



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JUNE 1, 2025 + THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD

From The Pastor

‘The Lord be with you. And with your Spirit.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right and just.’

This sequence of praise, ever so familiar to us, says more than one might imagine. The meaning and depth of things can be lost in the familiarity of their routine. Praise and worship are essential to a mature prayer life, both personal and public. The opening line reminds us of who we are and in whose Spirit we dwell.

The Lord is with us and within us. It is the Holy Spirit who inspires the lifting of our hearts in the praise and worship of God. Invited to lift our hearts to the Lord, our response is a commitment of faith to lift the deepest part of ourselves to the Lord. Such an acclamation is truly right and just.

On this Feast of the Ascension, this sequence that introduces the Holy, Holy, Holy, worships the Lord lifted up to the heavens at the completion of his earthly mission. The Ascension of Jesus represents the completion of his redemptive work begun at the Incarnation. Now the action and fulfillment of our redemption is accomplished through the work of the Holy Spirit.

The departure of Jesus is not an ending, but a new beginning so the work begun by Jesus can come to its full stature through the Holy Spirit in each of us. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus who dwells in us as the fruit of his dying and rising from the dead. Death is defeated. With the Holy Spirit dwelling within us we will pass through death to the new life of heavenly glory.

The Ascension of Jesus has us looking forward to his Second Coming which culminates in the unity of all creation at the coming of the Lord at the end of time. More immediately, here and now, we enter the sanctuary of God at our liturgical worship. The sanctuary is not our own. It belongs to the Lord our God whom we worship in the celebration of the sacrifice of the Divine Son. This is reflected in the second reading today. Christ died once for all to take away our sins in the promise of salvation to those who seek him.

At the altar, we worshipfully offer the sacrifice of simple bread and wine that is transformed into the

Body and the Blood of Jesus whom we are invited to consume. The Lord has not left us. By receiving the Body and Blood of Christ we proclaim our faith with a constancy of hope that we too will ascend to heavenly glory.

These may seem to be an unlikely connection to the Feast of the Ascension. They are precisely the point of what the Ascension means. The Ascension of Jesus is our ascension. Only through and within the Lord Jesus are we able to hope for the glory of heaven. There is no deeper way than through a faith-filled and holy reception of the Body and Blood of Jesus that prepares us to share in the joy of heaven. This earthly banquet at the table of the Lord is only a foretaste of the heavenly banquet to which we are invited.

At the time of the Ascension, Jesus commissions the disciples and us to become witnesses to his death and Resurrection for the forgiveness of sin. Jesus instructs the disciples to wait for the power on high. They are to wait for the power and grace of the Holy Spirit. Through the grace of Baptism, we have already received the Holy Spirit. It is ours to go forth in whatever manner of life we hold to give witness to the love and mercy of the Lord Jesus through our own forgiveness of others with charity and mercy in our hearts.

Holding to the Lordship of Jesus and empowered with the Holy Spirit, the Letter to the Hebrews, directs us to have every confidence to enter the sanctuary of the Lord’s redemptive sacrifice. Our presence before the Lord with sincerity of heart and absolute trust is the surety that we have been washed clean by the Blood of the Lamb.

To do this we are dependent on the Holy Spirit. The work of our redemption is not ours. It is a work of God, accomplished in Christ, now sustained through the workings of the Holy Spirit. How do we pray to the Holy Spirit? Honestly, it is a prayer of quiet surrender. Feel your longing for the Lord, your desire to know and do God’s will, your willingness to be a witness of Jesus. If you do this sincerely, the Holy Spirit is already present. Listen. Receive. Go forth and act on what you feel, believe, and long for in Christ. Doing so, one day we will all ascend to the glory promised us.

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

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 SUMMER 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

248-542-8720 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, June 2, 2025

8:00am Mass: Deceased parishioners who did not have a Funeral Mass

TUESDAY, June 3, 2025

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

WEDNESDAY, June 4, 2025

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

THURSDAY, June 5, 2025

8:00am Mass: Paula Moran† req. by Mary Jane Guc

SATURDAY, June 7, 2025

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

Mary Lou Stema† req. by Mary Jane Guc

Jo Kronbach† req. by Mary Ann Simmons

SUNDAY, June 8, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Living & Deceased Members and Families of the Fr.

Heary Knights of Columbus Council

Giuseppe Tosto† req. by Virga Family

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Paula Moran† req. by Bernadette Gutowski



READINGS OF THE WEEK

June 1, 2025

- Sunday: *Ascension*: Acts 1:1-11/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9(6)/Eph 1:17-23 or Heb 9:24-28; 10:19-23/Lk 24:46-53
- Monday: Acts 19:1-8/Ps 68:2-3ab, 4-5acd, 6-7ab/Jn 16:29-33
- Tuesday: Acts 20:17-27/Ps 68:10-11, 20-21/Jn 17:1-11a
- Wednesday: Acts 20:28-38/Ps 68:29-30, 33-35a, 35bc-36ab/Jn 17:11b-19
- Thursday: Acts 22:30; 23:6-11/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-10, 11/Jn 17:20-26
- Friday: Acts 25:13b-21/Ps 103:1-2, 11-12, 19-20ab/Jn 21:15-19
- Saturday: Morning: Acts 28:16-20, 30-31/Ps 11:4, 5 and 7/Jn 21:20-25
- Next Sunday: *Vigil*: Gn 11:1-9 or Ex 19:3-8a, 16-20b or Ez 37:1-14 or Jl 3:1-5/Ps 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 (see 30)/Rom 8:22-27/Jn 7:37-39
Day: Acts 2:1-11/Ps 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 (see 30)/1 Cor 12:3b-7, 12-13 or Rom 8:8-17/Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 14:15-16, 23b-26



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.

Pledge cards are available at the parish office for those who are not registered at St. Vincent Ferrer and would like to make a pledge or contribution.



EVANGELICAL CHARITY



CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND - June 7/8

Items requested:

Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like: Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including:

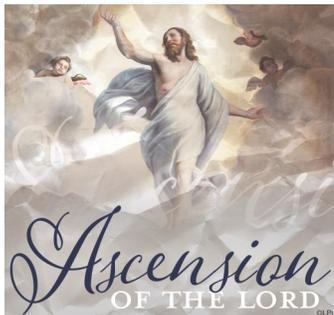
Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghetios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards, in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable food, from:

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS NEXT SUNDAY - JUNE 8

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



It was a Delta flight from Salt Lake City to Phoenix, and it looked like an on-time departure. As the large plane rolled away from the gate, the pilot announced over the intercom: "Ladies and Gentlemen, the crew outside didn't fill up the tanks with fuel. We are

going back to the gate to wait for them." The passengers groaned with impatience. But over the next hour, we knew the waiting had a purpose: it meant fuel to get us to our destination.

The disciples at the Lord's Ascension are in a similar predicament but on a massively higher plane. They want the Kingdom of God to begin on earth as it is in heaven. But Jesus says, **"I am sending the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high"** (Luke 24:49). They stay together in prayer in Jerusalem and wait nine long days until the Holy Spirit descends. Empowered by supernatural gifts, they go forth to the ends of the earth and to their deaths proclaiming the Good News of Jesus. The wait was worth it.

Before you begin a task or endeavor, do you take time to patiently pray for the Holy Spirit to come? The bigger the task, the more ardent the prayer should be. Try it this week, and you'll be clothed with power to get where God wants you to go.

— *Father John Muir*
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COME PRAY THE ROSARY

**Administration Bldg. Patio
June 9, 2025 - 7pm**



Again this summer, the Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the second and fourth Mondays of June, July & August. The Immaculata group prayers will be prayed at 6:30pm 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.

OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

- Sunday: The Ascension of the Lord; World Communications Day
- Monday: Sts. Marcellinus and Peter, Martyrs
- Tuesday: St. Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs
- Thursday: St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr
- Friday: St. Norbert, Bishop
- Next Sunday: Pentecost Sunday

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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.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, June 7th 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.

Men Like Their Cars Need Maintenance

June is men's health month. The purpose is to bring awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment. The top three causes of death for males are heart disease, cancer, and injuries.

If we compare health maintenance to car maintenance we require regular physical checkups or tune ups, even if we feel well. We check our tire pressure, thus we need to check our blood pressure. The fluids in our car are monitored, so beginning at age 35 we should check our cholesterol and lipid panels and screening for diabetes with glucose levels.

We need to fuel our bodies with healthy eating. More fruits and vegetables, less processed foods and sugar, and smaller portion sizes. This provides us with high grade fuel so we can run better and have the energy we need. Just as we cannot let a car set for too long we need to move our bodies to maintain our health. Be aware of safety and prevent falls. Wear your seatbelts.

In summary, your screening should include screening for testicular, prostate, and colon cancer. Most of this can be done at your yearly checkups. These are just guidelines and your age, personal risk factors and health history may change the recommendation.

For Father's Day this year, encourage the men in your life to take care of their health because you want them around for a long time.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

As Christ ascends to heaven, he asks the Apostles to embrace hope, to again put their trust in his promise. This week, can we be like the Apostles? Can we embrace the hope of what is promised?

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HE WILL RETURN

by Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

I travel a good bit, which means I am away from my wife and children for decent periods of time. But what makes it easier for me, besides being able to share the Good News of Jesus with people all over, is that I know I will not be gone forever. I will return, and then all will be well again. I have been called by God to be away from them at times, but God always brings me back to them.

Each liturgical year, we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. The feast speaks much to who Jesus is theologically. But in a very practical way, we also acknowledge that he has gone to be with the Father, but will return someday. Just as I return after a conference or visit with a parish to those God has entrusted to me and I love, Jesus will return to those entrusted to him and whom he loves.

But just like when I am away, there are things to be done. Life goes on for my wife and children with school, work, activities, and the basic responsibilities of family. In good stewardship, they are called to give generously to each other and devote themselves to God. Without them tending to things, upon my return I would find everything in turmoil and disarray. Then when I return, we become one again, and we are about the Lord's work together.

The Lord ascended into heaven, but we are not to sit by quietly awaiting his return. Much needs to be done. He has entrusted much to us, expecting us to be good stewards. If you think that you have all the time in the world to complete the tasks at hand, think again. His return will be when we least expect it. It is time to be about our Father's work.

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...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

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

COMMUNION: HAND OR TONGUE?

Question: Why do some people receive Communion in the hand, while others have it put on the tongue? And is one better than the other?

Answer: Prior to the liturgical reforms that accompanied the Second Vatican Council, it was the universal practice that Catholics would receive communion “on the tongue,” meaning that the one receiving would allow the priest distributing communion to place the consecrated host on their outstretched tongue. At this time, only the priest celebrant (and, on special occasions, priests assisting at the Mass) was allowed to receive the Precious Blood.

Since 1977 (with the approval of the Holy See) the bishops of the United States have officially approved two equally valid options for receiving Holy Communion in Masses celebrated according to the Ordinary Form of the Mass. As the bishops’ statement *Norms for Holy Communion Under Both Kinds* states:

The communicant may choose whether to receive the Body of Christ in the hand or on the tongue. When receiving in the hand, the communicant should be guided by the words of St. Cyril of Jerusalem: “When you approach, take care not to do so with your hand stretched out and your fingers open or apart, but rather place your left hand as a throne beneath your right, as befits one who is about to receive the King. Then receive him, taking care that nothing is lost” (no. 41).

As we noted, both ways of receiving communion are equally valid in the United States and it is important that we always keep the instructions of the bishops in mind as we reflect on which method we might prefer.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading Acts 1:1-11

Question:

Just before his ascension into heaven, Jesus commissioned the disciples to be witnesses to the world of his life, death and resurrection. How do you share your faith with friends or neighbors?

2nd Reading Eph 1:17-23

Question:

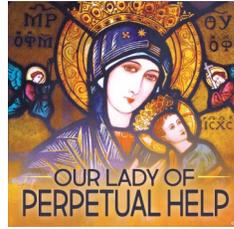
Paul offers a prayer for the believers in Ephesus to be given wisdom, knowledge and an enlightened heart. What are you praying for this week?

Gospel Lk 24:46-53

Question:

The disciples were overcome with joy and thanksgiving, praising God for the gift of the resurrected and ascended Jesus. What gift from God brings you joy?

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

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, *Explained*

Our Lady of Perpetual Help refers both to a title conferred upon the Blessed Mother as well as to a corresponding icon that dates to the late Middle Ages.

Painted on wood, the original icon has a Byzantine style and depicts the Blessed Mother holding the Christ Child. She is flanked by St. Michael and St. Gabriel, who hold the instruments of Christ’s passion, including a spear, nails and the Crown of Thorns. In the image, Christ seemingly leans into his mother’s embrace for comfort and strength as he contemplates these objects.

The icon is thought to have originated in Crete, but for 300 years was venerated in the Church of San Matteo in Merulana in Rome. Blessed Pope Pius IX entrusted the image to the Order of Redemptorists, who moved it to the Church of St. Alphonsus. He later established the Feast of Our Lady of Perpetual Help on June 27.

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Ministry Schedule

June 7/8, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	T Karolski
Reader #1	P Miles	R Grant
Reader #2	D Tourville	T Karolski
EME	P Miles	C McCarthy
	M Kairis	R Grant
	J McCown	M Black
Greeters	P Miles	T Oparka
	R Pasiak	N Oparka
	T Pasiak	P Rarus
	M Smith	D Vu

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of June 7/8, 2025
Bernie Turchin

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. RAFAEL GUÍZAR VALENCIA
1878-1938
FEAST DAY JUNE 6

Rafael Guízar y Valencia was born in Cotija, Michoacán, Mexico on April 26, 1878. He was one of 12 children. His mother died when he was just nine years old. Early in his teen years he had a mystical vision. The vision of Jesus came to him while he was sitting on his family's property watching a particularly violent thunderstorm — he claimed to see the Lord among the swirling storm clouds. This apparition scared Rafael so he ran to the chapel located on his family's property to seek shelter from the storm. The chapel was dedicated to the Virgin of San Juan de los Lagos and, while kneeling in prayer there, he experienced a second vision. The statue of Mary inside the chapel became luminous and emitted a bright light that engulfed the young man. According to Rafael, this was when he decided to devote his life to God and become a priest.

After studying with the Jesuits, Rafael was ordained on June 6, 1901, at the age of 23. At that time, Mexico's revolution was spreading fear and persecution to Christians across the nation. Despite the growing conflict, though, in his early years, Father Guízar embarked on countless apostolic missions to serve those in need across Mexico. During his early priesthood he used his own family's riches to establish schools and colleges for underprivileged youth. In 1903, he also established the Congregation of Missionaries of Our Lady of Hope, a religious community.

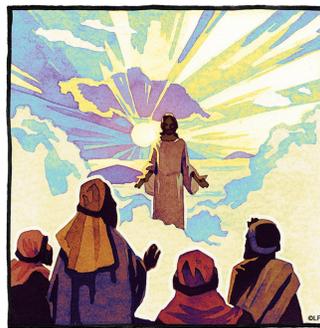
By 1910 the Mexican revolution was in full swing, pressing down upon Fr. Guízar and his ministries. ...he narrowly escaped death by firing squad after being captured by the government by claiming to be a poor musician.

... he escaped to Texas but had to keep moving due to the Mexican government's continued pursuit of him. He spent time as an exile in the U.S., Guatemala, Columbia, and Havana, Cuba. Everywhere he lived he set up missions of service. After nine years of escaping the war, he was named Bishop of Veracruz and called back to Mexico.

During the late 1920's another conflict, the Cristero Rebellion caused more problems for Bishop Guízar and he had to, again, escape persecution by the State. Priests were, for years, prohibited from celebrating Mass and Catholics were, again, persecuted. Throughout the years however, he continued to defy authority and practice his faith, constantly serving those in need despite the threat of harm to himself due to his position as a bishop. He was continually captured and released and worked through the continued persecution, running a seminary of 300 men and continuing his ministries to the poor. He defiantly stood up to injustice until his death from a heart attack on June 6, 1938. He was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in 2006.

(edited for space)

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**Now We Wait**

by Colleen Jurkiewicz
 Dorman

You can tell a lot about a person by how they wait in line.

The driver who leans on her horn if the car in front of her pauses before turning on a red light is probably also the woman who says, "I thought you forgot about us" to the waitress who's slow to bring water to the table.

The shopper with a full cart who lets someone buying two bananas cut ahead of him in the checkout line is probably also the guy who says, "Here, take mine," if the creamer runs out in the morning coffee queue.

Here's how I wait: I pull out my phone. I check my email. I make shopping lists in my head. I busy myself. The anxiety of falling behind is just too overwhelming. Waiting scares me.

I'm not saying the first person is nasty and bad, the second one is a saint, and I'm a neurotic workaholic. I'm only saying that it's hard to press "pause" on the fulfillment of any desire we have, even if it's just the desire to move on. It's hard to be made to wait. It's a test, and like all tests, it either proves our strengths or reveals our weaknesses.

The Ascension begins a period of waiting for the disciples. Christ has been with them, blessed them, taught them — and now he's gone in a cloud, leaving behind a vague promise that they can't really understand.

Make no mistake: this is a test. And it reveals them to be faithful. They return to Jerusalem "with great joy" (Luke 24:52) and receive, a few days later, the Holy Spirit.

In a sense, we are all waiting, every moment of our lives — lingering in expectation of a promise not yet fulfilled, bound by instructions we only partially comprehend.

This is a test. What will it reveal about us?

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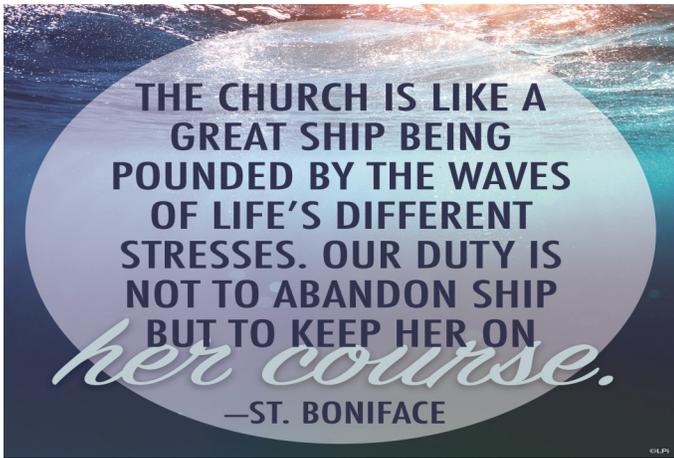
St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

Ruth Smith

Please remember her and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



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 24/25, 2025

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	106		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$5,202.02	17.00	31,253.76
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	154.00	(318.00)	1,248.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	60.00	(1,613.00)	(32,661.21)
Bequests				
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days:				
CSA 2024 Pledged 35,868.00				Paid 28,842.00



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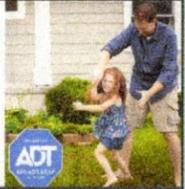
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