 years old and had recently received her First Communion. One day, soldiers broke into her parish, imprisoned the pastor, and desecrated the Eucharist by throwing it on the floor. They guarded the church night and day to keep people from worshipping at the site. Little Li, seeing that there were over 30 consecrated Hosts on the ground, decided to sneak into the church every evening and pray in adoration before picking up one of the pieces from the floor with her tongue and consuming it.

Li continued to do this, unnoticed by the soldiers, until almost all the pieces had been consumed. Upon her final trip into the church to consume the last Host, she was discovered by the guard and killed.

Her story of martyrdom stands to remind us of all the Catholics in China who have been martyred for their faith and of those who are still unable to worship publicly today without fear of persecution. Unnamed Martyrs of Chinese Persecution, pray for us!

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June 7 Sacred Heart of Jesus

“Thy Sacred Heart is the instrument and organ of Thy love. It did beat for us. It yearned for us. It ached for our salvation.”

Cardinal John Henry Newman



June 8 Immaculate Heart of Mary

“After the love which we give Jesus Christ, we must give the chief place in our heart to the love of His Mother Mary.”

St. Alphonsus Ligouri

Prayer of the True Presence

My Lord and my Love — Bread of Life, nourish me. Pascal Lamb, restore me. Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, consume me as I consume you.

Amen.

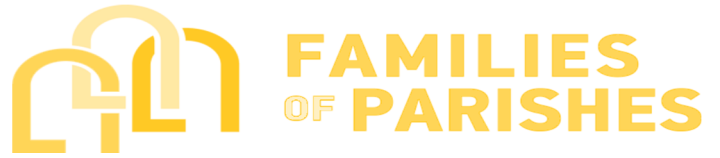
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Ministry Schedule		
June 8/9, 2024		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
Reader #1	P Miles	P Allen
Reader #2	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	R Grant
	P Miles	D Gray
	D Tourville	T Karolski
Greeters	L Collins	D Vu
	T Pasiak	S Bosetti
	R Bertolini	T Lane
	M Smith	R Juska-Svoba
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of June 8/9, 2024		
Stan & Linda Yolkiewicz		

Observances for the Week ©LPi

- Sunday: The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- Monday: St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
- Wednesday: St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
- Thursday: St. Norbert, Bishop
- Friday: The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus
- Saturday: The Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Next Sunday: 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

©LP



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

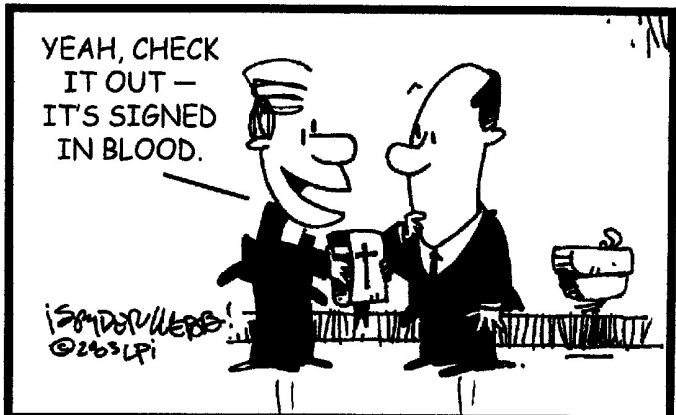
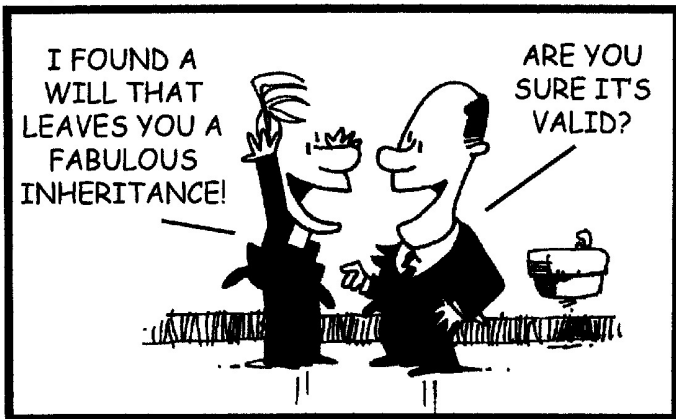
730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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

WED - 12:10pm



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus is the Passover Lamb come to fulfillment, and his sacrifice washes our hearts in the blood of the new covenant. He is passing us the cup of salvation. Let us take it and call on the name of the Lord. ©LPi

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING MAY 25/26

Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	83		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 5,381.02	88.02	(2,804.77)
Energy	289.00	118.00	(171.00)	(2,284.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	38.00	(1,077.39)	(35,152.47)
Mass Intentions	n/a	45.00		5,570.00
Budget deficit donations		350.00		6,141.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 32,781.25				Paid 21,781.25

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