



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

MAY 18, 2025 † FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

From The Pastor

Jesus had no illusion that the Christianity that evolved after his suffering, death, and Resurrection would be a glorious perfection of love and joy with fully realized justice and peace. Christian love is messy, conflicted, and often questioned. Resurrection and redemption never promised us a rose garden.

The only difference between Christian love and human love is that Christian love is professed. We profess Jesus as the Christ of God who is the truth of love realized and confirmed through his life, death, and Resurrection. Jesus is the model and example of all that is possible for human love through his self-emptying sacrifice for the sake of us all. Jesus himself expresses this when he says to the first disciples, “there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Jesus laid down his life, in love, for you and me whom he claimed as friends. In doing this, Jesus was fully aware that the promise of Divine union in heaven would be fraught with every messiness and challenge.

Consider the tension and contradiction of the gospel. The setting is the Last Supper. Jesus has just finished washing the feet of the disciples. This meal is rightly defined as a love feast. Yet, it is also marred by the reality of evil and its consequence against human nature. It seems odd, doesn’t it, that as Jesus is about to give us the new commandment to love one another that one at the table would betray him?

Jesus did not simply say, ‘love one another.’ He intentionally said, “*as I have loved you*, so you also should love one another.” Big difference. How we love and how Jesus loves are not very often the same. Consider the situation. Jesus knows Judas will betray him and hand him over to the religious authorities which will result in his death. He knows it is going to happen and he allows it to take place, not unlike the denials of Peter. Jesus is at table with his dearest friends sharing with them the legacy of his life mission. He is fully expecting, after his death and rising, that they will carry on the mission in his name.

Knowing what lies ahead, Jesus washes the feet of his betrayer with the same love as for each of the others. He washed the feet of the one who would deny his with the same love as if there were no denial. Jesus never asks or directs us to do something that he himself has not done. Friend and foe received the same love. Betrayer and denier get the same foot washing as each of the others at the table. Jesus

knows human nature and the weakness that befalls each of us. Saints and sinners get the same forgiveness. It is said that the saints are just the sinners who keep getting up and coming back to a love and mercy they cannot deny or live without.

Human love and Christian love are the same love. Because Christian love is professed in the name of a person, Jesus, who directs his followers to love one another as he has loved them, Christians draw judgement and criticism, with rejection and persecution because we so often fail in fulfilling the love we profess. Why are such judgements cast when we all need, want, and are dependent on the same love?

Are non-Christians, non-believers in God, happier or better off because they do not hold to a commandment of love in the model of Jesus? I do not believe so. Every human being breathing air and wearing skin needs love. We die without love. People become irrational, lost, undeveloped, and too often violent when there is no interaction of love between or with others. This may sound harsh and discouraging. It is not. It is the reality of the human condition hindered by the deception of evil and the disorder of sin.

That is why we boldly acclaim Christ as the truth of love that reveals and shares with us the glory of our heavenly Father. We will fail. We will hurt others, and others will hurt us, but in the love of Christ our feet will be washed, our sins forgiven that we may begin again in the profession of faith to love as Jesus loves.

The Commandment to love another is not a burden but a gift. It is hard and our efforts will be imperfect. But as was once famously said, “never, ever give up.” You are in Christ. You profess Christ and his love. You were human before you professed Christ. If you had not been loved by those who gave you life, you would not be who you are today. The love that gave you life and nurtured you to this day was both human love and Christian love because they are both the same. We choose and commit to love in the name of Jesus who is the fulness of love. As he has loved us, so should we love one another and all others.

Do your best. When you fall, have your feet washed. Start over. Never quit.

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
8:45am to 10:00am

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

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, May 19, 2025

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

TUESDAY, May 20, 2025

8:00am Mass: Jo Kronbach† req. by Mary Ann Simmons

WEDNESDAY, May 21, 2025

8:00am Mass: Helen Gutowski† (22nd R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

THURSDAY, May 22, 2025

8:00am Mass: Pat King† req. by Mary Ann Simmons

SATURDAY, May 24, 2025

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

Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Jo Kronbach† req. by Robert Evanski

Pat King† req. by Caregiver

Marilyn McAuliffe† req. by Friend

Dorothy Steck† req. by Friend

Frank & Alice Pokorny† req. by Daughter

Mary Lou Stema† req. by Mary Jane Guc

SUNDAY, May 25, 2025

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

Diane LePage† (1st R.A.) req. by Martha Eggert

Maria Miceli† req. by Virga Family

Logan Comment (welcome to SVF) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

Paula Moran† req. by Moran Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

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

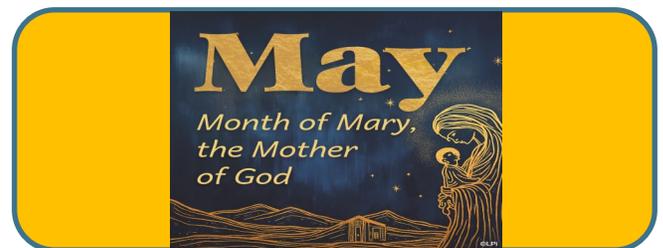
Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor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



READINGS OF THE WEEK

May 18, 2025

Sunday: Acts 14:21-27/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13
(see 1)/Rv 21:1-5a/Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Monday: Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 15-16/Jn
14:21-26

Tuesday: Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13ab,
21/Jn 14:27-31a

Wednesday: Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4ab, 4cd-5/Jn
15:1-8

Thursday: Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 10/Jn
15:9-11

Friday: Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-9, 10 and 12/Jn
15:12-17

Saturday: Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 5/Jn 15:18
-21

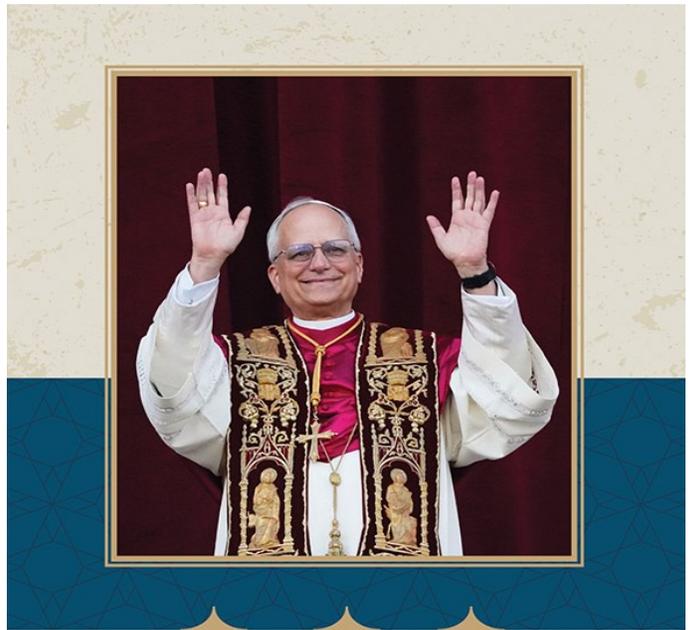
Next Sunday: Acts 15:1-2, 22-29/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 (4) /
Rv 21:10-14, 22-23/Jn 14:23-29

CSA 2025
CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Please help reach our target of \$37,917.00

CSA 2025 Campaign materials have been mailed. 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** You can donate online at our website. For other optional ways to make a donation, please see "Other Ways to Give" on the pledge card.

If you did not receive a CSA mailing packet and would like to contribute, please contact the Parish Office.

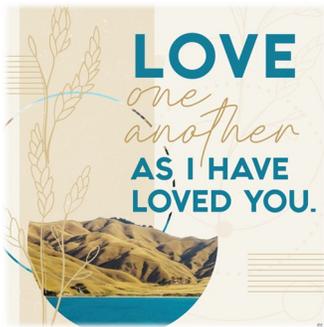


HABEMUS PAPAM

Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.

Jeremiah 3:15

Welcome.
Pope Leo XIV



5TH SUNDAY OF EASTER

I've always found it amazing that Jesus never says to his disciples the straightforward and bumper stickery words "I love you" or "I will always love you" (a la

Dolly Parton's song). Why doesn't Jesus say, "I love you"?

Well, actually he does, but in particular ways. He says, "As the Father loves me, so I love you" (John 15:9) thereby rooting his love for us in the space of the Holy Trinity. This week he commands, "Love another as I have loved you" (John 13:34). He presents his love for us as a completed action which continues into the present moment. How *has* he loved us? By becoming one of us, one with us, and finally giving his life for us in his suffering on the cross. We weren't there when he did that, but neither were his Apostles (except one). Still, that action is his great "I love you" to us.

His love is also hedged in a command: "Love one another." So how can we practically follow it? The great St. John XXIII wrote in his diary that each day he followed this rule: "Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it." The hidden nature of a good deed is a sign that it is truly loving. This week, take on St. John XXIII's practical method of following Jesus' great commandment of love. It's a splendid way to say, "I love you."

— Father John Muir
©LPI



Last Sunday, May 11, 2025, **Vince Liam Milay**, one of our Faith Formation students, was welcomed to the Eucharistic table to receive Jesus for the first time.

Our parish family congratulates him on this step in his faith journey and wishes him continued blessings as his relationship with Jesus matures.

"Eucharist is the center of our Christian life, for it forms us into who and whose we are called to be."

Pope Francis

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading Acts 14:21-27

Question: Despite facing many hardships, Paul and Barnabas succeeded in preaching the good news of Jesus crucified and risen from the dead. How do you work through personal setbacks?

2nd Reading Rv 21:1-5a

Question: At the start of his final vision, John sees the age to come in which God comes to dwell with his people on earth and all tears, pain and even death itself is gone. Who in your life needs to hear this incredible message of hope?

Gospel Jn 13:31-33a, 34-35

Question: Jesus modeled for his disciples how to love one another. Do you have friends or co-workers who show you how to love others? ©LPi

Traveling Vocations Chalice



Families and individuals are needed to host the Traveling Vocations Chalice for a one week commitment. Prayers come with the chalice. Please sign up at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert St. entrance.

DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED! – CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

PRAYER BEFORE MEALS, EXPLAINED

Anyone who has ever dined in a Catholic home has probably heard the prayer before meals that begins with the famous words: “Bless us, O Lord, and these thy gifts.” These words in particular are first found in the Galesian Sacramentary, a book of Christian liturgy that dates to the seventh or eighth century, but the practice of praying before meals is Biblical, harkening back to the Jewish ritual washing of hands before eating. In the Gospels, Jesus is shown praying before the Last Supper and other meals, setting an example followed by Paul in Acts 27:35.

In his 2015 encyclical *Laudato SI'*, Pope Francis urged the faithful “to return to this beautiful and meaningful custom.”

“That moment of blessing,” he wrote, “reminds us of our dependence on God for life; it strengthens our feeling of gratitude for the gifts of creation... (and) reaffirms our solidarity with those in greatest need.” ©LPi

OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

Sunday: 5th Sunday of Easter

Tuesday: St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest

Wednesday: St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs

Thursday: St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

Next Sunday: 6th Sunday of Easter ©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.

...respect for life from conception to natural death

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

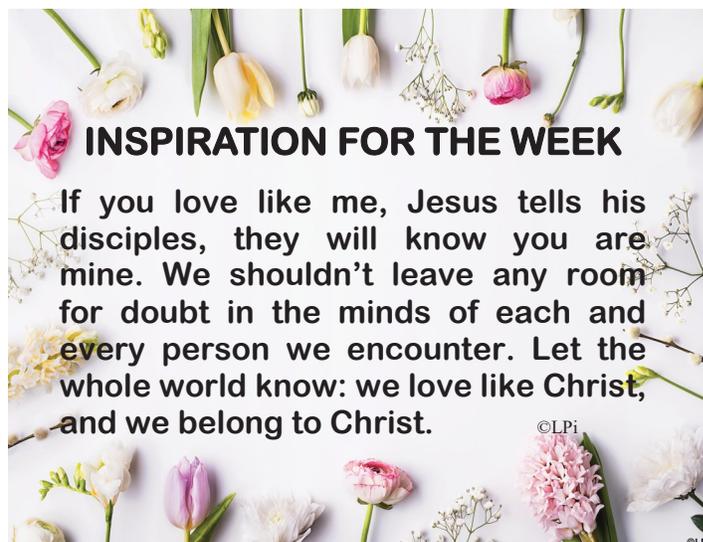
...the homeless, the addicted and all who are suffering physically, spiritually, mentally, and emotionally.

...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



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

If you love like me, Jesus tells his disciples, they will know you are mine. We shouldn't leave any room for doubt in the minds of each and every person we encounter. Let the whole world know: we love like Christ, and we belong to Christ. ©LPi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is another name for a priest’s sermon?
©LPi

Answer: Homily

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

GOOD AND EVIL

Question: If God is good, why is there evil in the world?

Answer: The problem of evil is perplexing. If God is all-powerful and all-good, why doesn’t He stop bad things from happening? He must either not be all-powerful, or perhaps He’s not very good after all. Human beings have faced the possibility of evil since the very beginning of our existence. In granting us free will, God gives us the ability to make free choices. God does not force us into moral perfection. We are not forced to love Him or to love our neighbor. We must make the decision ourselves. This means, of course, that we have the ability to choose against love.

One small decision of selfishness, jealousy, or pride may not seem so bad. But every decision — good or bad — is like a stone dropped into a still pond. The ripples extend much farther than the original stone. When decisions against love begin to compound, they affect families, neighborhoods, and nations. This is all the more reason for Christians to be faithful to our baptismal call to love one another as Christ has loved us!
©LPi

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of **Pauline Moran** **Robert Schmidt**



Please remember them and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers. May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



“A renewed appreciation of the value of patience could only prove beneficial for ourselves and for others. Saint Paul often speaks of patience in the context of our need for perseverance and confident trust in God’s promises. Yet, before all else, he testifies

to God’s own patience, as “the God of all patience and encouragement” (*Rom 15:5*). Patience, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit, sustains our hope and strengthens it as a virtue and a way of life. May we learn to pray frequently for the grace of patience, which is both the daughter of hope and at the same time its firm foundation.

5. This interplay of hope and patience makes us see clearly that the Christian life is a *journey* calling for *moments of greater intensity* to encourage and sustain hope as the constant companion that guides our steps towards the goal of our encounter with the Lord Jesus.”

Excerpt from Spes Non Confundit, the papal bull of St. Francis for the Jubilee Year 2025

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

**Saturday, May 24th at 9:00am
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.

Ministry Schedule

May 24/25, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	D Tourville
Reader #1	M Simmons	D Gray
Reader #2	T Riley	D Tourville
EME	P Miles	M Waskowski
	M Simmons	P Allen
	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
Greeters	P Miles	N Oparka
	M Smith	B Gutowski
	R Pasiak	D Vu
	T Pasiak	T Oparka

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of May 24/25, 2025
Rorie Grant

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. POPE GREGORY VII

c.1015-1085

MAY 25

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

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

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

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

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

© LPi

Resembling Jesus

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I once wrote an article about several women residents of a local nursing home. In researching the piece, I discovered that they had grown up in the same neighborhood as my grandmother, and that one of the women was, in fact, my grandmother's dearest childhood friend.

When I visited this woman to take her photograph, she took a long look at my face, and I could see in her eyes that she was reaching back in her memory across the years.

She said: "You resemble her."

I wept on the way home.

My grandmother died when I was nine, and for the last several years of her life she suffered from Alzheimer's disease. I have always deeply grieved the time we lost, the relationship we could have had. I have hazy fragments of memory from before her illness that lead me to believe we loved each other very much.

Being told I look like my grandmother by someone who knew her well — being identified as belonging to her in some way — was one of the more beautiful things to happen to me.

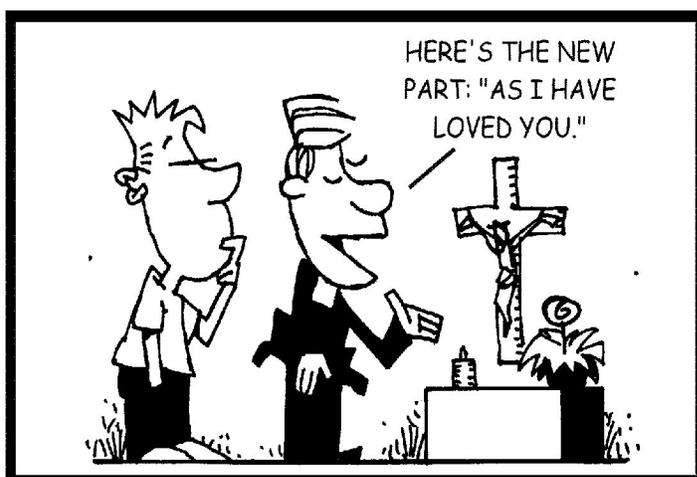
When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as *theirs* somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his.

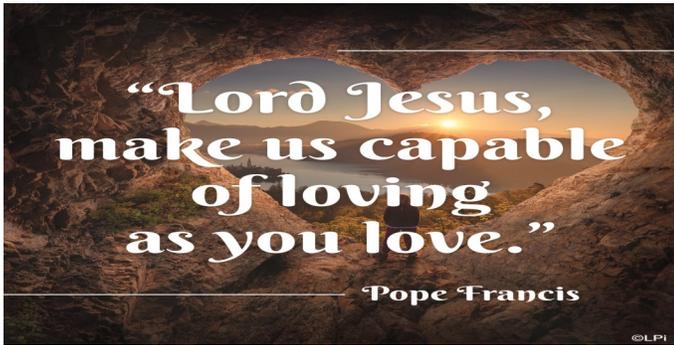
The only way we can resemble Jesus is through love. It is his most recognizable quality, his most famous trait. *This is how all will know that you are my disciples.*

As Catholics, we are always talking about finding ways to live our faith boldly, unapologetically, publicly. Good — we should! But if we want people to know we are Catholic, we should love them. Bravely. Recklessly. Sacrificially.

As he loves us.

©LPi





ACT OUT OF LOVE

I was recently reading an article about the real aspects of true love. The psychologist writing the piece said that many people hide behind the words "I love you." They can start believing that if they say it enough times, it simply becomes true.

Jesus claimed that the world would know his disciples by the fact that they loved one another. In the Church, we speak of loving one another quite frequently. I hope that someone can tell that I am a disciple of Jesus by the way I love others. However, that hope is something I have to keep in the center of my mind because I fear too often that I speak more of love than act out of love.

As Christians, we can find ourselves hiding behind our words. History, unfortunately, has shown us that our witness of action has not always been profound enough. The world will surely know whom it is we serve if we love like Jesus, we act like Jesus, and we serve others like Jesus. Our stewardship will bear witness to the transforming power of Jesus Christ, and we will bring others to him. Our love will be an instrument of our evangelization. Our words will become true, not because we said them enough, but because they are true.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
© 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 - 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 MAY 10/11, 2025

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	115		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 7,387.22	2,202.22	31,566.75
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	449.00	(23.00)	1,382.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	186.00	(1,487.00)	(29,635.21)
Bequests				
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days: Easter		20.00		6,915.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 11,375.00				Paid 9,225.00

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