



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

MARCH 9, 2025 + FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

From The Pastor

Within the theological virtues of faith and love, hope is the common goal that unites us as a community of believers in the promise of God's gift of redemption. Faith draws us toward a trusting relationship with God who seeks our oneness. Love is the essence and identity that stirs the heart and soul to the truth of who God is, and why God draws us to the Divine Self. Hope is the fruit of faith and love that animates the meaning and purpose of our lives.

At the beginning of the new year, Pope Francis initiated a biblical Year of Jubilee under the title 'Pilgrimage of Hope.' Why? It is an ancient practice of the Old Testament carried into the Christian era that celebrates the movements and actions of God that have culminated in our redemption through Christ. The Pope has chosen the theme of Hope to challenge and inspire all Christian people to cling to the promises of Christ and to promote gospel life in our generation. Its focus is reconciliation and peace.

Given the state and condition of our world today, the Pope calls us to live our faith in active and mature ways not only for our personal salvation, but to give witness to Christ for the sake of others. The world is longing for hope against the uncertainty of the social breakdown of our time. Christian hope is built on our identity in Christ and the meaning and purpose to which the Christ-life calls us. If our hope is only built on the things of this world, our lives will be restless, ill-directed, and focused only on personal stability, security, comfort, in the illusion of control. Our hope in Christ and the redemption he has gained for us leads and calls us to so much more.

The Lenten season is a prime opportunity to refocus ourselves in the faith we profess in God and the gift of the Lord Jesus. Hope is an undeniable necessity that creates the stability of mature human growth that leads to a virtuous and meaningful existence. For those seeking the promises of Christ, the gospels give us a clear template of what our life in Christ is to look like.

Lent is a time of personal reflection that attends to the faith we profess and what it means to us in the reality of our daily lives. Faith has little meaning if we fail to realize the hope and promise we are given in the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. In Christ we are created. Our fullest identity is in Christ. Through Christ we are redeemed. In the power of the Holy Spirit the meaning and goal of our lives is eternal life. Please ponder the big picture here as you begin this holy season. In the big picture of God's personal love for you in Christ, how is that bearing fruit in your life? The

big picture: you are in Christ, holy and beloved, baptized and initiated into the Kingdom of Light, rescued from the Kingdom of darkness. God has claimed you and made you his own. In the dying and rising of Jesus your sins are forgiven, you have been made whole, worthy to enter the glory of heaven through Christ.

What does this mean to you personally? How does it affect the way you live and direct your life? Are you accepting all God has offered, promised, and confirmed in the life, death, and Resurrection of Jesus? In Christ, what do you hope for? In Christ, do you live with the peace of hopeful trust in the surety of eternal life? In the confusion and uncertainties of the world, are you able to turn to the Lord in prayerful confidence of his provident care?

The readings today all point us in this direction. The first reading reminds us of the roots of our redemption. God rescued and claimed the Israelites in their cry for help under the weight of oppression. With a keen eye on the oppressed and the downtrodden, God receives our ancestors as his own forming them as his people made holy by their acceptance and surrender to God's promise. The desperate and the suffering are given new hope in the actions of God.

Through the temptations in the desert, Jesus strengthens his identity in God as he commits to the meaning and purpose of his life. Jesus needed to test the resolve of his human nature against the temptations of Satan. Notice the Devil tempts Jesus in his identity with the Father. '*If* you are the Son of God...' This will always be the primary temptation of the Evil one. When we are tempted in wide and various ways, we are being tempted to forget or give up our identity in God through Christ. Sometimes its for the sake of comfort and pleasure. Other times for power and glory. The temptation may be a direct temptation to worship someone or something other than God. All are against our nature and identity in Christ whom we profess as Lord and Redeemer.

As you begin the Lenten season, ponder your identity as a beloved of God. Stir up your love for Jesus. Find ways to love God through love or service to others. Pay attention to what gives you hope. What gives you peace with secure trust in God through all we have been given in the Lord Jesus.

God does not need Lent, we do. Consider sincere ways to focus your prayer, some act of self-denial, and show intentional care and concern for those in need. Build up your hope in Christ. Inspire hope in others. God bless you all.

Father John Esper

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Chapel

Live Streaming of Mass
Monday thru Thursday 8:00am
and Sunday 9:00am

Adoration on Tuesdays
in Lent

8:45am to Noon

Livestream of Rosary on
Thursdays 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

LIVE
STREAMING

CONTACT INFORMATION

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721
Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm,
Friday 9am to Noon, Closed Saturday & Sunday

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

248-398-1743 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



MONDAY, March 10, 2025

8:00am Mass: Ann Brunk† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

TUESDAY, March 11, 2025

8:00am Mass: Fr. Ed Prust† (1st R.A.) req. by Tom Karolski

7:00pm Mass : Healing of the generations

WEDNESDAY, March 12, 2025

8:00am Mass: Deanna (Special Intention) req. by Family

THURSDAY, March 13, 2025

8:00am Mass: John Skorna† req. by Jean Vidosh

SATURDAY, March 15, 2025

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

Nick Szczerba† (17th R.A.) req. by Wife & Children

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Emma (Special Intention) req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

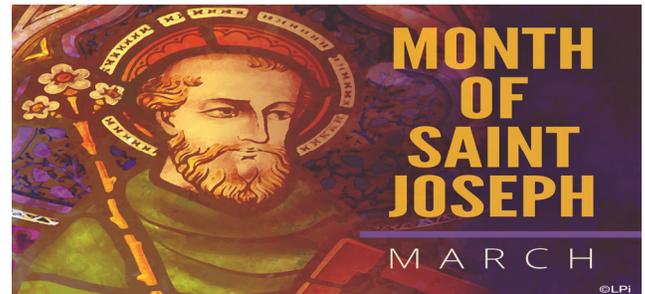
SUNDAY, March 16, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Barbara E. Morissette† req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Ann Brunk† req. by Jim & Dorothy Morrison



READINGS OF THE WEEK

March 9, 2025

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 (see 5b)/Rom 10:8-13/Lk 4:1-13

Monday: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt 5:43-48

Next Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/Phil 3:17-4:1 or 3:20-4:1/Lk 9:28b-36

LENTEN REFLECTIONS

Join us in church
this Wednesday, March 12th
 for the first of four reflections
 in Fr. John's Lenten series

Building Pathways of Hope

All are welcome

VIRTUAL SOUP SUPPER

Instead of sharing an actual soup dinner prior to Fr. John's reflection, we share a soup recipe and accept donations on behalf of a local charity that provides food and other services to those in need. Charitable donations can be made in church, at the parish office, or by using our QR code. Our collection for this charity ends March 17th. **Checks need to be made payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.**

Our charity this week is Matchan Nutrition Center, a non-profit sponsored by Oakland County District of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Pontiac. The center provides hot, well-balanced meals, as well as a host of other services such as donated clothing, hygiene products, free groceries and valuable connections to other resources for our neighbors in need. You can visit their website at matchan.svdp@gmail.com

This week's soup recipe is submitted by Jane McKay

McKay's Irish Pot o' Gold Soup

Ingredients:

- One can of tomato soup for every 2 persons
- 2 slices of yellow cheese (your choice, cheddar, American or processed) for each bowl
- Fresh basil or parsley (optional)

Directions:

- Combine (for each soup can) ½ can of milk and ½ can of water
- Heat in a saucepan mixing continuously until the soup is bubbly around the edges (not a full boil)
- Put two slices of cheese in the bottom of each bowl
- Pour hot soup on top of the cheese
- Sprinkle a little basil or parsley on top of the soup

Dig for the gold!

Buttered sourdough bread is wonderful dipped into the soup.

THIS TUESDAY INTERGENERATIONAL HEALING MASS

March 11, 2025 - 7:00pm

Celebrant: Fr. John Esper

All are invited to come and pray for generational healing in families and the world..

AN ENCOUNTER WITH THE HEALING CHRIST

A Manresa Silent Healing Retreat

1390 Quarton Rd.
 Bloomfield Hills, 48304

Friday to Sunday - March 21- 23

There are quiet places in our hearts where we have placed doubts, memories, fears and hurts which need the loving hand of Jesus to heal. Receive His embrace during a precious few days of quiet and serenity. It is a place of peace where we can light a path which can lead to freedom, forgiveness, healing. God is waiting for you. Don't miss the invitation.

Directors:
 Fr. John Esper
 & Debbie Tourville



Weekend schedule:
 Registration, Friday 5:00pm - Dinner 6:00pm
 Closure of Retreat: Sunday at Noon
 A nonrefundable deposit of \$50 is required
 You may register on line at www.manresa-sj.org
 For more information call 248.644.4933



**JOIN US
 FOR THE
 STATIONS OF
 THE CROSS**

**Fridays during
 Lent
 7:00pm
 in church**

(also livestreamed)



HOLY HOUR

Come & Spend Time With Jesus This Lent

Tuesdays 8:45am to Noon



EVANGELICAL CHARITY

ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING

TUESDAY, March 11

6:00pm - Faith Formation Office

This month the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet in the Faith Formation Office in the school building. Those interested in becoming part of this ministry are invited to come to the meeting.



First Sunday of Lent

One of the most fascinating moments in American history is when George Washington could have become the king of the newly liberated United States and didn't. At the height of his power and fame, on Dec. 23, 1783, he resigned his commission as

Commander-in-Chief, and went home. The astonished King of England remarked that in doing so, Washington was "the greatest man in the world." Greatness is often defined by what we could do but don't. Greatness is measured by the temptations we overcome.

Jesus' greatness is revealed in his victory over temptations, too. The three offered him by the devil contain, we might say, all potential possible temptations: food, power and fame. They correspond to the triple human needs of body, soul and spirit. In overcoming these three, he says "no" in essence to every and even the greatest temptation. We see that every desire of his humanity — body, soul and spirit — is perfectly united to God, to love. This is a power available to each member of his body. It is the path to true greatness. How can we, who so easily fall into even small temptations, find the power to overcome large ones? By entering into the great dynamics of Jesus' temptations.

Lenten challenge: This first week of Lent, list some concrete ways you can overcome temptations that correspond with your desires. For example, you may give up snacks between meals, choose not to participate in an activity of which you are an expert, and decide to reduce social media posting by 50%. It may not seem like much, but by saying "no" to the tyranny of food, power, and fame (in this example), you'll discover true greatness.

— Father John Muir
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DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED! CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

ST. PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE

St. Patrick's Breastplate (sometimes called The Lorica of St. Patrick) is an ancient Irish prayer attributed to St. Patrick. The prayer first appears in the *Liber Hymnorum*, an 11th-century collection of Irish and Latin hymns, where it is said that Patrick sang these words when he was besieged by the anti-Christian chieftain Lóegaire.

The prayer's most famous excerpt contains an invocation that Christ be "with me, before me, behind me, beneath me, above me, on my right, on my left, when I lie down, when I sit down, in the heart of every man who thinks of me, in the mouth of every man who speaks of me, in the eye that sees me, in the ear that hears me." The prayer's complete version can be divided into eleven sections, each calling upon different elements of divine protection, binding those who recite it to the strength of the Trinity.

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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.

...respect for life from conception to natural death

...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

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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



Janice Fox
Neil Repke

Please remember them 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

LENT

Question: After attending our parish retreat and feeling much better and stronger about my faith, I want to make this Lent worthwhile. What can I do to keep the spirit and practice of Lent?

Answer: You've already taken the first step by going on the parish retreat. It is important for us to "tune up" our faith, taking some time to renew ourselves through prayer, meditation and education. By deepening our knowledge and understanding of faith, we are often better attuned to its richness and meaning for our life.

Lent is an intense retreat, a forty-day period of reflection and penance that prepares us to celebrate the passion, death and resurrection of Christ. Our communication with God and our awareness of him is the purpose of prayer. Setting aside extra time each day helps intensify the season. Prayer includes daily Mass, Stations of the Cross, communal penance services and private confession. Making restitution for sin as well as disciplining our hearts and minds to focus on God is the purpose of penance. It helps us restore a sense of balance to our souls, thrown off kilter by sin. Penance includes personal sacrifice, self-denial, fasting, almsgiving and charitable works.

Finally, spiritual practices help us sharpen our understanding and insight into the meaning and understanding of our faith. When you take your faith seriously, you do what is necessary to follow Jesus more closely, to integrate your life and your faith more carefully.

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OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving
Time begins

Next Sunday: 2nd Sunday of Lent

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading Dt 26:4-10

Question: Moses taught the Israelites the importance of remembering the story of their release from Egyptian slavery. This event defined them as a people loved by God. What is a story from your family that has helped define you?

2nd Reading Rom 10:8-13

Question: Paul encouraged the Christians in Rome to have a genuine faith in Jesus in both heart and mind. As the season of Lent begins, how might you show others the sincerity of your faith?

Gospel Lk 4:1-13

Question: We hear how Jesus was tempted by the devil as he was preparing to begin his public ministry. What temptation can you confront this Lent?

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Saturday, March 15th 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 fees or registration are required.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus is desperately hungry when the devil tells him to turn stone into bread. But his divine will is stronger than the weakness of his human body, and he resists the devil. In this season of fasting and self-denial, let's remember Jesus' strength.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name of the first book of the New Testament?

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Answer: Matthew

Ministry Schedule

March 15/16, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	M Simmons	D Gray
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	M Simmons	D Gray
	P Miles	T Karolski
	T Riley	C McCarthy
Greeters	J Ballantine	B Turchin
	L Collins	N Oparka
	R Juska-Svoba	T Oparka
	R Bertolini	M McLaughlin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of March 15/16 2025
Tom Karolski

Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy.

Pope Francis

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS**SERVANT OF GOD JULIA GREELEY**

Servant of God Julia Greeley was born into slavery in Hannibal, Missouri. Julia did not know her own birthday and exact age or the full names of her parents. It is thought she may have been born around the year 1840. She was freed from slavery in 1865... After being freed from slavery she eventually landed in Denver, Colorado working a variety of jobs and caring for the city's poorest residents.

As a child, a slave master's whip cut her in the face blinding her in her right eye. This didn't stop her from seeing the needs of her community wherever she lived... In 1880, Julia converted to Catholicism at the Sacred Heart Church in Denver. Her particular devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus led her ministry all over Denver. She became an active member of the Secular Franciscan Order in 1901, committing her life to live simply, love God, and think of all people as her brothers and sisters. She attended daily Mass... Her parish priests fervently defended her from any racist comment.

Of her many ministries in the city, one was to enlist countless Denver firefighters into a devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and what she coined as the Firefighter's Prayer Union — an organization that still exists today. She'd do this by visiting the various fire stations in Denver, often on foot, and passing out cloth patches that firefighters could keep with them in their pockets or wallets to be assured of her daily prayer for them. The organization quickly grew in popularity, and she became well known among firefighters in her city.

Alongside her ministry to those working for the city, Julia also worked with young women and girls in their youth in her parish. When the young women she served didn't have appropriate clothing for church socials, Julia went door to door asking affluent parishioners to donate their daughter's nice used dresses for them to wear. She also led youth programs, often working in the background serving food and cleaning up...

Julia died on the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1918. After her death she was found to be severely arthritic. This surprised those who knew her because she had never complained of the pain that she was likely suffering while she walked miles and miles in service to those in need. She is now lovingly known as Denver's Angel of Charity and, due to her cause for canonization being opened in the Fall of 2016, her remains were transferred to the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception in Denver, in 2017. She is the very first person to be interred in the Cathedral. ©LPI

The Firefighters Prayer Union still exists today. Capuchin Franciscans offer prayers and Masses for enrolled firefighters. To enroll a firefighter, fire station or fire crew visit: <https://juliagreeleyhome.org/julia-greeley-firefighters-prayer-union/>

WHAT THE DEVIL DOESN'T HAVE

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

The devil knows all the rules. The devil knows all the Bible verses. He probably knows them better than you do (certainly better than I do).

He knows them so well that here, in today's Gospel, he thinks he can outsmart the Son of God. He thinks he can out-argue him.

See, the thing you need to know about the devil is that he could have a master's degree in theology. Maybe even a doctorate. But have you ever met a master's student, or even a doctoral one, who doesn't have a particular passion for what they're studying? I sure have.

The devil didn't rebel against God because he didn't understand God's will. He rebelled because he understood God's will perfectly — and he didn't like it.

The devil knows that Jesus is human, and so in today's Gospel he employs all the very best tricks he has for getting humans to break. Physical hunger. Insecurity and a desire for power. The yearning to appear learned and wise.

The devil will try these things with us, too — this Lent, and throughout our lives.

It doesn't work with Jesus, because, of course, Jesus is not *just* human. He can feel temptation, but he will not submit to it. But how are we supposed to do the same? We're not divine. We're just human.

Well, here's the thing. We may be only human, but as Christians, we have a secret weapon. (No, it's not a master's degree in theology. Some of you may have that, but it probably doesn't make you holier.)

We have a love of what the devil has renounced — those things belonging solely to God. Truth. Joy. Humility. Sanctifying sacrifice.

Let the love of those things carry you through this Lent, and beyond. .

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“Pilgrimage is of course a fundamental element of every Jubilee event. Setting out on a journey is traditionally associated with our human quest for meaning in life. A pilgrimage on foot is a great aid for rediscovering the value of silence, effort and simplicity of life. In the coming year, *pilgrims of hope* will surely travel the ancient and more modern routes in order to experience the Jubilee to the full... Jubilee Churches...can serve as oases of spirituality and places of rest on the pilgrimage of faith, where we can drink from the wellsprings of hope, above all by approaching the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the essential starting-point of any true journey.”

*From Spes Non Confundit,
the papal bull of St. Francis for the Jubilee Year 2025*



FRIDAY FISH FRY

To find a church offering fish and/or seafood dinners on Fridays in Lent visit: fishfryfinder.org



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 - 10:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

St. Mary

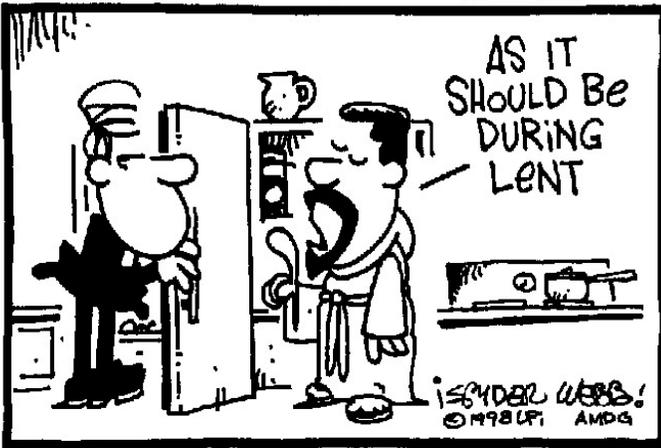
730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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

WED - 12:10pm



To support St. Vincent Ferrer with a financial contribution scan the code below to connect to our tithe.ly giving site.



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING MARCH 1/2, 2025

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243			
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$6,332.94	1,147.94	12,804.77
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	634.00	162.00	(92.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	251.00	(1,422.00)	(15,310.71)
Bequests		170.00		2,954.00
AOD Collections: Church in Central/Eastern Europe		215.00		215.00
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CSA 2024 Pledged 76,160.34				Paid 74,697.84

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