

## Solanus Casey Center Expansion



Work is nearing completion on the Solanus Casey Center's \$23.5 million update that's been five years in the making. Soon the Eastside "urban oasis" for the Catholic faithful and others will be fit for a saint.

Construction crews are finishing a garden area for prayer and meditation and outdoor cafe seating at the center, located at 1780 Mt. Elliott St., ahead of a late May opening date. The project launched in anticipation of the thousands of people who would come to the center to pray at the tomb of American-born Capuchin priest Solanus Casey following his 2017 beatification, which put him on a path to sainthood in the Catholic Church.

The center is attracting a growing number of Catholics from around the region and people from the surrounding community, even as it finishes construction and the process of canonizing Casey progresses.

Inside, visitors can already explore the tomb of the late friar, see displays of his clothing, prayer book and other artifacts, attend a Mass at the historic St. Bonaventure Chapel and visit the gift shop or On the Rise Cafe, a workforce development program of the center's neighboring affiliate, the Capuchin Soup Kitchen.

"Many who come to the center are looking for a place to relax or get some work done in a peaceful environment,"

Brother Steve Kropp, the center's director, said. "That's our goal: that however many people come here, that we're prepared to welcome them and to have a beautiful space where everybody fits."

### Journey to sainthood

Casey, who died in 1957, was known for his great faith, attention to the sick and ability as a spiritual counselor. He is the second American-born man to be beatified, according to the Catholic News Agency.

Last year, 120,000 people visited the center, up as much as 20 percent from the years prior to the pandemic, Director of Public Relations Tim Hinkle said.

The Vatican is currently considering the miracles people claim to have experienced as it considers the proposal to declare Casey a saint, Kropp said.

Those miracles include health issues reportedly cured after people have prayed at Casey's tomb.

"It's hard to believe it has been over five years since we began, and the center and its surrounding neighborhood look very different today," said David Van Elslander, board member of the A.A. Van Elslander Foundation and the son of the late Art Van Elslander, who made a \$20 million gift to the

*Continued on page 2...*

# Solanus Casey Center

*Continued from page 1*

center to support its expansion.

“We think the result honors the humility of Father Solanus Casey, fulfills our father’s vision and will welcome people of all beliefs for generations to come,” his son said in an emailed statement.

Art Van Furniture founder Van Elslander made the gift in December 2017, just months before his death. The center launched the project in 2018.

Art Van Elslander realized after Casey was beatified that there would be many more visitors to the center and that they should have a place to reflect after what might have been a long journey for some, said Diane Wells, executive director and board member of the Van Elslander Foundation.

“(He) saw the Solanus Casey Center as a place where people come for hope, and his initial wish was really very simple. He wanted visitors to have a place to enjoy a cup of coffee and a sandwich,” Wells said, the very thing Casey offered the hungry who came to the St. Bonaventure Monastery for help decades earlier.

It was important for the foundation to collaborate with the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph, the parent of the Solanus Casey Center and the neighboring St. Bonaventure Monastery and Capuchin Soup Kitchen, and to listen to provincial leadership to understand how Van Elslander’s vision complemented their needs, Wells said.

“Our commitment grew to include items he had not contemplated, such as restoration of the St. Bonaventure chapel and steeple and renovations inside the center; as well as modifications to the planned outdoor reflection and garden space.”

## A saintly space

Over the past five years, the center has completed the bulk of the project, adding a 5,000-square-foot expansion for

a new gift shop and the cafe. Both opened last summer.

Outside, a new, 65-space parking lot across Kercheval Avenue from the center between Mt. Elliott and Meldrum streets greets visitors.

“No project of this magnitude succeeds without a great team,” Wells said, with a nod to architects Hamilton Anderson and Hathorne PLLC, general contractor Albert M. Highley Co. and project manager Doug Turnbull.

As it evolved and costs rose, the project was scaled back in some areas. The center did a one-story addition instead of two-story and added fewer parking areas than

planned as land acquisition became an issue. It also scrapped an earlier plan to acquire several houses in the area to serve as a place to stay for people traveling long distances to visit Casey’s tomb.

The center was able to raise the additional \$3.6 million needed from the Van Elslander Foundation and other individual and corporate donors to cover the cost increases, Kropp said.


Work to finish the garden and outdoor cafe areas is now under way.

Completion of an outdoor assembly area envisioned for the north end of the garden along Mt. Elliott near Kercheval is on hold for now while the center catches its collective breath and works to raise the \$1.5 million needed to complete that area,

Kropp said. The center is talking with an interested donor about a future commitment for that area, he added.

“The project has absolutely exceeded our expectations, resulting in positive impact for not just the center, but for the surrounding neighborhood, while preserving its generational history,” Wells said. “It is our hope that this will serve as a catalyst for continued improvement in the area.”

*Written by: Sherri Welch for Crains Detroit Business, April 24, 2023. For more please visit [crainsdetroit.com](http://crainsdetroit.com)*



**KAYAK THE CANALS!**  
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Not many parishes enjoy waterways like St. Ambrose. Join us for a guided 2-hour Kayak Canal tour this August!

We're back this summer with the *always* popular River and Canal tour which takes you out to the Detroit River, around Grayhaven Island, past the Fisher Mansion and by the waterfront residences of Jefferson Chalmers!

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Tickets can be purchased at [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net), calling 313.822.2814 or by scanning this QR code!





# All Things Considered

In addition to the 7% **Catholicum** on parish income and the mandatory **Catholic Services Appeal** funds, there is one more revenue source that St. Ambrose Parish remits to the Archdiocese of Detroit for its operations. That is something called the **Charter School Tax**. It was put in place more than 20 years ago during the time of Cardinal Maida when Sr. Fran Nadolny was the superintendent of Catholic Schools. It is an extra 15% remitted (for a total of 22%) on charter rental revenue which is supposed to aid remaining Parochial Schools.

The argument for imposing this tax was that the no tuition attraction of a charter negatively effected whatever parish schools were left — hence parishes with charter school contracts should pay a certain penalty, or fee. Of that 15%, 10% would go to parochial schools and 5% would be retained by the Archdiocesan Schools Office for administrative overhead.

Right from the beginning, I challenged the underlying premise that charter schools killed parochial schools. The reality was that city parishes that still had schools were aging out. Many suburban parishes never built parochial schools and therefore didn't incur the debts that came with school operations. In this part of town, Cornerstone Schools, which drew funds from private businesses, probably siphoned off as many students as did charters.

Now that we are more than twenty years into paying the Charter School Tax, with only five Catholic Schools left in the City of Detroit (one of which is St. Clare of Montefalco) those extra funds go further and further into the suburbs.

Two years ago, I exercised my prerogative and stopped sending the 15% tax down to the AoD, choosing to cut checks to the two schools in our

Family of Parishes — St. Paul and St. Clare. Remitted through the AoD, those checks remained uncashed because it went outside of the established protocols. My point was that we had students in those schools and our funds should support them. This was especially fair with St. Paul, which under Fr. Bilot has an enlightened policy of not charging Ambrosians “out of parish” tuition.

Last week, we had a meeting with our Parish Direct Missionary, Wade Richards, whom I asked to find a way that our withheld funds could get to the schools in our family. Furthermore, I asked that there be an annual accounting of the Charter School Tax and that the Charter School tax agreement with Ambrose (and other parishes) be reviewed every five years.

It seems to me that the original reason for the tax has significantly shifted from its intended target audience. Furthermore, the whole private/public educational construct is rapidly changing. It will certainly be in a different place in five years time.

Our Bishops are watching St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School, which with the approval by the Oklahoma State Legislature, became the nation's first Catholic charter school. It is independently managed by the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa, with religious teachings embedded in the curriculum — and funded by taxpayer dollars.

By that way, that is pretty much how Canada supports multiple educational models and that hasn't brought down that nation yet!

I have no objection to paying our fair share of Archdiocesan operations. But the obligation to support Catholic Schools should be spread across every parish — not just those who have contracts with charters.

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It's important for all to know that in addition to consultation with the Presbyteral Council and the Archdiocesan Consultors, our Archbishop has at his disposal yet another group of advisors for fundraising, communications, and engagement activities called the Advancement Council.



Eileen Newell

Eileen Newell was recently appointed by Archbishop Vigneron to be the next Chair of the Archdiocesan Advancement Council. She succeeds Mike Vlastic, the founding Chairman who has served in this role since the Council was launched in 2015.

Eileen is the Vice President of Tax for Rock, the family office for Dan Gilbert's family of companies, including Bedrock and the Cleveland Cavaliers. Newell is responsible for the tax compliance and strategy impacting businesses and the people in the communities of Detroit and Cleveland.

Eileen earned a BBA in Accounting from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, IN and a JD from The Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. She is currently finishing her MA in Theology from Sacred Heart Major Seminary. She is a member of the Michigan State Bar and a Michigan Certified Public Accountant. She also serves as a member of the Archdiocesan Catholic Schools Council. Her parish is St. Frances Cabrini in Allen Park, where she coaches teams in the Catholic Youth Organization and Catholic High School League.

The members of the current Advancement Council roster are: Archbishop Vigneron; Father Jeff Day; Eileen Newell, chair; Mike Vlastic; Kathleen McCann; and Anthony Schena.

Archdiocesan staff on the Advancement Council include: Brian Mooney, Chief Operating Officer; Edmundo Reyes, Director of Communications; Wendy Miller Bueche, Director of Mission Advancement; and Jim Thomas, Advancement Officer.

TRP

## Faith Formation Station

It is my honor to introduce to you our fifth- and sixth-grade catechists from the 2022-2023 faith formation year. I also share with you the year-end prayer written by Mrs. Hartung's class. *Dear Lord, we are so grateful for our class and faith sharing this year. Thank you for bringing us together as a class, where we grew closer as friends, and learned more about Christ. Our knowledge of the Old Testament grew along with our faith. Lord, please bless us along our journey and encourage us to grow in faith, be close to you, and continue to be followers of Christ. Thank you for every single one of our blessings. Amen.*

**Kelly Woolums**

### Grade 5:

The focus of fifth-grade study is on God's gifts of life through the seven Sacraments. It includes study of the concepts necessary to understand the Sacraments and how they strengthen us in our faith and renew us as a community. The class also focuses on how to navigate one's way through the Bible.

**Sebastien Foka.** I started as a catechist in 2011 after I got married at St. Ambrose. I remember asking Fr. Tim what I could do to get involved in the parish and he told me to be a catechist. And I did and do not regret my decision. It is a great experience to meet the kids once a week. I'm able to share my faith with them and at the same time it allows me to grow in my faith and deepen it. To be honest, I've probably been given more in terms of my faith than I have been able to give back. I am married to Courtney. We have two children: Catherine (10) and Rigo (8). I work as a nurse in the ICU at Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe, and I also teach tennis at Eastside Tennis and Fitness. Something "unusual" about me is that I am French and my dad is a priest in Paris, France.



**Brendan O'Byrne:** I have been a parishioner at St. Ambrose for about twenty years. I have been a volunteer and a catechist in the religious education program for about ten years. My goal with this year's class was to share my faith with the students and to set an example of participation and service in our parish.

### Grade 6:

Grade six is the year to study the Old Testament. The students' exploration begins with the story of Abraham and Sarah and continues with the study of Exodus, the history of the kingdom of Israel, the prophets and the period before the coming of Jesus Christ.

**Rachel Hartung:** I have been a member of the parish for 18 years. My husband and I got married at St. Ambrose in 2008.



We now have three children, Cecily 12, Evie 10, and Tate 6. I'm an Interior Designer at a design firm in Birmingham, but in my spare time I love to play all kinds of sports (especially volleyball and tennis), cook, and spend time with my family. I've always loved being around kids and am frequently volunteering at my children's school. I thought being a catechist would be a great way to connect my love of kids and my love of faith. Fun fact: my dad, Mike Maras, is a formerly active Catholic priest. I grew up with a strong faith foundation from my parents and am very excited to share my faith with the children of St. Ambrose.

*Continued on next page*





### Matt Utley:

I have been a parishioner since 2012 and a catechist for five of those years. I have three boys with one currently going through St. Ambrose's catechism classes. I am president of Great Lakes Filters and Chief Strategy Officer for the Acme Group of Companies in Bloomfield Hills, MI. I work on pollution control equipment and green materials. Being a catechist is a very rewarding endeavor. Giving back and showing the love of Christ is the highlight of my week. Sharing our Catholic heritage and creating a sound Catholic identity is the best thing we can do for our children in this relativist culture. Contributing is an honor.

## POST FLOOD BLOCK PARTY

- Hosted by St. Ambrose Parish at Hampton and Wayburn in the Park.
- Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- Free Food & Soft Drinks
- Music on the plaza



If you plan on attending, RSVP via our website at [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net) or by using this code with your smart phone!



The 2023 CSA is in full swing. The Archdiocese of Detroit sent out a mailing with donor information and return envelopes. We encourage you to read through the materials and let us know if you have questions.

When you make a gift to the CSA, you support the work of more than 170 ministries, services, and programs in the Archdiocese of Detroit that respond each day to the material and spiritual needs of countless individuals and their families. If you would prefer to make your gift directly to St. Ambrose online using a credit card, debit card or an ACH withdrawal (we then make sure it is paid to the AoD), click on the QR code on page 5 in the "CSA Box Scores" box.

2	0	CSA
2	3	Box Scores

Number of Families ..... 800  
Returns to date ..... 97  
Average Gift in '23 ..... \$678.00  
AoD Quota in '23 ..... \$97,755  
Property/Liability Insurance ... \$57,600  
Adjusted parish target ..... \$155,355  
Received as of 7/19/23 ..... \$65,766

- Our CSA goal is higher this year by \$4,086, but it will be as challenging to meet as it was in 2022.
- The insurance premium listed – roughly \$1,107 a week – is the cost of our property and liability coverage for the parish.
- Once we meet the AoD quota, anything given to the CSA comes directly back to our parish without the usual 7% deduction.
- Scan this QR Code with your smart phone camera to make your donation.



## The Beehive

is the parish weekly bulletin of the St. Ambrose Catholic Community Detroit/Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan

**Priest in Solidum:** Rev. Timothy R. Pelc  
**Pastoral Minister:** Charles Dropiewski  
**Religious Education:** Kelly Anne Woolums  
**Minister of Music:**  
**Office Manager:** Peggy O'Connor  
**Secretary:** Mary Urbanski

### Sacramental Celebrations

**Masses:** On the Lord's Day –  
Saturday Vigil - 4:00 p.m.  
Sunday - 8:30 & 11:15 a.m.

**Baptism:** Arrangements for both adults and infants to be made by contacting the rectory.

**Penance:** As announced and by appointment.

**Marriage:** Couples should contact the rectory office a minimum of six months in advance of the proposed date to make arrangements.

**Funeral:** Normally celebrated within one week after the deceased's passing.

### Directory

**Parish Office:** 15020 Hampton  
Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan 48230  
**Tel:** (313) 822-2814 **Fax:** (313) 822-9838  
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**Religious Education:** (313) 332-5633  
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**Ark Scheduling:** (313) 822-2814  
**Parish Website:** [stambrosechurch.net](http://stambrosechurch.net)

## Liturgy Schedule

### Monday, July 24

*St. Sharbel Makhlof, priest*

### Tuesday, July 25

*St. James the Apostle*

8:30 a.m. - Mass - Fr. Gabriel Richard

### Wednesday, July 26

*Sts. Joachim & Anne, parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

### Thursday, July 27

*Weekday 16<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time*

7:00 p.m. - Mass - Anne Blake

### Friday, July 28

*Weekday 16<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time*

12:00 p.m. - Mass - Rev. Ronald Cyprus

### Saturday, July 29

*Sts. Martha, Mary & Lazarus*

4:00 p.m. - Mass - For All People

### Sunday, July 30

*17<sup>th</sup> in Ordinary Time*

8:30 - Mass - For All People

11:15 - Mass - For All People



## Scriptures for the 16<sup>th</sup> week in Ordinary Time

### July 24

Ex 14: 5-18

Ps 124: 1-8

Mt 10: 34-11: 1

### July 25

Ex 2: 1-15a

Ps 69: 3, 14, 30-31, 33-34

Mt 11: 20-24

### July 26

Ex 3: 1-6, 9-12

Ps 103: 1-4, 6-7

Mt 11: 25-27

### July 27

Ex 3: 13-20

Ps 105: 1, 5, 8-9, 24-27

Mt 11: 28-30

### July 28

Ex 11: 10-12: 14

Ps 116: 12-13, 15-19

Mt 12: 1-8

### July 29

Sg 3: 1-4a or 2 Cor 5: 14-17

Ps 63: 2-6, 8-9

Jn 20: 1-2, 11-18

### July 30

Wis 12: 13, 16-19

Ps 86: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16

Rom 8: 26-27

Mt 13: 24-43 or 13: 24-30

## 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday - July 15<sup>th</sup> & 16<sup>th</sup>

Reference # in our Breaking Bread Hymnal or on your iPhone using the QR code.

**Entrance:** Table of Plenty #311  
or Come Ye Thankful People, Come #209

**Psalm:** Loving and Forgiving #664

**Preparatory:** Bread of Life #355

**Communion:** Unless a Grain of Wheat #504  
or I Am the Bread of Life #329

**Recessional:** All Good Gifts #610  
or For The Fruits of This Creation #204



To participate electronically, go to: [facebook.com/stambroseparish](https://facebook.com/stambroseparish) or better yet, to YouTube at [www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbGIGxUF6bUqPct5xFg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbymbGIGxUF6bUqPct5xFg)

## Your Envelope Speaks ... the Inside Story

To operate, each week our parish requires a *minimum* of..... \$10,100.00

### On Sunday, July 16, 2023

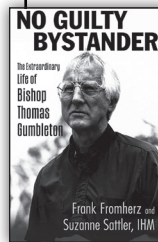
in envelopes we received ..... \$6,739.00  
in the loose collection..... \$1,730.00  
in electronic donations..... \$3,983.61  
for a total of ..... \$12,452.61  
Over budget for the week..... \$2,352.61  
Number of envelopes mailed ..... 621  
Number of envelopes used ..... 43



## Our Sick

Please pray for those who are seriously ill or who are hospitalized: Pat Blake, Donald Miriani, Bonnie McKenna, Matthew Elias, Mary Martin, Emilie Kasper, Anna Noto Billings, Eileen O'Brien, Liz Linne, Donna Barnes, James Blake, Charmaine Kaptur, Frank Gregory, Alex Billiu, Jackie Walkowski, Maria Simcina, Sharif Hannan, Shirley Whelan, Ricardo Hernandez Montoya, Albina Checki, Judy Sivanov, Matthew Brown, Lily Faith, Patty Freund, Janis Ramsey, Colette Gilewicz, Al LaHood, Valerie Hudson, Jeanene Maples, Angela Hansen, Marilyn Potenga, John Freund, Kevin O'Connor, and those suffering and hospitalized worldwide with Covid.

## Marcellina's Book Club



**No Guilty Bystander** aims to bring to better light the inner and outer journeys of a man who became a transformational figure on the world stage and in his hometown of Detroit, and whose influence in the Church and

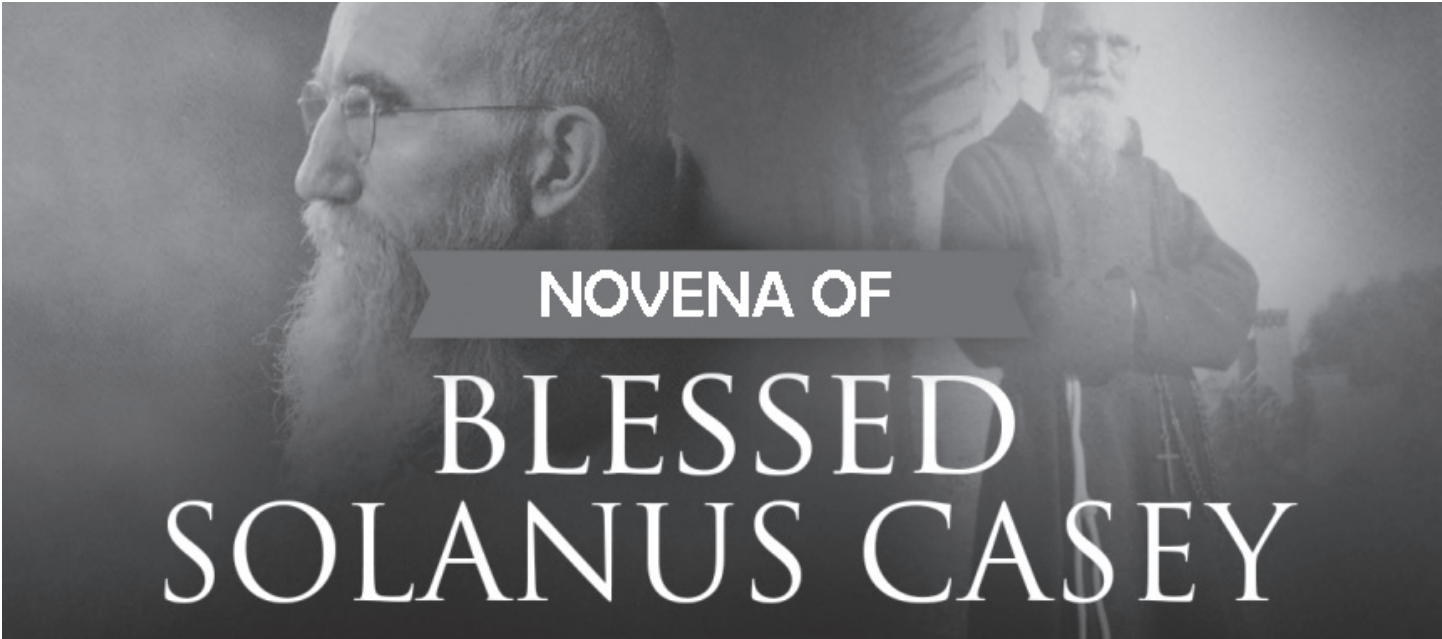
the wider world is yet to be fully measured or vindicated.

Thomas Gumbleton, retired Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit, has long served as an outstanding voice and witness for peace and justice in the Catholic Church. From his early opposition to the Vietnam war, his work on the Bishops' historic pastoral on nuclear weapons, to his peacemaking missions and solidarity with marginalized communities around the globe, and his promotion of reform and renewal in the church, he has offered a prophetic model of faithful discipleship.

On Thursday July 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Church will hold a program and book signing with Bishop Gumbleton, Publisher Robert Ellsberg, and Co-Authors Frank Fromherz and Suzanne Sattler.

Sacred Heart Church is located at 1000 Eliot St., Detroit, MI 48207. A special live- stream of the event will also be aired at [sacredheartdetroit.com](https://sacredheartdetroit.com).

Copies of **No Guilty Bystander** can be purchased through your favorite book retailer or through our parish office.



# NOVENA OF BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY

Blessed Solanus Casey, Detroit's beloved Capuchin priest on the road to sainthood in the Catholic Church, will be remembered at the Solanus Casey Center with a nine-day novena beginning on July 22, culminating with the Feast of Solanus Casey on July 30.

Confessions will be heard by Capuchin priests from Monday through Saturday during the novena week from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., with Masses held each day during the Novena in St. Bonaventure Chapel at Noon (with the exception of July 23 and 29). The theme of this year's novena is Inspired by a Life of Virtue: Blessed Solanus' Way is Our Way Too. The focus for each day will be on a different Saint and virtue of the Catholic faith.

## The Novena Schedule

Sunday, July 23 – Mass at 9 a.m. - **16<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time | HOPE**

Monday, July 24 – Mass at Noon - **St. Charbel | LOVE**

Tuesday, July 25 – Mass at Noon - **St. James | PRUDENCE**

Wednesday, July 26 – Mass at Noon - **Ss. Joachim and Anna | JUSTICE**

Thursday, July 27 – Mass at Noon - **Bl. Mary Magdalene Martinengo, OSC Cap. | TEMPERANCE**

Friday, July 28 – Mass at Noon - **Bl. Mary Teresa Kowalska, OSC Cap. | FORTITUDE**

Saturday, July 29 – Anointing of the Sick at 2 p.m. | Vigil Mass at 4 p.m.

- **Ss. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus | FEAST DAY VIGIL**

Sunday, July 30 – Mass at 9:00 a.m. and Noon - **FEAST DAY OF BLESSED SOLANUS CASEY**

Unable to attend? Please pray the Novena prayers with us online at <https://www.solanuscasey.org/prayer/blessed-solanus-casey-novena-prayer/>



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