

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JULY 13, 2025 + FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

The world view a person holds will determine their perception of life from that point of view. To turn a phrase, a point of view is a view from a point. For most people, the determining point is *me*. What I see, perceive, experience, learn, and come to believe creates my view of the world. How a person sees and interacts with the world will determine their values and the degree of importance various people or things will hold in their life.

The interaction between Jesus and the scholar of Law (a lawyer) is a good example of this. The point of view of the lawyer is the law; how it should be kept and by whom. His role is one of authority over others in the name of God. His motive and energy are to be on the right side of the law. The Law he teaches is that of God and religion. His world view is that God is a Law maker who expects laws to be obeyed. Those who keep the Law as God intends will be one with God. His personal justification depends on keeping the Law.

The world view of Jesus is the Father; to love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength. To love God is to love one's neighbor. Jesus respects the Law, but lives from the heart in the Spirit and love of the Father. Knowing the fullness of the Father's love, the world view of Jesus is one of compassion and mercy. Mercy and compassion are the nature and identity of God.

The lawyer affirms Jesus in the correctness of his answer. In the world view of the law, the scholar wants to limit his liability of failure by limiting who is considered a neighbor. This leads Jesus to the story of the Good Samaritan. It is an effective story because the meaning is obvious; obvious but difficult and too often resisted as unrealistic.

The world view of a Christian is Christ. The practice of Christianity is to imitate the life lived by Jesus. This is a life-long journey given the impact of sin and the world views of wealth, power, and control over the weak, the poor, and those considered less desirable. This is an uphill climb. It is not by accident that Jesus exposes the priest and Levite as keepers of the Law, who for the sake of religious purity ignore the plight of the robber's victim.

In the world view of Christianity, what does it look like to love the Lord our God with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength? God is One. God is

first. God is the Source and Origin of all that is. I do not fit God into my world view as I see things and want them to be. I seek to mature and grow into God's universal view as seen and lived by the Lord Jesus.

How do I do this? It begins with faith and trust in God as supremely loving, humbling himself to become incarnate in the Lord Jesus as Savior and Christ. To know God is to love God, and to love God is to know God. To believe in the love of God experienced in the Lord Jesus is to learn to trust God in all things, however wretchedly difficult they may be.

To know yourself in Christ is to believe you are holy and beloved, willingly, and freely created by God for a meaningful purpose. To know and love yourself is to be honest with yourself, accepting yourself as a creature and a sinner redeemed in the Lord Jesus. To know yourself fully is to know yourself in God. You are not a separate self. You belong to God as God has been given to you in Christ through the Spirit.

Living in God who lives in you, you seek and desire to make God the central identity of who you are as his holy creation. More than keeping laws to avoid punishment, you feel your heart drawn by God as God seeks a mature relationship with you. To feel drawn to God with the desire to love God is not your doing; it is God's gift. Well beyond the rule of law, your nature is to love God for God's sake out of gratitude for the gift of life that is yours.

This is not fear-based faith. It is the nature and call of the Christian life that leads to happiness on this earthly journey as well as the gift of eternal life. This is not a gotta do, or else. It is a journey, an invitation, a call to share the life of God here and now as well as in eternity.

By nature, to love God leads us to love our neighbor. As you are an image of God, so is your neighbor whom we are called to love. Every human being, however unappealing, hated, rejected, or disordered they may be deserves the dignity of their human nature. Christ died for all, especially the poor, the hated, and the rejected.

As a Christian, check your world view and do all you can to put God first and at the center of who you are as a beloved son or daughter of God. In Christ you cannot fail.

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



MONDAY, July 14, 2025

8:00am Mass: Parishioners in our Family of Parishes

TUESDAY, July 15, 2025

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Scott Kirejczyk (in gratitude)
req. by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, July 16, 2025

8:00am Mass: Daniel Adams† req. by Marie Bessler

THURSDAY, July 17, 2025

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

SATURDAY, July 19, 2025

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

SUNDAY, July 20, 2025

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

Richard McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy

Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Helen & Kenneth Piana† req. by John & Bernadette Turchin

John & Mary Turchin† req. by John & Bernadette Turchin

Fred Oles† (5th R.A.) req. by Joan Oles

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

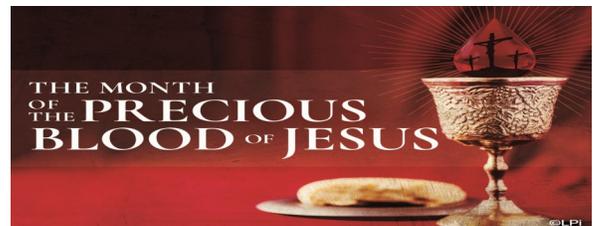
Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Matthew Zinser, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor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



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

July 13, 2025

Sunday: Dt 30:10-14/Ps 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 (see 33)/Col 1:15-20/Lk 10:25-37
Monday: Ex 1:8-14, 22/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/Mt 10:34—11:1
Tuesday: Ex 2:1-15a/Ps 69:3, 14, 30-31, 33-34/Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Ex 3:1-6, 9-12/Ps 103:1b-2, 3-4, 6-7/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Ex 3:13-20/Ps 105:1 and 5, 8-9, 24-25, 26-27/Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Ex 11:10—12:14/Ps 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Ex 12:37-42/Ps 136:1 and 23-24, 10-12, 13-15/Mt 12:14-21
Next Sunday: Gn 18:1-10a/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 (1a)/Col 1:24-28/Lk 10:38-42

**THIS MONDAY
COME PRAY THE
ROSARY**



**Administration Bldg. Patio
July 14, 2025 - 7pm**

The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary this Monday. 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. No rosary? We will provide one. Don't know the prayers? Come and learn. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

**ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL
NEXT WEEKEND - July 19/20**

Next weekend, we will be visited by priests from the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, Province of Mary, Mother of the Americas They will speak about their work in the missionary field.

Information below from the lsmc.org website

“Today the La Salette Missionaries work to bring Christ's message, echoed in Our Lady's message at La Salette, to many parts of the world. The North American La Salette Province of the United States and Canada reaches out to missions in Angola, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, India, Madagascar, Myanmar, Mozambique, Namibia, Haiti, Tanzania and the Philippines. With the harsh political and economic realities of Latin America, Africa and Asia, La Salette Missionaries, appealing for your prayers and generous assistance, seek to bring a reconciling message to the poor of these countries.”

The yellow envelopes for this collection are at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

- Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: St. Kateri Tekakwitha, Virgin
- Tuesday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Wednesday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Friday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
- Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Everyone is our neighbor — those we love and those we can't stand, the people we agree with and the people whose opinions we hate. In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that we must not only see ourselves in every person we meet — we must see him, too. ©LPi

Requested items:

- Backpacks
- Trapper Keepers for middle/high schoolers
- Spiral Notebooks - wide & college ruled
- 2 Pocket Folders
- Composition notebooks
- Markers/Washable Markers
- Highlighters
- Wide & college ruled paper
- Glue sticks & White glue
- #2 Pencils/Pens & Pencil Cases
- Scientific Calculators
- Colored Pencils & Erasers
- Scissors - blunt-tipped & regular
- 24 Pack Crayons
- Rulers

**BACKPACK & SCHOOL
SUPPLIES COLLECTION**

July 12 thru July 27

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We continue to accept pledges and one time donations to CSA 2025. To make a pledge or contribute by mail, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided. **Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN.**

Donations can be made electronically by visiting our website, www.stvincentferrer.net, and clicking the CSA donation link under the donations tab. 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 or church entrance for those who are not registered at St. Vincent Ferrer and would like to make a pledge or one time contribution.

All funds received by the Archdiocese from St Vincent Ferrer contributors that are over the target amount are returned to St. Vincent Ferrer.



...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



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

I used to be a bad neighbor. I'd get wrapped up in my life and ignore those around me. Then I found sage advice from Benjamin Franklin to this effect: to be a better neighbor,

ask someone to do a favor for you. It's counterintuitive, isn't it? Tell strangers that I need their help? Yuck. I'll risk looking needy. Worse, I'll be indebted to them. But I tried it, and it works like a charm. Recently I asked my neighbor Alan for a hacksaw, and Inga for an egg. They kindly obliged, and our friendship is growing.

This week we hear a scribe of the law cynically ask Jesus, **"And who is my neighbor?" (Luke 10:29)**. Like him, we prefer to keep the list of our "neighbors" as short as possible. It requires less interruption and inconvenience. But when Jesus tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, he exposes the lonely, cold-heartedness tendency of the scribe's (and our) heart. My "neighbor" is anyone I encounter who manifests a concrete need. There isn't time to require any other credential because human need opens us to the happy reciprocity which is love.

Jesus' words challenge us this week to ask a neighbor for help in some small way. How marvelous that God himself shows us how. He moves into our world and asks us to love Him with small deeds of love. Maybe that's where Ben Franklin got the idea.

— Father John Muir ©LPi

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, July 19th 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.

WHAT JESUS DOESN'T SAY

"If Jesus wanted us to (fill in the blank), he would have said so."

We hear this argument applied to every controversial topic under the sun — and even some not-so-controversial topics, too. Whenever someone is trying to make a case for a decision they have already made, they call in Jesus' scriptural silence on the matter as their expert, unimpeachable witness.

And sure, there's much Jesus doesn't talk about in the Gospels. But by this logic, we would have to assume that Jesus doesn't care, for instance, if we drive well over the speed limit (he doesn't discuss cars and highways in the Bible) or what we do online (he never mentions the Internet or websites at all!), when we know that certainly is just not the case.

Like the scholar of the Jewish law who challenges Jesus to define who exactly his "neighbor" is, we can argue semantics all we want. But if we rest in prayer and look deep into our hearts, we know what path we need to take, and it's usually not the easy one.

I find that I do this plenty in ways that are far more subtle. I lament that the situation facing me is not sufficiently "black and white." I become frustrated by the shades of moral grey and toss up my hands, claiming I don't know what the right answer is, insisting that I can't be blamed for the ramifications of whatever decision I make.

What I need to be doing in these situations is asking God for His guidance, even if it makes me nervous. I need to be like the scholar. He was brave enough to ask, even though I think he knew he wouldn't particularly like the answer. Let's strive for that same courage.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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

WHAT IS MAMMON?

Question: When Jesus says, “*You cannot serve both God and mammon,*” what does he mean? What is mammon?

Answer: When you hear Scripture proclaimed each Sunday, remember it wasn’t originally written in English. Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek — these ancient tongues were the original language of our Old and New Testaments. Most of the time, all of the words are translated into our native language. Sometimes, a word or two is left in the original language. Such is the case in this Scripture passage.

Mammon is an ancient Aramaic word referring to money, wealth, or profit. Earthly wealth isn’t bad in itself, nor does it automatically exclude us from being a disciple of Jesus. But what dominates our life? To serve money — that is, to seek accumulation of wealth for its own sake and to structure our lives around it — is morally problematic. What good is our wealth if it isn’t at the service of others? What good is our wealth if its pursuit leads us to selfishness, obsession, greed, envy, and comparison? There are many things that can be opposed to our service of God — power, prestige, popularity. Ultimately, something in our lives will be our master. But there is only one God worth serving.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which Old Testament prophet foretold the Virgin Mary and her conception of Jesus? ©LPi

Answer: The Prophet Isaiah.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading Dt 30:10-14

Question: Moses taught the Israelite that the Lord is not remote but nearby to each of us. When was a time you felt especially close to God?

2nd Reading Col 1:15-20

Question: Today’s reading is a poem composed by Paul to describe the divinity and supremacy of Jesus. How do you express your thoughts about Jesus to others?

Gospel Lk 10:25-37

Question: In the parable of the good Samaritan, Jesus teaches the lawyer that a neighbor is anyone you treat with mercy. Who might you treat with mercy this week?

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

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION, Explained!

Spiritual direction is the practice of seeking counsel from someone who is trustworthy and learned in the faith for the purpose of discerning the will of God in one’s life and for more effectively living out one’s baptismal calling.

All Christians are commanded, in a way, to provide spiritual aid to one another (“Go, make disciples of all nations...teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you” — Matthew 28:19), but a spiritual director is usually an individual who has received some form of training or formation for this specific purpose. The Catholic Church, however, does not have explicit requirements, professional standards or a formal certification process for spiritual directors. Spiritual directors can be lay, religious or ordained persons.

Spiritual direction is not to be confused with the sacrament of Penance, though the latter does usually include some spiritual counsel.

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Ministry Schedule		
July 19/20, 2025		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	M Simmons	J Kosnak
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	J McCown	C McCarthy
	M Simmons	M Waskowski
	M Kairis	M Black
Greeters	R Juska-Svoba	M McLaughlin
	T Oparka	D McLaughlin
	N Oparka	T Lane
	T Pasiak	B Turchin
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of July, 19/20, 2025		
Rorie Grant		

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

**VENERABLE NELSON BAKER
1842-1936**

Born February 16, 1842, in New York, his home community of Buffalo would eventually name Father Nelson Baker "Buffalo's most influential citizen of the 20th century." Before being ordained a priest, Baker served in the Civil War as a Union soldier in the 74th regiment of the New York State Militia. Following his time as a soldier, Baker started a successful feed and grain business with a veteran friend, joined the St. Vincent De Paul Society, and started taking Latin classes. He entered Our Lady of Angels Seminary — now Niagara University — on September 2, 1869, and was ordained on March 19, 1876, by Bishop Stephen Ryan at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Buffalo.

After donating his life savings to alleviate the debt accrued by the orphanages and other institutions Father Baker was entrusted with, his devotion to Our Lady of Victory inspired him to begin The Association of Our Lady of Victory. Via this charitable organization, Baker hand-wrote thousands of letters that went out to Catholics across America soliciting donations to support the facilities. Catholics everywhere joined the Association of Our Lady of Victory with their twenty-five cent annual membership dues.

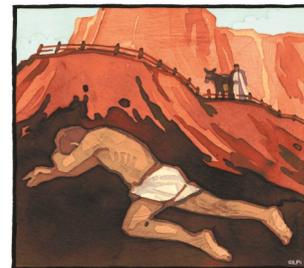
Father Baker's community of faithful financial supporters continued to help him build resources for those in need. He tripled the number of children in his orphanages, built a home for unwed mothers, began a maternity hospital that eventually became a full-service hospital, built a debt-free church for worship and gathering nearby and more! His vision became a safe location for destitute people to come and be cared for. Once the Great Depression hit, it is estimated that 500,000 people were fed at his church, Our Lady of Victory, during those years. In his 90's, he shifted focus to the service and education of black Americans traveling north for work and opportunity.

Following his death on July 29, 1936, between 300,000 and 500,000 people visited to pay their respects before his funeral. The many Our Lady of Victory outreach institutions he championed can still be found operating today in Lackawanna, New York. Father Baker was declared Venerable in 2011 and is still awaiting sainthood.

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**Crossing
the Street**

by Colleen Jurkiewicz
Dorman



It takes a cold, hard, godless heart to step over a wounded man on the street.

But in the parable of the Good Samaritan, the priest and the Levite didn't step over the half-dead traveler. I think we picture them doing so, in our collective imagining of this well-known story, but the words of the Gospel are quite clear. "When he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side," Jesus says of both.

So they saw him. They saw his need. It made them uncomfortable; it confused them — many scholars have said that Judaic law concerning the touching of dead bodies might have made them reluctant to approach — and so they decided the simplest way to file this situation in the Not My Problem category was to cross the street.

But that still leaves a half-dead guy on the road. And we all, 2,000 years later, still think of the priest and the Levite as cold and hard and godless — even if they didn't want to be, even if they didn't think of themselves that way — because the bottom line is, they didn't see the half-dead guy as their problem.

As Christians we know that everyone is our neighbor. It's drilled into us from the first time we hear this reading.

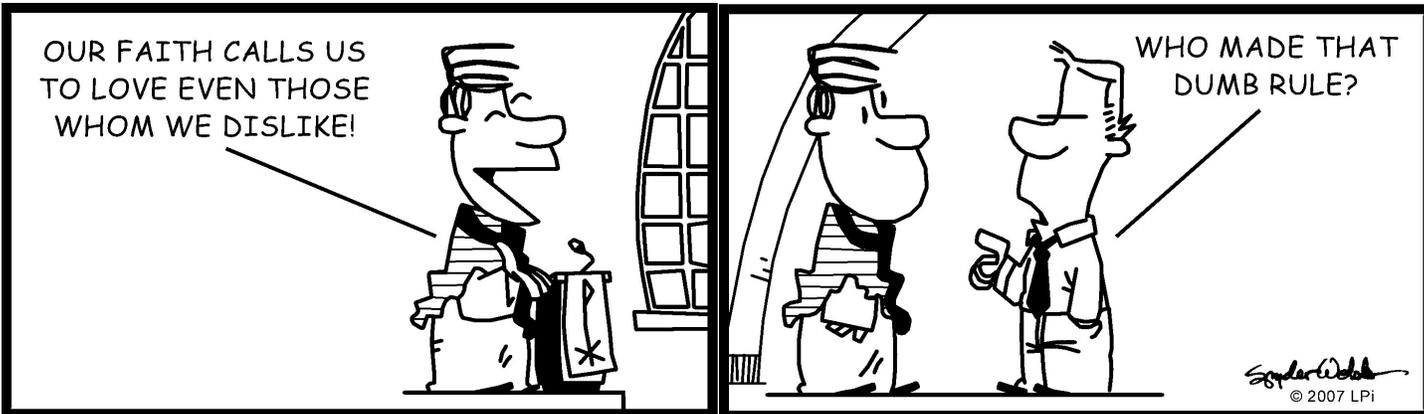
Well, I don't know about you, but I find myself crossing the street a lot more than I should.

There is so much pain and suffering in the world. We certainly can't begin to alleviate it all. But we have to start with the pain and the suffering that we see, that's right in front of us — even if it's something we really, really want to ignore. Even if we find it inconvenient or confusing or scary or weird.

The heroism of the Good Samaritan wasn't in his selfless actions, although those were certainly commendable. It was in his courage. "He approached the victim," Jesus said.

Can we approach the victims we see? Do we have that courage?

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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.



Closing Mass at St. Justin

1631 E Elza Ave, Hazel Park, MI

**Saturday, July 19
4:00pm**

Former parishioners and friends of St. Justin are invited to participate in honoring the legacy of St. Justin building closing as they look forward to continuing and growing at the St. Mary Magdalen campus.

Prayer for Charity

Give me the grace, Lord, to truly see those around me: the overlooked, the uncomfortable, the odd and disliked.

Your kingdom is one of belonging, help us to be the types of neighbors who see and respond with Godly generosity. Amen. ©LPi

Honest Answer

A Sunday school teacher was telling her class the story of the Good Samaritan. She asked them, "If you saw a person lying on the roadside, all wounded and bleeding, what would you do?" A thoughtful little girl broke the hushed silence, "I think I'd throw up." ©LPi

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JULY 6/7, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	241	96		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 6,383.00	1,198.00	1,198.00
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	612.00	140.00	140.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	154.00	(1,519.00)	(1,519.00)
Bequests				
AOD Collections: Peter's Pence		275.00		1,185.00
Holy Days: Assumption		20.00		20.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 65,968.00				Paid 5,492.00

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