



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JULY 21, 2024 † SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

As I mentioned, or perhaps failed to mention, I am currently in the midst of my annual retreat. I will return to the parish later this week. Since my ordination, I have looked forward to this annual time of rest and prayer with the Lord. It has never failed to be a time of blessing and renewal. Please pray for me during this time, as I will continue my prayer for you.

It is only by coincidence that the gospel today has Jesus calling the disciples to an out of the way place for rest and prayer. Last Sunday's gospel had Jesus sending the disciples out on their first missionary experience. He had empowered them to deliver demons, heal the sick, and preach the coming of the Kingdom. Now on their return, the disciples excitedly report to Jesus all that had happened along the way and the power they had in his name.

Completing this time of ministry, Jesus calls the disciples to a deserted place to pray, share fellowship, and rest. Jesus himself has need for this time of respite. He has just learned about the beheading of John the Baptist. Jesus needs to step away and ponder the loss of this cousin and the meaning of this violent event. It is obvious that Jesus deeply valued prayer as an essential part of his relationship with the Father as he sought to bring new life to the world.

What happens on a retreat? What does one do and how do you know you are 'doing it right.' First, there are several types of retreats. Some are silent when a person simply chooses to spend time alone in rest and prayer. Some retreats are directed. In this case, the retreatant spends several periods of the day in prayer, and then meets with a spiritual director for conversation. This is what I do. There are also preached retreats when a group listens to the reflections of a retreat leader. There are scheduled times for conferences, rest, personal prayer, Mass, etc. This is typical for the inner healing retreat I lead at Manresa twice a year.

How can a retreat be helpful? What is supposed to happen on a retreat? Intentionally, it is a time of prayer, reflection, learning, or pondering one's life before the Lord. It is a time to pay attention to the grace God sends. Not a vacation, but a restful attentiveness to the Lord. It is simply the gift of freely and willingly choosing to spend time with God for whatever intention lies in the heart of the retreatant.

In prayer, we tend to look for spiritual progress or tangible response from the Lord. What the Lord notices is the desire of our hearts in love for him. Like all of us, God loves to be loved, appreciated, thanked, and honored. Looking at the desire of our hearts, we seek to align our heart to that of Jesus. What we desire is often

the desire of the Lord for us. In other words, the one you want, wants you.

A mature prayer life takes time. There will be many ups and downs, distractions, and seeming failures along the way. Yet, in developing any deep relationship of trust, not much goes to waste. Patience and persistence are necessary virtues for the long haul of a deeper relationship with God, or anyone else. I came across this image recently: things that are soft grow fast and are easy to smash, like a tomato, or garden squash. Things that are hard grow slowly and are hard to destroy, like an oak tree. Prayer is like that, slow and steady leads to strong and secure.

Many resist the quiet of a retreat for fear of too much silence, boredom, or facing inner emotions. This is a great tragedy in our culture. The unconscious and mindless resistance to quiet rest is an active defense against the richness of our souls before God. The constant noise and use of technology devices is a serious hindrance to an interior life and a capacity to know ourselves peacefully in the Lord. Times of quiet may cause us to feel unwanted emotions or inner tensions we prefer not to feel. Yet, the silence we resist is the very solution we need to resolve such tension and find the wisdom and inner peace we seek. Quiet calm practiced regularly is a healing balm for the body and soul.

The rest gained on a retreat is not the same as more sleep and time to slumber. Retreat rest is Sabbath rest; it is holy and active in its desire to be with the Lord. This rest teaches us to be at home to ourselves with the confidence of God's presence. Such rest is an act of courage to surrender the activity of life and yield our dependence on the providence of God's mercy. This kind of rest creates a conscious attention and capacity to live the life we intend with meaningful purpose rather than accepting life as it seems to just happen unaware.

This kind of prayer and inner rest is a corner stone of the Christian life and happy living. It is meant for all of us and not just for those who have the freedom to be on a retreat. Such prayer practices can and should be created at home in some form daily. Some days will be great, other days not so much. Some days will be missed, and others will swell with grace. Jesus is not looking for successful production quotas, but the longing desire of your heart. Prayer is just loving God, trusting God with our needs, longings, sufferings, and contrition. Sometimes this is no more than thirty seconds of grateful praise or a quick moment of petition. Practice makes the heart strong and secure in the Lord. Be still and enjoy the present moment.

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

MASST INTENTIONS

MONDAY, July 22, 2024

8:00am Mass: Ben Gucl† req. by Mary Jane Gucl

TUESDAY, July 23, 2024

8:00 Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

WEDNESDAY, July 24, 2024

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

THURSDAY, July 25, 2024

8:00am Mass: Michele Reno† req. by Stan & Linda
Yolkiewicz

SATURDAY, July 27, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Virginia Esper† req. by Family

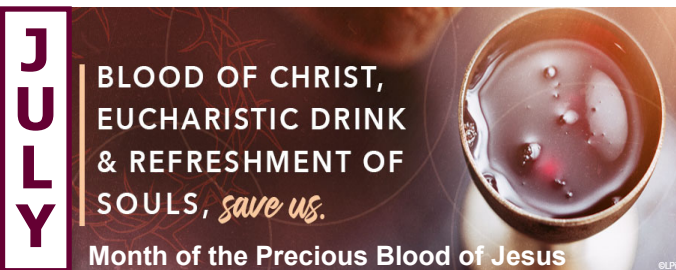
Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Living & Deceased Residents of Park Place req. by
Marie Sankuer

Emory "Pete" Agents† req. by Family

SUNDAY, July 28, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



Readings for the Week

July 21, 2024

- Sunday: Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 (1)/
Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34
- Monday: Sg 3:1-4b or 2 Cor 5:14-17/Ps 63:2, 3
-4, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 20:1-2, 11-18
- Tuesday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 85:2-4, 5-6, 7-
8/Mt 12:46-50
- Wednesday: Jer 1:1, 4-10/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4a, 5-6ab,
15 and 17/Mt 13:1-9
- Thursday: 2 Cor 4:7-15/Ps 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3,
4-5, 6/Mt 20:20-28
- Friday: Jer 3:14-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt
13:18-23
- Saturday: Jer 7:1-11/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a, and 8a,
11/Mt 13:24-30
- Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 4:42-44/Ps 145:10-11, 15-16,
17-18 (see 16)/Eph 4:1-6/Jn 6:1-15

Rest & Recharge

My daughter can easily become overwhelmed by having so much to do. She recently graduated from high school, and many times during those four years, she found herself going crazy from being involved in so many things. Sports, drama, youth group, homework, friends, and more all demanded a slice of her attention. Sometimes the slice of time that remained wasn't much and one does have to sleep!

A good everyday steward can get caught up in doing so much and giving so much that he or she loses sight of the fact that you cannot give what you do not have. If you have no time left, you cannot give that. If you have no energy left, you cannot give that. Finally, if you find yourself agitated and overwhelmed, you cannot give that which others benefit from the most: YOU!

Even when we plant seeds in a garden after tilling and watering the soil, we must rest and wait for there to be growth. If we do not take time to rest and recharge, we are not allowing time for God's grace to bring forth new life in us. We fear that things will suffer without us, but the truth is that no one is benefiting from our fatigue. We can think we are giving but really we are empty. Take some time and rest in your God. Retreat and recharge. Then you will be able to share once again.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPI

THIS WEDNESDAY

Catholic Social Teaching: Our Call to Further the Common Good

Presentation by Fr. Dave Buersmeyer - 1pm

12:30 Luncheon Free-will offering

Please RSVP by Monday, July 22 for luncheon

Fr. Buersmeyer is a priest of the Detroit Archdiocese of Detroit, a teacher, and the Chaplain for Strangers No Longer. After retiring last year, the diocese asked him to serve temporarily at Nativity and St. Charles.

He will talk the basic themes of the Church's social teaching based on the life and dignity of the person, and discuss implications for our lives today.



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Burnout. Recent studies suggest that roughly two-thirds of doctors and nurses have signs of it. You probably know what burnout is: long-term stress leading to emotional exhaustion and a lack of a sense of personal accomplishment. Burnout can threaten anyone who tries to seriously serve and love others. How does our faith inform this challenging experience, and how do we find refreshment?

The apostles face something like burnout this week in Mark 6. They are run down from their missionary work, and Jesus says, **“Come away by yourselves to a lonely place, and rest a while.”** For them, and for us, it takes humility to intentionally rest. It means the world can go on without us. It stings our pride to admit God is necessary and we are not. Choosing to leave our good work to be with him — whatever the cost — is an act of humble faith. And that trust in God begins to revive us.

But there's more to it. Hilariously, Mark tells us that throngs of needy people find out where the apostles are going and arrive ahead of them. Imagine the exasperation of the burnt-out apostles. “Can we please get a minute to ourselves? This is not healthy!” And Jesus seems to *encourage* the boundary violation by telling his frayed followers to feed the crowd. Look: once we move into humble rest, he calls us to *more* work, because we are made for love, not for rest. But Jesus does the vast bulk of the labor. He himself is the one who multiplies the small offering until everyone is satisfied.

What finally gives our heart rest isn't more vacation time. It's experiencing the super abundant generosity of God for us and those whom we serve.

— Father John Muir ©LPI



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

Thank you to all who have made contributions/pledges to CSA 2024. Although we have exceeded the target amount required by the Archdiocese, we have not yet achieved our fundraising goal. **Donations and pledges can still be made.** All funds received over our Archdiocese target amount are being returned to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

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. If you would like to increase your original pledge or are able to give an second donation, please contact the Parish Office.





A Deserted Place

by
Colleen Jurkiewicz
Dorman

In one of my favorite shows, “Parks and Recreation,” there is a scene where one of the

characters, Jerry, is tasked with stuffing hundreds of envelopes with flyers as part of his volunteer work for a local city council campaign.

Jerry’s efficient, almost mechanical completion of the job amazes his coworkers, who gather to watch in awe while he folds, inserts, seals, and stamps — over and over again. After several hours, the huge pile of envelopes is finally ready for mailing ... and Jerry realizes that he has stuffed them all with the wrong piece of paper.

“I always say, it ain’t government work unless you do it twice,” he quips as he restarts the task.

In any work, no matter how worthy or fulfilling it is, there is a point where the task transforms into mere routine. It can happen with anything: ministry, marriage, parenthood, even prayer. There is no shame in this. It doesn’t mean that we don’t enjoy these pursuits or feel passion for the mission inherent in them.

It only means that we are human, and we get tired.

When the Apostles return from their travels, Jesus recognizes their exhaustion. He encourages them to “come away to a deserted place.” He inhabits a human body, so he knows the weariness to which it is subject. He knows what it is to be tired, to be hungry. He knows that it’s hard to do the work when your body is failing you.

It’s important for us to recognize those times when Jesus is calling us to a deserted place — and it’s important for us to follow him there, even if we are pursued by feelings of doubt and guilt, just as the Apostles were followed by crowds hungry for their ministry.

Solitude is not selfishness. Contemplation is not idleness. To withdraw does not mean to run away.

The work we do — whatever it is — deserves our whole strength. If we have lost that, there is only one place we are sure to find it again.

“He said to them, ‘Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.’” — Mark 6:31

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Prayer REQUESTS

...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: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: St. Mary Magdalene
 Tuesday: St. Bridget, Religious
 Wednesday: St. Sharbel Makhlūf, Priest
 Thursday: St. James, Apostle
 Friday: Sts. Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Next Sunday: 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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On Sunday, July 14, 2024

Reverend John Esper
Administered the Sacrament
of
Baptism to
Mia Marie Wright

We welcome her into
Christ’s family.

May she grow strong in her faith.


May God bless our newly baptized and her family.

Holy Baptism
is the basis
of the whole
Christian life,
the gateway
to life in
the Spirit.

CCC 1213



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of **Mary Lou Ignasiak**

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**

DAILY FAITH

Question: What can I do to help our family practice our faith each day?

Answer: Some families practice their religion together as just another event on their schedule: go to church, observe Lent, help at the parish picnic, go to a meeting, volunteer time, make your confession, use your envelope... But the focus needs to be on who we are—God’s people, in relationship with him, loved, forgiven, and redeemed, and called to live and proclaim the Gospel. Our awareness of God’s presence and our sense of mission are supported by the daily rituals, celebrations, and traditions that help us stay focused. Sharing our faith strengthens us and clarifies the beliefs and values of Christian living.

Daily family practices include time for prayer—before meals, before bed, before important meetings and activities. Attend Sunday Mass together and discuss the homily afterward. Create family celebrations for holy days and holidays. Make religion a regular part of your discussions. Include others, especially the elderly and the less fortunate, in your activities and charitable efforts. By applying the virtues of faith, hope, and love to each day, faith becomes part of who your family is. It influences how you act towards others, what you value, and how mindful of God you are. Faith is the leaven of life that helps all of us rise to our calling and dignity as God’s people.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Jer 23:1-6

We hear Jeremiah prophesy that the Lord will bring justice and security to Judah and Israel from the unjust shepherds (false rules) who led them astray. How do you help family or friends who need to make better choices?

Second Reading: Eph 2:13-18

Paul taught the Ephesians that in his death and resurrection, Jesus established peace and reconciliation between all believers, Jews, and Gentiles alike. How do you know you are at peace with a friend or loved one?

Gospel: Mk 6:30-34

Although Jesus wanted the Twelve to rest after their successful mission of preaching and healing, the crowds of people made it challenging to do so. Who could you encourage this week to rest well from their hard work?

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Ministry Schedule

July 27/28, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	C McCarthy
Reader #1	J McCown	D Trouville
Reader #2	T Riley	C McCarthy
EME	M Kairis	T Karolski
	P Miles	D Tourville
	J McCown	P Allen
Greeters	M Smith	M McLaughlin
	P Miles	P Rarus
	R Pasiak	B Turchin
	T Pasiak	D McLaughlin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of July 27/28, 2024
Kathy Bush

Women’s Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, JULY 27TH - 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: What do Catholics call the eve of a feast day?

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Answer: A Vigil.

EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES

ST. ANGELA OF FOLIGNO

JANUARY 7

C. 1248 – JANUARY 4, 1309



St. Angela of Foligno was born to a life of privilege and wealth. Like other women of her class, she was married, had a family, and entertained. She was absorbed with earthly things. However, near the middle of her life Angela became consumed with fear of damnation and the fires of hell. She made a confession but driven by shame she omitted some sins, and her torment became greater. A vision of St. Francis assured her of God’s immeasurable mercy. She confessed again, was freed of her torment, and began to use her wealth and position for charity work.

Unfortunately, not long after, her mother, husband, and sons died. She gave up all her earthly possessions and began a pilgrimage to nearby Assisi. When she arrived, she was overcome by an ecstasy, and embarrassed monks, not understanding, asked her to leave the town. Angela returned to Foligno and became a lay penitent, inspired by Franciscan ideals, caring for the sick and poor. She attracted other women to her, but she insisted the community remain open, to be in the world caring for those in need. The Third Order of St. Francis came from communities like Angela’s.

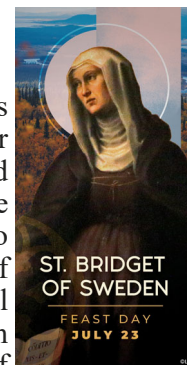
Angela, like St. Mary Magdalen de’ Pazzi, experienced many ecstasies, and was often in prayer and Eucharistic adoration. Her visions, theological teachings, and path to holiness were written down by those around her, compiled into the *Book of Visions and Instructions*. Sometimes called the “Teacher of Theologians” Angela’s first life as a wife and mother gave her unique insights into the divine and the incarnation. Her path to sainthood was not through perfection but through penitence and charity. She experienced periods of certainty and doubt, temptation and steadfastness. She was beatified in 1693 and canonized in 2013. St. Angela of Foligno, pray for us!

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. BRIDGET OF SWEDEN

JULY 23



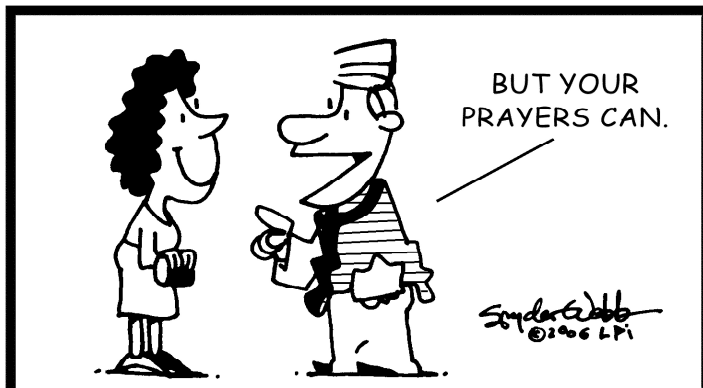
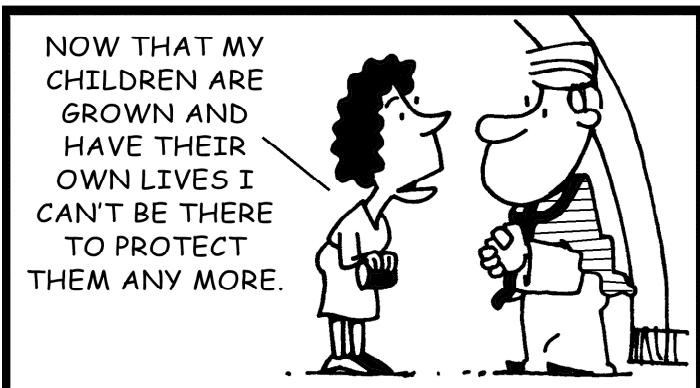
Saint Bridget or Birgitta was born in 1303, the daughter of Birger Petersson, governor of Uppland and his wife Ingeborg Bengtsson. She was married to Ulf Gudmarsson, who became governor of the province of Nericia. They had eight children, all of whom survived past infancy which was rare for the 12th century. One of their daughters would become St. Catherine of Sweden.

Saint Bridget was hailed as a mystic and her visions, which began in her early childhood when she had visions of Christ Crucified, made her somewhat of a Middle Ages celebrity. Her vision of the Nativity of Jesus even influenced the art of the Nativity through the Baroque era! She is said to have predicted the Vatican State. Saint Bridget’s Revelations, which she dictated to Peter Olafsson, the prior at the Cistercian monastery of Alvastra near which she retired after her husband’s death in 1344, were published in 1492. They have since been published in many languages and can still be purchased today.

Some of her most profound visions regarded the founding of a new religious order which would be primarily for women, ruled by an abbess, but with a separate house for monks who would serve as order chaplains. Her visions detailed everything from the abbey church to the clothing that would be adopted as the nun’s habit, and how the order would be ruled. King Magnus II of Sweden granted Bridget land and buildings. The order, called the Bridgettines or the Order of the Most Holy Savior was approved by Pope Urban V in 1370.

Saint Bridget was canonized in 1391 by Pope Boniface IX and in 1999 Pope John Paul II named her one of the Patron Saints of Europe.

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**FAMILIES
OF PARISHES**

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

7th Annual Novena of Blessed Solanus Casey

Monday, July 22, 2024 - Tuesday, July 30, 2024

Mass at Noon each day except Sunday at 9am

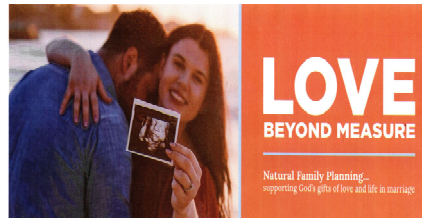
St. Bonaventure Chapel

1740 Mt Elliott, Detroit 48207

The theme of this year's Novena is "Humble and Faithful Disciples of Christ" with the focus for each day on a different saint and/or element of discipleship. The focus for each day is as follows:

- Monday:** Mary Magdalene: Witnesses to the Resurrection
- Tuesday:** Fidelity to Our Vocation
- Wednesday:** St. Sharbel Makhluf: Prayerful Self-Sacrifice
- Thursday:** St. James: Courageous in the Face of Adversity
- Friday:** Ss. Joachim and Anna: Family Life
- Saturday:** Blessed Virgin Mary: The Obedience of the First Disciple
- Sunday:** Trust in God's Providence
- Monday:** Mary, Martha and Lazarus: Hospitality
- Tuesday:** Blessed Solanus: The Humble and Faithful Disciple of Christ

In addition to noon Mass on the closing day, July 30, there will be 7:30am and 6:00pm Masses. A procession will follow the 6pm Mass.



**NATURAL FAMILY
PLANNING
AWARENESS WEEK
July 21-27, 2024**

“Love Beyond Measure, Natural Family Planning, Supporting God’s gifts of love and life in marriage” is the theme of this year’s national Natural Family Planning Awareness Week.

As an educational campaign of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), “NFP Week” celebrates God’s design for married love and the gift of life and raises awareness about Natural Family Planning (NFP) methods.

To learn more about Natural Family Planning, register for a class, or find a teacher, visit aod.org/nfp.

If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact the Archdiocese of Detroit Family Ministry office at FamilyMinistry@aod.org or (313) 237-5776.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JULY 13/14, 2024

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	102		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,721.01	(463.99)	53.52
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	317.00	(155.00)	(311.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	*10,527.84	8,854.84	5,598.84
Bequests		40.00		90.00
AOD Collections: Peter's Pence		25.00		812
Holy Days:				10.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 60,985.34 *10,247.84 CSA returned to SVF				Paid 50,732.84

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