

## *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community*

Madison Heights, MI [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

**AUGUST 3, 2025 + EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **From The Pastor**

What gives you a deep sense of purpose and meaning in your life? What is most important to you? What is it that gives you the greatest joy, happiness, or satisfaction that creates a deep sense of value or connectedness?

Our culture is not one that directs us to this kind of reflection. In fact, in our consumerist culture, media and advertising are a multibillion-dollar enterprise working tirelessly to tell us who we are, what we should buy, what will make us happier, smarter, live longer, become rich, and how to become the coolest most beautiful person the world has ever known. Yes, I did try to make this sound like an advertisement. How did I do? Did I make myself look smart? Do you like me? If I were for sale, would I be a good buy? Would you lay down good cash for more? Ugh. Getting worse than a bad commercial.

The first reading has never been a favorite of mine, but it does make an essential point about human existence. Without a meaningful purpose or a personal sense of identity in life, it is easy to live in the false world of vanity creating the illusion of happiness or perfection. On the one hand, what Qoheleth says cannot be denied. We labor through life for stability, security, and the pleasure of good things. We gather and use the things of the world for our good and the good of others. Inevitably, we all die. What is left over will go to someone else. If we are wise and make the effort to plan, our earthly belongings will go to people who will honor and respect our intentions.

On the other hand, life is greater than the value of our possessions, any status or reputation we may attain, or the ego inflation of our own making. As professed Christians, our deepest identity is in Christ. Christ is the goal, the meaning, and the purpose of our existence. This is revealed in the uniqueness of who we are expressed in the connectedness, bonding, and loving experience we have with others. Made in the image of God, the rhythms and manner of life we choose should reflect the nature and identity of Christ in us. Love animates life with meaning, energy, commitment, and creativity. Consider the millions of people who engaged in the activities of July 4<sup>th</sup>. Planning, packing, traveling to a cottage, concert, family in a faraway place or the guy next door. All add wonder and awe, joy and hope, connectedness, and belonging that make life hopeful and promising.

Why is the rich man so committed to save all he gained in his abundant harvest? Wouldn't he be

happier, more connected in love with others if he shared the abundance given him by God. It was God's earth, water, and sun that produced the abundance, yet the man takes the credit as his own. If he saved it all for himself, it would spoil or rot before he could enjoy it all. What is gained by his hoarding it?

How do we get past the need to save, gather, and compete against others with what is more rightly and justly shared? A meaningful and happy life begins with an other-centered heart. This does not mean I cannot have and enjoy things that make me happy and rightfully satisfied. An empty well provides water for no one.

One of the great challenges of our time is to know the self in a consumer, competition-based culture. The constant impact of media, advertising, and digital entertainment demands we live on the surface of life, leaving little time for personal reflection or a disciplined response to the call of faith. People who commit themselves to something larger than themselves feel a greater call that leads to an inner satisfaction. There is less need for or motivation to gather and collect things to make life meaningful.

People with lives centered in love and connectedness with others are more likely to feel and express gratitude, they are happier, and less distracted by the drone of complaining. Gratitude defeats the need to compete for things, seek personal approval, or the lie that I must be perfect.

People who are not happy or rarely satisfied with life tend to need more, to gather, and compete with others. A meaningful and disciplined inner life centered in Christ is the path to greater peace. Prayer is therapeutic. It centers the self in God with hopeful trust. A person who prays from the heart feels heard and seen by God. These build hope that leads to an inner happiness that secures a sense of belonging and relationship with the Creator/Redeemer of all that is. This is not always perfect, but it is a journey grounded in love.

Notice Jesus does not take on the problem of the disgruntled brother. "Who has appointed me your judge or arbitrator? If you know yourself and you are at peace with who you are in God, you are less likely to take on the need to fix the problems of others. That is another way of gathering and collecting for the sake of approval, isn't it? Be yourself in God who is happy to live and dwell in you. What could be better than that?"

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  
Matthew Zinser, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/  
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator  
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor  
Alex Motolea, 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



### MONDAY, August 4, 2025

8:00am Mass: Genevieve Kairis† req. by Mike Kairis & Family

### TUESDAY, August 5, 2025

8:00am Mass: Joel Brown (Birthday Blessings) req. by Mom

### WEDNESDAY, August 6, 2025

8:00am Mass: Dianne Karolski† req. by Tom Karolski

### THURSDAY, August 7, 2025

8:00am Mass: Virginia Esper† req. by Family

### SATURDAY, August 9, 2025

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

### SUNDAY, August 10, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Paula Morant† req. by Corrine McCarthy  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family  
Mass of Thanksgiving req. by Bene Anderson  
Living & Deceased Members & Families of Fr. Heary  
Knights of Columbus Council

## AUGUST - MONTH OF



## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

### August 3, 2025

Sunday: Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 (1)/Col 3:1-5, 9-11/Lk 12:13-21  
Monday: Nm 11:4b-15/Ps 81:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/Mt 14:13-21  
Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 6cd-7, 12-13/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14  
Wednesday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9/2 Pt 1:16-19/Lk 9:28b-36  
Thursday: Nm 20:1-13/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Mt 16:13-23  
Friday: Dt 4:32-40/Ps 77:12-13, 14-15, 16 and 21/Mt 16:24-28  
Saturday: Dt 6:4-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 47 and 51/Mt 17:14-20  
Next Sunday: Wis 18:6-9/Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 (12b)/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

**THIS WEDNESDAY**

FIND JOY



IN THE LORD

Join us for an evening of

**Praise & Worship**

Followed by Wine &amp; Cheese Afterglow

**August 6th @ 7:00pm****18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

Recent studies suggest that millennials will be the first generation in America to be worse

off than their parents in terms of financial earnings and job status. Many lament this. I propose that this week's Gospel provides a hopeful way to see the trend as good news.

The Lord Jesus says, **“Take care to guard against greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist in possessions” (Luke 12:15).** Greed damages us with the deception that we are what we possess. But to Jesus, this is simply not true. What makes us happy is who we are, who we become.

Does not the expectation that every generation should do better than their parents subtly mask the poison of greed? A similar attitude is mirrored in the man who demands that Jesus justly arrange his share of the family inheritance. Despite the injustice, Jesus will not play that game. In fact, he seems to prefer that the man have less than his parents. What good would having more be to this man if he becomes enslaved and miserable by greed? What good would it be for us to have more if it means we become much less?

In allowing the man to have less, Jesus opens a space for him to become more: a man free to love. In that much more meaningful sense, perhaps he was better off than his parents. Maybe the millennials will be, too.

— *Father John Muir*  
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**God Gives Us What We Need**

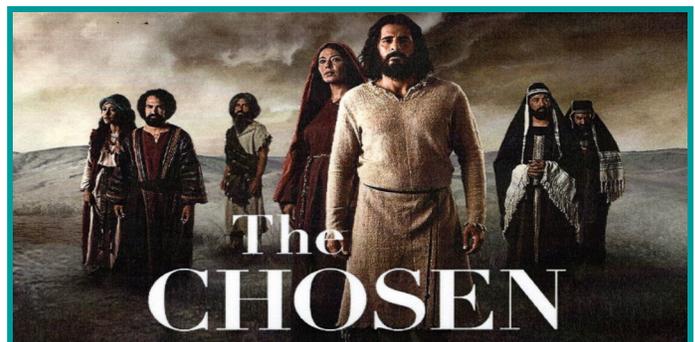
A few months back, my wife and I helped move my oldest son into his first real apartment. He was moving to start his first real job and was excited and cautious at the same time. Moving him in reminded me of when his mother and I were first starting out. We received an old couch from her aunt, some kitchen supplies from my mom, and many other things from friends and relatives so we could begin this new journey in our lives. We didn't have much. But we had one another, and we had love. Looking back, those were great times.

Sometimes, we think material possessions give evidence of a life lived well. Artifacts from our travels, collections that take time to amass and provide clues to our interests, and various pictures and prints that adorn our walls. However, those who have lived lives of hardship and pain have many of the same items. Not only doesn't all our stuff amount to real evidence of what our life has really been like, but it doesn't make our lives better either.

What makes a life well lived will be the love and compassion that we have experienced, primarily with God who loves us so deeply. Due to that love, God gives to us what we need, not always what we want. More stuff will never amount to anything in comparison to what God provides to us. If we reflected on that truth more, perhaps we would spend less time accumulating things and more time simply loving.

On that moving day, I wanted to give my son more material things than was possible. However, what he really needs then, now, and always is my love.

— *Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS*  
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**Experience the Life of Jesus****Wednesdays****August 6, 13 & 20****1:00pm to 3:00pm****SVF Administration Bldg.****Season 5 of the TV Series will be shown followed by discussion****All are welcome.**

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

### The Guardian Angel Prayer, *Explained!*

The Guardian Angel Prayer, also known as the Angel of God Prayer, invokes the protection of one's guardian angel. Often one of the first prayers taught to children, it consists of two rhyming couplets: **“Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love commits me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.”**

The exact authorship of this prayer is unknown. Scholars previously attributed it to St. Anselm of Canterbury, though many now believe a version composed by Reginald of Canterbury in his “Life of Malchus” serves as the prayer's inspiration.

Guardian Angels are referred to in Scripture in the Book of Daniel (Dan. 12:1), the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 18:10) and the Psalms (91:10-13). “From its beginning until death, human life is surrounded by their watchful care and intercession,” says the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 336).

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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*



### CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND - August 9/10

#### Items requested:

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

#### **Canned Foods including:**

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, 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 - AUGUST 10

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

## Living With Arthritis

My grandmother used to say she was never lonely because she had four men in her life. She said she would get up with Charlie Horse, spend the day with Arthur Itis, and dine with Will Power and go to bed with Ben Gay. One in four adults has arthritis. 60 million people live with arthritis and 52% of those are working. Arthritis is not one disease. There are over 100 types. Arthritis effects people of all ages and is the leading cause of disability in the United States.

Arthritis is more common in women. The common symptoms are swelling, pain, stiffness and decreased range of motion in joints. It can be mild or severe and can come and go. Arthritis can affect ones heart, eyes, lungs, kidneys and skin as well as ones joints.

Osteoarthritis is the most common type and is noticed in the hands, spine hips and knees. The cause is inflammation, post trauma injuries, physically demanding jobs, life style factors such as excess weight, poor diet, and lack of exercise.

Prevention requires one to stay active, maintain a healthy weight, and limit foods that increase inflammation such as red meat, processed foods, and sugar. Instead one should eat berries, leafy greens, salmon, whole grains and olive oil.

If you have symptoms that last three days or more or several episodes in a month in one or more joints or joints appear red or are warm to the touch, joints are tender or stiff, or have difficulty moving or doing daily activities you should see your Primary Care Physician. He may refer you to a Rheumatologist who specializes in treating arthritis and other inflammatory diseases that affect the bones, muscles, or joints. He may also refer you to an Orthopedic Physician for degenerative issues.

Angela Maynard  
Parish Nurse

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

**WATCHING MASS ON TV**

**Question:** Does watching Mass on TV fulfill my Sunday obligation?

**Answer:** In the age of instant communication, email, voice mail and teleconferencing, many people wonder if these media of communication can be used for sacraments. Many priests, I am sure, have had people ask about going to confession on the phone. While it may seem like a convenient way to do things, there are many reasons why we don't.

Watching the Mass on television can be a good thing, especially for those who are shut-in. But it really doesn't fulfill our obligation. The obligation to attend Mass is more than just simply listening to the Mass or following the prayers and the readings. Gathering together as a community of faith is important. Sacraments are community events where we encounter God and one another. When we gather together, we are most visibly the Church, the Body of Christ. Besides, television is a one-way medium. It allows us to watch without really being able to give a response. In faith, our response is as important as anything that we hear. We need to take an active part in the religious expression of our community.

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**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** How many times did Peter deny knowing Jesus?

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Answer: Three

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Eccl 1:2; 2:21-23

**Question:** The author of Ecclesiastes speaks of the futility of an anxious heart and restless mind. What helps to ground you in your day-to-day living?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Col 3:1-5, 9-11

**Question:** Paul encourages the Colossians to put to death the “old self” (bad behavior) and to live into the “new self” (life in Christ). What could you do this week to practice this “new self”?

**Gospel:** Lk 12:13-21

**Question:**

Jesus tells the crowds the parable of the rich fool, warning against excessive material wealth. How do you balance your material needs with “what matters to God”?

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**INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK**

*Jesus warns us that at any moment we can be called before God to face judgment. When we are, our life will be measured not in dollars or accomplishments, but in what matters to God. What do we have to show for our time spent on earth?*

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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.

**Women's Sacred Journey**

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 9TH AT  
9:00AM**

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE  
SVF SCHOOL BLDG.**



All women in our Family of Parishes are invited to join other women to pray and reflect on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required.

**Ministry Schedule**

August 9/10, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Kairis	P Allen
Reader #2	J McCown	C McCarthy
EME	M Kairis	N Virga
	J McCown	P Allen
	M Simmons	R Grant
Greeters	T Oparka	M McLaughlin
	N Oparka	D McLaughlin
	R Pasiak	T Lane
	T Pasiak	D Vu

**Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Aug. 9/10, 2025**  
Mary Jane Guc

**GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS**

**BLESSED MIRIAM TERESA DEMJANOVICH  
1901-1927**

Miriam Teresa Demjanovich was the seventh and youngest child of Ruthenian immigrants to the USA from what is now Eastern Slovakia. She grew up in Bayonne, New Jersey and, after graduating from high school, wanted to become a Carmelite sister. Instead, she stayed in the family home to care for her ailing mother who later died of the influenza epidemic of November 1918. Teresa then went on to graduate summa cum laude from the College of Saint Elizabeth at Convent Station, New Jersey with a degree in literature.

After years of discernment and a novena specifically prayed to help her discover which congregation she was called to join, she entered the Sisters of Charity of St. Elizabeth and received her religious habit as a novice on May 17, 1925.

During her short time as a postulant and novice, before her death, Teresa taught at the Academy of St. Elizabeth in Convent Station where she was originally educated. Prompted by her spiritual director, she wrote a series of conferences on the spiritual life for use in the education of the other novices. These 26 conferences would later be published under the title *The Greater Perfection; A means of achieving union with God through prayer* and the book is still available to this day from the Sisters of Charity's online bookstore.

Shortly into her second year in the congregation, Teresa became very ill. After a tonsillectomy, months of illness, and, eventually, an operation for appendicitis, she passed away on May 8, 1927. Before her passing, though, she made her profession of permanent religious vows from her hospital bed. Her funeral was held on May 11, and she was buried on the grounds of her congregation's motherhouse at the Holy Family Cemetery in Convent Station, New Jersey.

Throughout her short life, Teresa was known for her contemplative and mystic relationship with God as well as her incredible compassion and selflessness toward others. While in college, her friends nicknamed her Treat and would seek her out for guidance, help, and support. She was very active in the community life of whatever school, church, or congregation she was involved in. She spent time helping with many different ministries, singing in choirs, and spending time with friends by going out on the town shopping and attending concerts. Despite all of these activities and a packed social schedule, she was known to always find time to go to the chapel to pray and could be frequently found there in-between classes and her social engagements.

Her life mission resonates clearly throughout her writings — to educate people about the universal call to holiness. In the first of the conferences in *The Greater Perfection* she writes, "The saints did but one thing — the will of God: But they did it with all their might." Teresa, too, strived to do the will of God with all her might and, after the official recognition of a miracle through her intercession, Pope Francis declared her Blessed on Oct 4, 2014, at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark, New Jersey. This was the first ever beatification ceremony held in the United States.

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**The Barn**

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I've probably written before about how hard I find it to get to confession — I say 'probably' because I really can't remember. I whine about it so frequently that it's hard to tell if I've made it the subject of a written piece or if it is simply an oft-recited refrain from the Litany of Colleen's Perpetual Complaints.

During the week, it's tough to get to confession because I have little kids who are attached to me like Velcro, and I don't need them listening in on (and eventually repeating to everyone) my sins. On the weekend it's a little easier, but our parish doesn't offer it before or after Sunday Mass, just on Saturdays. Saturday is when I get most of my work done, so getting absolution usually comes at the expense of productivity.

And that, friends, right here, is my barn. Productivity. That's the proverbial storehouse of my earthly harvest. For the rich man in the parable, it's a literal barn, filled to bursting with sellable crops. For you it might be money or your job title or what your life looks like to other people on social media. For me, it's Getting Things Done. That's my barn, the repository that holds the whole of my worldly preoccupations.

And it's so full I want to tear it down and build a new one. A bigger one. One that can hold more worry, more time for work, more focus on output and crossing things off a to-do list. Vanity of vanities, indeed.

If I die tonight, the deadlines will go unmet, and no one will even notice. But God, when He meets me in the world to come, will surely ask me why I couldn't take 45 minutes to accept a gift He tried again and again to give me.

I have to burn the barn, friends. I don't want to, but I have to. I'm closing my laptop and going to church.

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**OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK**

Sunday: 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Monday: St. John Vianney, Priest  
 Tuesday: The Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major  
 Wednesday: The Transfiguration of the Lord  
 Thursday: St. Sixtus II, Pope, and Companions, Martyrs; St. Cajetan, Priest  
 Friday: St. Dominic, Priest  
 Saturday: St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin and Martyr  
 Next Sunday: 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Thank you to all who have made pledges and one time contributions to Catholic Services Appeal 2025.

We continue to accept donations. To donate, visit our website or contact the Parish Office. Excess funds being returned to St. Vincent Ferrer Church are going toward our budget deficit.

### WHAT WE STORE IN THE BARN

I once knew a godly woman who had truly tasted the bitterness of this earthly life. This woman knew pain. She knew sacrifice. She knew hard labor and loss, including the death of a cherished child. She worked each day at a low-paying job, waiting patiently for her 65th birthday, when she could retire and devote herself full-time to her grandchildren. She crossed off the dwindling days on her calendar like a first grader waiting for Christmas.

Ninety-eight days before she was set to retire, she died suddenly. Her name was erased from the schedule at work and penciled over with that of her replacement hire.

All things are vanity.

I think we all know someone like this, don't we? If the details aren't exactly the same, the outline of the story is: someone labors "with wisdom and knowledge and skill," in the words of Ecclesiastes. And what profit comes to him? Sorrow and grief all his days. The proverbial barn filled with harvest and left to rot.

But I'll let you in on a secret: this isn't a sad story. I've only told you part of it.

This woman heard, daily, the voice of God, and against it she never hardened her heart, whatever news it brought her. This woman loved as hard as she worked. Every action was a form of evangelization. To talk to her was to feel the embrace of Christ.

As much as she waited for that retirement that never came, it was never the harvest in her barn.

This is what it means to be a true steward: to seek what is above.

— 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

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030

SUNDAY - 10:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

#### St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

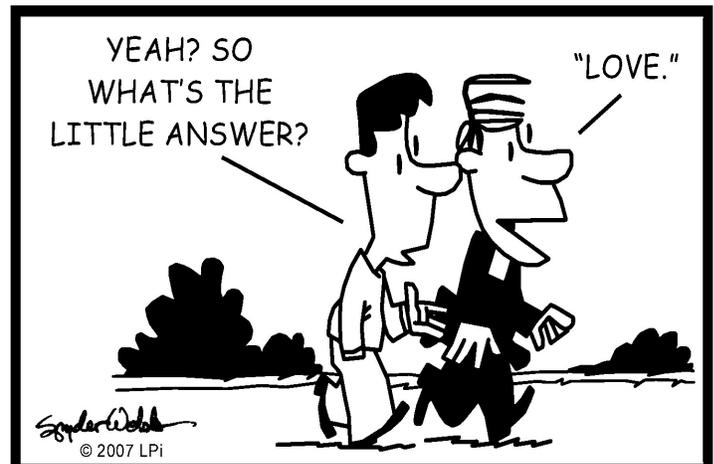
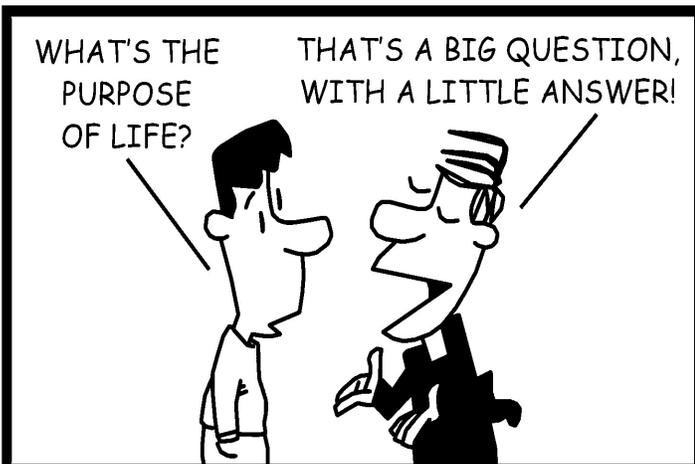
SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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

WED - 12:10pm

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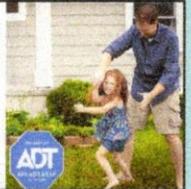
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