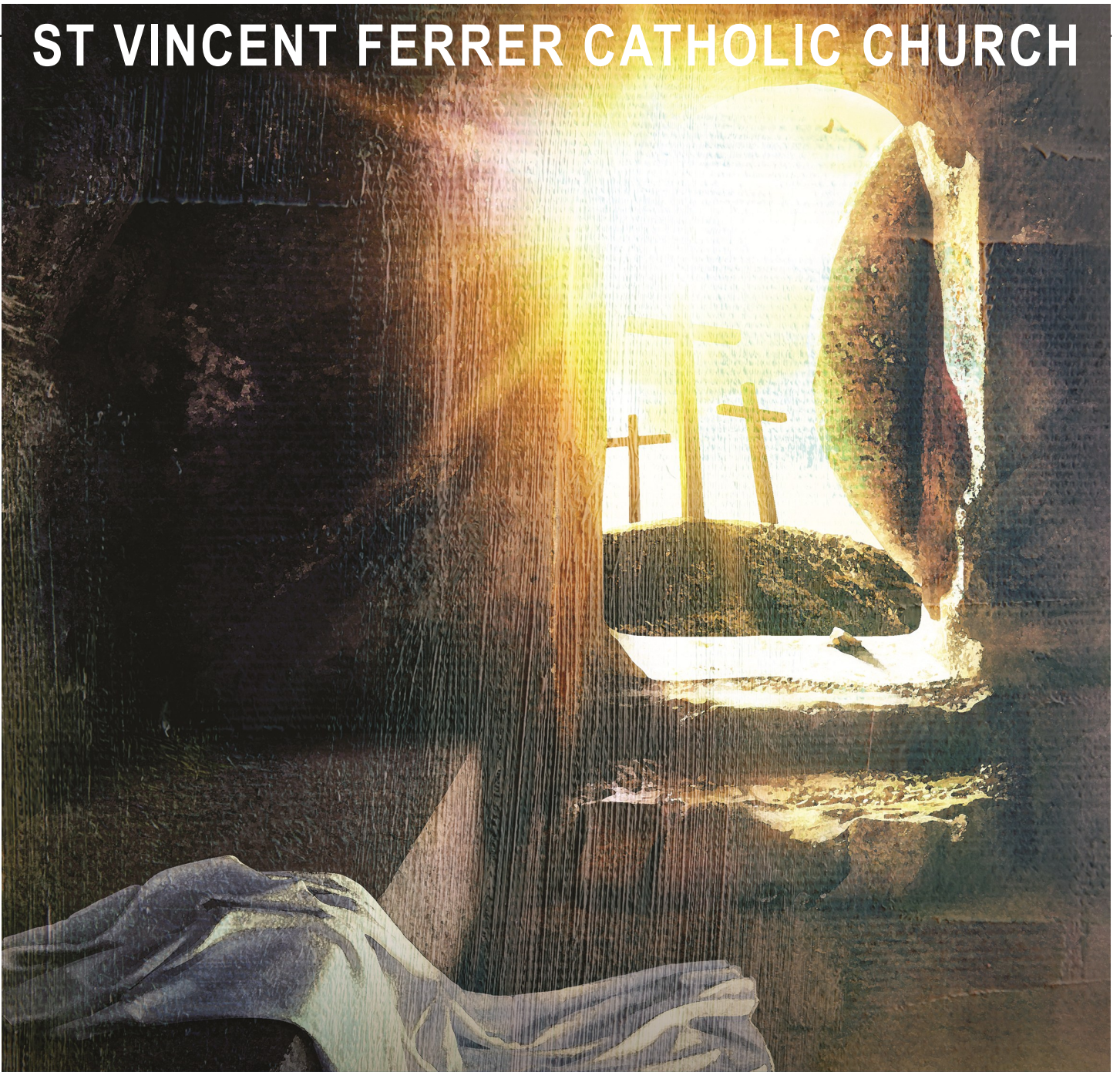


ST VINCENT FERRER CATHOLIC CHURCH



EASTER SUNDAY

April 5, 2026

He bent down and saw the burial cloths there, but did not go in. When Simon Peter arrived after him, he went into the tomb and saw the burial cloths there, and the cloth that had covered his head, not with the burial cloths but rolled up in a separate place. - Jn 20:5-7



They have taken the Lord from the tomb and we don't know where they put him."

—John 20:2

From The Pastor

The Resurrection of Jesus is the root, source, and origin of Christian joy. What is Christian joy and how do I find it? Christian joy is a deep confident trust in God through Christ in the redemption of his death and Resurrection. Christian joy grows from faith in the assurance of God's love revealed in the life, suffering, death, and Resurrection of Jesus for our salvation. Joy in Christ is rooted in the promise of eternal life with God made possible through the power of divine love revealed in the Lord's Resurrection.

The power of God as the essence of unchanging love defeats the lie of evil and the disorder of sin, which breaks the chains of death through reconciliation gained in Christ. The reality of human sin, weakness, and failure cannot and should not be denied. Embracing the promises of Christ with the surety of faith through repentance and the grace of conversion, reveals the power of divine love as greater than sin and death. Love wins. God in Christ accepts into himself all human sin, weakness, and failure as if it were his own, and in his own body takes it to the Cross. The Resurrection of Jesus defeats the lie of evil and the disorder of sin breaking the chains of death unto eternal life.

Jesus was not a failure. In the standards of the world, the death of Jesus appears as a colossal defeat. In the greed, envy, jealousy, and the constant evidence of sin, it is easy to be skeptical and doubting that the world is any different after Jesus rose from the dead. This is even more tempting in times of chaos and confusion when the world feels so out of balance. Times of darkness and doubt are times when we are called ever more ardently to the constancy of our faith. The Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus is ever present.

God needs, and in fact uses our sin, failures, and doubts to lead us to the grace and the transformation of conversion. God uses our weakness to draw us to himself to awaken us to our dependence on God. Human beings are naturally drawn to the lie of perfection and the illusion of self-sufficiency. I can do it for myself, by myself. This is the lie and the deception of evil. The power of love is transformative and redemptive when we surrender our weakness and failures to the mercy of God's grace. This is the invitation to a deeper relationship with God that admits the reality of our human vulnerability. I cannot save myself. I need God in a living relationship of faith, hope, and trust in the best and the worst of times. This relationship is the seedbed that grows Christian

joy. I am not alone. I am connected and I belong to God who loves me as I am, despite whatever sin or failures are mine. God makes us worthy.

If I stare at myself, it becomes a study in self-weakness. Human beings are simply not strong enough to deny the imperfections that we all have nor the ability to perfect ourselves. If we keep our eyes and our hearts on Jesus, it becomes an invitation of self-surrender. Surrendering is hard. It is vulnerable. It calls for trust, faith, and honesty. To realize the joy of Christian love, we must learn to let the love in, to accept it in a living and active way within ourselves. Love is not an idea, a learned principle, or a self-created reality. Self-love is a gift from God, affirmed and made effective in the dying and rising of the Lord Jesus. The greatest task may be to simply get ourselves out of the way. The truth of God's love is already in us through our creation and Baptism. If it were not there, why do we so intensely seek love all our lives?

God can somehow work through every sin, failure, and mistake we have ever made. Consider the Exultant of the Easter Vigil. "Oh, happy fault, Oh necessary sin of Adam, which gained for us so great a redeemer. ... What good would life have been to us had Christ not come as our redeemer."

In the dying and rising of Jesus, sin is forgiven, guilt is washed away, shame is washed clean. Our dignity in God is restored in Christ rising from the dead. In the Resurrection we are invited to realize and embrace our identity in Christ as loved, forgiven, redeemed, and made whole despite the imperfections of life that are inevitable. To realize Christian joy, we must accept and take in the love God offers us in Christ. The love of Christ sets the heart and soul free to live in love, and to be vulnerable to love that defeats shame, guilt, and self-rejection. This love allows a person to live freely beyond themselves in true relationships and connections of love with others.

Joy is a discipline. The world plays against the truth of Divine love through the enticements of easy pleasure and perceived happiness. Joy grows from love, gratitude, faith, prayer, service, and connectedness to God and others. This is the nature of what it means to be human. It is what we were made for and what we all want. God loves you. Christ is risen. Receive him. Make him your center. Love yourself into the joy of Christ now risen from the dead. Happy Easter.

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 the Following:

LIVE
STREAMING

Daily & Weekend Masses

Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45am to 10:00am

Rosary on Thursdays
following 8:00am 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 HOURS

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

*Fr. John Esper and the staff of
St. Vincent Ferrer Parish*

wish you a

Blessed Easter Season.

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, April 6th.

MONDAY, April 6, 2026

8:00am Mass: Blanche Bugaiski (11th R.A) req. by
Bernadette Gutowski

TUESDAY, April 7, 2026

8:00am Mass: Marcus Maulding (Memorial Birthday) req.
by Regina Juska-Svoba

WEDNESDAY, April 8, 2026

8:00am Mass: Elena Maulding (Memorial Birthday) req.
by Regina Juska-Svoba

THURSDAY, April 9, 2026

8:00am Mass: Leonard Vertel (11th R.A.) req. by
Bernadette Gutowski

SATURDAY, April 11, 2026

4:00pm Mass: **Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer**
Jason Bertolini† req. by Frank & Nina Virga
Baby Fletcher Etkin† req. by Tom & Terri Riley
Anthony Szeliga† req. by Kim Magri & Family
Kim & Rico Magri (Marriage blessings) req by Aunt
Jeanette

Robert Lebioda† req by Kim Magri & Family

Jessica Magri† req. by Kim Magri & Family

Michael Magri† req. by Kim Magri & Family

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY, April 12, 2026

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Cathy & Richard McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Natale Tosto† req. by Virga Family
Marty Karolski† req. by Tim & Nancy Oparka
Intentions of Women's Sacred Journey Prayer Group
Living & Deceased Members and Families of Fr. Heary
Knights of Columbus Council



**American
Red Cross**

Save a Life!

Sign up to donate

ST. VINCENT FERRER BLOOD DRIVE
April 14, 2026, 12-6PM

Sign up in back of church or by calling
1-800-733-2767 or visit redcrossblood.org
and search for our date.

Readings for the Week

April 5, 2026

- Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43/Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23/
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8/Jn 20:1-9 or Mt
28:1 - 10 Or Lk 24:13-35
- Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 9-
10, /Mt 28:8-15
- Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41/Ps 33:4-5, 18-19, 20 and 22/Jn
20:11-18
- Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10/Ps 105:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8-9/Lk
24:13-35
- Thursday: Acts 3:11-26/Ps 8:2ab and 5, 6-7, 8-9/Lk
24:35-48
- Friday: Acts 4:1-12/Ps 118:1-2 and 4, 22-24, 25-27a/
Jn 21:1-14
- Saturday: Acts 4:13-21/Ps 118:1 and 14-15ab, 16-18,
19-21/Mk 16:9-15
- Next Sunday: Acts 2:42-47/Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-
24/1 Pt 1:3-9/Jn 20:19-31



...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.

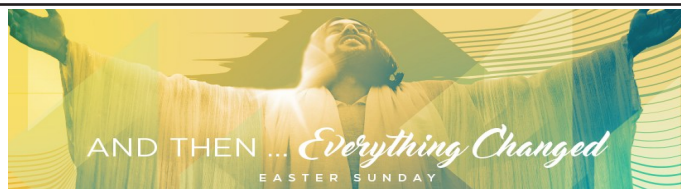
Lord Jesus,

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

The disciples didn't understand, at first, what happened at the tomb. Often, we can't fathom the purpose of God's plan. We only see a stone in the wrong place. When we pause and look deeper, we see it: God has moved the stone. So, we must ask ourselves: why?

©LPi



While It Is Still Dark

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

If you are a person who is religious in any way, chances are that at some point, someone has asked you to give a reason why.

I meet lots of people who identify as *spiritual* but not *religious*, lots of people who are more comfortable splashing in the shallow end of belief but hesitating to wade into the more uncertain depths of doctrine. So when they ask the question "Why do you believe what you believe?" it usually comes out as "Why do you go to church?"

They want to know why I come to this specific place at this specific time. What am I expecting to happen?

We read that Mary Magdalene went to the tomb "while it was still dark." I imagine she could not sleep. She was traumatized. Grieving. Confused. Angry, perhaps. Doubting? Maybe. It's possible. We cannot know what was in her heart.

We only know what she did. We only know where she went. And we know that it was dark, that the light of Easter's dawn had not yet pierced the sky.

Often, I am grieving when I go to church, or angry, or confused, or all three. I have gone many times with a doubting and resentful heart.

Because, you see, it is still dark. The dawn of eternity, which will illuminate all understanding, has not yet even begun to creep across my horizon.

My answer to the question, when I am asked, is that I go to church — to Catholic Mass, specifically — for the same reason Mary Magdalene went to the tomb. I go because it is the last place I saw Christ, and I am desperate to see him again.

©LPi



Evangelical Service Corner

CCSEM Senior Food COLLECTION

APRIL 11/12

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

SUNDAY, APRIL 12

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



This year Easter Sunday falls on the feast day of our patron saint, St. Vincent Ferrer. Ask him for extra blessings on this holiest of holy days.

**St. Vincent Ferrer (1350 – 1419)
Feast Day - April 5th**

Saint Vincent Ferrer was a simple and humble Dominican priest who became known as the miracle worker. He was celebrated as a preacher who could recite the entire bible from memory; an evangelist that converted at least 25,000 Jews and 8,000 Moors in Valladolid, Spain and a miracle worker for whom *Acta Sanctorum*, a Jesuit compilation of saints, records 873 confirmed miracles though estimates of his miracles top 50,000. St. Antonius, the Dominican Archbishop of Florence during Vincent's time, claims he raised 28 people from the dead.

St. Vincent Ferrer was born in 1350, and at age six he began his education. He studied philosophy at 12 years old and theology at 14. When he entered the Convent of the Friar Preachers in Valencia at 18, he was determined to model his life after St. Dominic by practicing purity, obedience, poverty and preaching. He became a teacher of logic, philosophy, physics and a Master of Theology. He could quote Scripture in Hebrew, Greek and Arabic. To him, prayer and study were inseparable. When he found his learning difficult, he would pray to Jesus to enlighten him with the understanding that he needed. He was ordained a priest at age 35, but his preaching and the miracles attributed to him began long before then.

Fr. Andrew Pradel, O.P. author of a biography of St. Vincent Ferrer wrote that Saint Vincent's first miracle occurred while still in his mother's womb. Saint Vincent Ferrer's mother asked a blind woman to pray for her unborn child. As the blind woman bent her head to the mother's belly the woman's sight returned. No longer blind the woman shouted, "Madam it is an angel you have, and it is he who has cured me of my affliction." This was the first of many miracles attributed to Saint Vincent Ferrer.

Known as the "Angel of the Apocalypse" Vincent traveled tirelessly throughout Europe followed by vast crowds of thousands, preaching repentance and conversion. At the end of his 3-hour sermons, in which everyone who heard him could clearly understand him regardless of their native tongue, Vincent would call out to ring the "Bell of Miracles" where everyone who came forth was cured. Not since the twelve Apostles had any man worked so many wonders that were witnessed and documented within his time.

St. Vincent Ferrer was deeply pained by the schism of two popes during his lifetime. He worked tirelessly unto his own illness to bring unity to the papacy. In 1419, on Wednesday of Passion Week, Vincent fell asleep in the Lord. When he expired a host of little white butterflies fluttered around his head. These were little "angels" to take him home and attest to his purity and holiness.

COME TO CHRIST

Life is perhaps God's greatest gift to each of us. Without life, we would be unable to experience all the wonder of this world, the love of family and friends, and the joy that comes from using our talents and skills. Life itself is more profound a gift than we can even truly contemplate.

On Easter, we celebrate life. For on this day, Jesus Christ conquered death and gave to us the chance for a life eternal. The wonder, love, and joy of this world does not have to end. Through a life in Jesus Christ, these emotions are heightened, and we find even greater fulfillment in this world.

Maybe this Easter you are finding yourself open to taking a next step in your relationship with Jesus. This could be the moment you decide to follow Him more closely and take seriously all that he has given you. If so, welcome to the journey, where there are many other disciples on that same path who can help show you the way and share their stories. If not, hopefully it doesn't take a whole year for this possibility to be considered again. Jesus is alive and waiting to get closer to you. May this Easter season find you and Our Lord getting to know one another in a whole new way. Happy Easter!

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Ministry Schedule

April 11/12, 2026

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Simmons	P Allen
Reader #2	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	M Black
	M Simmons	N Virga
	T Pasiak	P Allen
Greeters	J Ballantine	R Bertolini
	T Oparka	B Gutowski
	N Oparka	T Lane
	M Smith	L Collins

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of April 11/12, 2026
Kathy Bush

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name of the patron saint of travelers and lost items?

©LPi

Answer: St. Anthony of Padua



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

**Saturday, April 11th 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.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Acts 10:34a, 37-43

Question: Peter testifies to others about what the Apostles witnessed with the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Do you ever share your faith with friends or family?

2nd Reading: Col 3:1-4

Question: Paul encourages the Colossians to see themselves as already risen with Christ, anticipating his return in glory. Does anticipating Christ's return impact any of your daily decision-making?

Gospel: Jn 20:1-9 or Mt 28:1-10 Or Lk 24:13-35

Question: Both the angel of the Lord and the risen Jesus greet Mary Magdalene and the other Mary with these words of comfort: "Do not be afraid." Who in your circle of friends or family needs to be comforted this week? ©LPI

AOD RESTRUCTURING PLANS

For information or questions contact any person below or visit: restructuring.aod.org

Primary Person of Contact: Debbie Tourville

Key Parish Leaders:

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Steve Orloski | Tom Karolski |
| Angie Maynard | Corrine McCarthy |
| Linda Collins | Judy McCown |
| Mike Kairis | Linda Yolkiewicz |

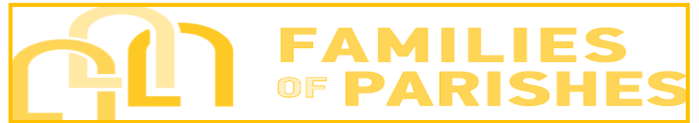
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

AOD RESTRUCTURING LISTENING SESSIONS AT SVF

Tuesday, May 19, 2026

Thursday, May 21, 2026

MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND



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. Mary Magdalen

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030

WEDNESDAY - Noon

SATURDAY - 4:00pm

SUNDAY - 10:00am

St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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



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

**VIRTUES, EXPLAINED!
CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND
GROW YOUR FAITH**

Justice, Explained!

“Original justice” is what the Catechism calls the state of harmony that existed between God, mankind and all creation (CCC 376) before the fall. Though original justice perished when sin entered the world, our souls still bear its memory, and we are oriented toward this virtue like a flower is oriented to the light of the sun: “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will have their fill.” (Matt 5:6)

The cardinal virtue of justice has to do with the fulfillment of our duty to one another and to God (religion is the justice we owe to our Creator). Justice gives us a framework for existing in the Justice is made possible by the virtue of charity (CCC 1825) because justice demands what is right for all, not just for one.