

# St Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 † TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

It is commonly thought that prophets foretell the future. This is not exactly true. Prophets more often reveal future consequences due to present realities. A prophet is one who, after listening to the word and will of God, reveals to the people present danger in the current course of things. Such prophecy is the wisdom of God's mercy with the intention and hope that wayward or consequential behavior may be corrected.

I am not a prophet, but I must inform you of concerning information that will in the near and distant future create negative consequences. It is evident that the pandemic had a negative impact on the number of people able or willing to participate at Mass in person. One negative consequence of the absence of more than fifty percent of our previous congregation is a much smaller number of people actively supporting the parish financially.

In 2018-19 before the pandemic, our annual offertory was \$446,723. In 2019-20 as Covid began, the annual offertory was \$373,621. In 2020-21, \$300,888. July to June 2021-2022, the current fiscal year just ending, our offertory was \$294,370. In the course of these few years our annual offertory has had a decrease of \$152,353. Further, prior to the pandemic our average weekly number of contributors was 280. Currently, only 115 persons are financially supporting our parish on a weekly basis through the parish envelope. A handful of people offer online or in cash. This is unsustainable. With these numbers and the current monies received through the offertory our parish operations are not sustainable.

Currently we have 750 registered families. Three-hundred seven of these families receive parish envelopes. Of these, 115 are used. Other income sources for the year include School lease income, Christmas collection, faith formation income, and miscellaneous income. These numbers are printed in this bulletin.

This information is not prophetic. It is simply factual. I would be remiss and irresponsible to not point out these disparities. Thank you to those who are so faithfully supporting the parish. We will stay the course and do what we can to improve this circumstance. Please do all you can to support the parish. If you are actively participating at Mass and our parish life, please support us in whatever way you are best able.

I am open to your suggestions of how to invite others back to Mass. A big part of this is with you. Invite, welcome, and encourage those who previously

attended to please return in an active way. People are always more important than money. We need Christ and one another for the enrichment and salvation of our souls. Monetary support is a meaningful part of a faith commitment and church support.

Going forward we will continue to livestream both the Saturday and Sunday Masses. Many legitimately need this form of engagement. However, these Masses will no longer be posted on our website or YouTube. If you must participate through video, you must do so at the scheduled Mass times. There are no longer any dispensations from Mass beyond valid illness or home circumstance that disallows personal presence. We need you and you need us. Please return.

With the encouragement of our Moderator in the Family of Parishes, despite our cash crunch, we have hired a Faith Formation Director who will also take a lead in creating initiatives for evangelization. The hope is that we can build up the parish through Religious Formation and creative evangelization programs. Mr. Matthew Zinzer will be on-board as of this week. A time for a personal introduction will be forthcoming.

Please pray for our parish and these troubling concerns. I am hopeful and trusting in the Lord's providence. This is information you should know about to share in the concern and to assist in the solution.

Mercy is the source and foundation of all we believe in the mystery of God's Divine Love as revealed through Jesus. In the attitude of the Pharisees, mercy is a radical and ridiculous scandal actively resented and rejected. For true believers, mercy is an extravagant and divinely generous gift that reveals the essence of God incarnate in the Lord Jesus.

The response to mercy is mercy. Notice St. Paul is filled with gratitude and praise despite all his unworthiness that Christ should not only mercifully redeem him, but to also use him as a minister of the gospel. In the realization of Christ's mercy, St. Paul owned, admitted, and confessed his sin. Only in this humility could Paul deeply understand the power and the gift he was given. The prodigal son did the same accepting his father's embrace. The older brother refused mercy to his brother while rejecting the father's plea to share the joy of his brother's return. With blinding self-justification, the older brother traps himself in a prison of his own making. Mercy received becomes mercy given. Let God love you. Accept God's mercy. Be mercy for others.

Father John Esper

## LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

### DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm  
in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



**Live Streaming of Mass**  
Monday thru Thursday  
8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

**One hour of Adoration on**  
Tuesday following  
8am Mass

### Livestream of Rosary on Thursday 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

## PARISH 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 - 9am to Noon - Closed Saturday & Sunday

### Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum  
Deborah Tourville, Business Manager/Spiritual Direction  
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin  
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator  
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/  
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator  
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor  
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

### Faith Formation Office Staff - 248-398-1743

Matthew Zinzer,  
Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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

### MONDAY, September 12, 2022

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy  
(Special Intention) req. by Mom

### TUESDAY, September 13, 2022

8:00am Mass: Jean-Claude Elie,  
MD† req. by Debbie Tourville

### WEDNESDAY, September 14, 2022

8:00am Mass: Janine Kairist† req.  
by Husband, Mike

### THURSDAY, September 15, 2022

8:00am Mass: Tim Esper† (1st  
R.A.) req. by Family

### SATURDAY, September 17, 2022

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Paul & Katherine Bilovus† req. by Tony & Jeanette  
Dombrowski

Geraldine Bilovus Hall† req. by Tony & Jeanette  
Dombrowski

Rimantas Labieka† req. by Regina Juska-Svoba  
Peter Conway req. by Mom

Shirley Novak† req. by Mary Jane Guc

Those discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or other  
Church Ministries

### SUNDAY, September 18, 2022

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

George Cooney† req. by Marsha Moore  
Marian Welsht† req. by Regis

Monica Pertsch† req. by Andrew & Leny Lechniak

Marty & Emily Karolski (for health) req. by Bill & Mary  
Beth Hochstetler

Those discerning a vocation to the Priesthood or other  
Church Ministries

### Mass Intentions



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## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF Sept. 11, 2022



- Sunday: Ex 32:7-11, 13-14; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 17,  
19; 1 Tm 1:12-17; Lk 15:1-32 [1-10]
- Monday: 1 Cor 11:17-26, 33; Ps 40:7-10, 17;  
Lk 7:1-10
- Tuesday: 1 Cor 12:12-14, 27-31a; Ps 100:1-5;  
Lk 7:11-17
- Wednesday: Nm 21:4b-9; Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-38;  
Phil 2:6-11; Jn 3:13-17
- Thursday: 1 Cor 15:1-11; Ps 118:1b-2, 16ab-17,  
28; Jn 19:25-27 or Lk 2:33-35
- Friday: 1 Cor 15:12-20; Ps 17:1bcd, 6-8b, 15;  
Lk 8:1-3
- Saturday: 1 Cor 15:35-37, 42-49; Ps 56:10c-14;  
Lk 8:4-15
- Sunday: Am 8:4-7; Ps 113:1-2, 4-8; 1 Tm 2:1-  
8; Lk 16:1-13 [10-13]

**Fiscal Report  
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

Offertory Collection	\$ 294,370	
Christmas Collection	\$ 22,741	
School Lease	\$ 291,918	
Faith Formation	\$ 5,078	
Misc. Inc	\$ 11,381	
<b>Total Receipts</b>		<b>\$ 625,488</b>
Expenses (Admin & Plant)	\$ 679,733	
Capital Expenses (Parking Lot)	\$ 24,946	
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$ 704,679</b>
<b>Net Deficit</b>		<b>\$ 79,191</b>

Offertory 2020-21	\$ 300,888
Offertory 2019-20	\$ 373,621
Offertory 2018-19	\$ 446,723

# Registered households	#Weekly donors
2021-22 #726	115
2020-21 #830	212
2019-20 #910	280

*Save the Date*

**PARISH MISSION  
October 22 to 25  
Facilitator:  
Fr. Craig Marion**

**Ministry Schedule  
September 17/18**

Mass	Sat. 4 pm	Sun 9 am
Sacristan	T Riley	C McCarthy
Reader #1	R Pasiak	P Miles
Reader #2	T Riley	C McCarthy
EME	M Hochstetler	P Miles
	M Simmons	A Goll
	R Pasiak	T Karolski
Greeters	T Milko	S Bosetti
	B McEvoy	B Gutowski
	K Heffner	C Yuhasz
	R Juska-Svoba	M Bessler

**RELYING ON GOD'S LOVE**

Imagine being among those who heard Jesus address the Pharisees and scribes in the encounter we hear in today's Gospel: "What man among you having a hundred sheep and losing one of them would not leave the ninety-nine in the desert and go after the lost one until he finds it?" Would you leave ninety-nine in the desert in order to find one lost sheep? In the parable, Jesus is showing us the depths of God's love, the illogical, incredible love God has for each of us. Moses counted on this loving mercy as he spoke for the wandering people; Saint Paul acknowledges his reliance on it in his letter to Timothy. God desires to draw you close, seeking you when you are lost. Are you ready to be drawn into God's loving embrace?



**WE'RE BACK!!**  
Choir resuming!

Practices will be Wednesdays  
at 7pm in the Admin Bldg. Choir Room

You are invited to join us in the Admin Bldg. at 7pm on Wednesday, Sept. 21st to see if this ministry is a good fit for you.

## NEXT SUNDAY

### A REFLECTIVE MORNING FOR SINGLES FOLLOWING 9AM MASS & SPECIAL BLESSING September 18, 2022

September 18 is National Singles Day. There will be a reflective morning after the 9:00am Mass with breakfast and a chance to look deeper into our relationship with God and our relationship with our own personal self. Single people are often seeking for something or someone to fulfill their deepest longings. In a sense, everyone is seeking this. This morning is to help everyone, especially single people how to experience God in a deeper manner and how to experience the wounds and joys inside of us. It will be a morning to learn how to meditate, to learn how to open up to our feelings, and how to realize that we all are powerless over things and need to discover how to turn our powerlessness and helplessness over to God. In doing this we learn how to have better relationships with other people and learn how to have a better relationship with our own personal self. This will be a profoundly inspiring morning.

This morning will be facilitated by Fred Cavaiani LLP, LMT. Fred is a psychologist, marriage counselor and spiritual director. He has presented programs in over 150 parishes and in retreat houses throughout the United States. He also conducts a meditation group each week for the past 23 years. He has been writing an article called the Counselor's Corner for five Legal News Newspapers every two weeks for the past 23 years. Fred is an inspiring speaker and helps people find new depth in their lives. This program will start immediately after Mass and end at 11:45 PM. Welcome all single people for a chance to experience God.

**ALL SINGLE PERSONS ARE INVITED TO JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY FOR MASS AND A SPECIAL BLESSING FROM FATHER JOHN. CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND PRESENTATION BY FRED CAVIANI, WILL FOLLOW MASS. \$10 PER PERSON FOR BREAKFAST & PRESENTATION ADVANCE PAYMENT MUST BE RECEIVED BY WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH**

**To register:** You may sign up after Mass in church back of church; register at the parish office during business hours or drop an envelope in the offertory basket indicating Singles Celebration Day and include your name and payment.

## INTERGENERATIONAL HEALING MASS

**This Wednesday, Sept. 14th - 7:00pm  
St. Vincent Ferrer Church**

**Presider: Fr. John Esper**

**All are invited to join Fr. John in prayer to heal the negative influences of past generations for the benefit of current and future generations.**

### What is intergenerational healing?

We all understand the concept of material inheritance. After people die, they often leave money, property and possessions to family members.

We are also aware of a physical inheritance. Doctors always ask for the family medical history of a new patient. There is also a spiritual inheritance. We can thank God and family for the benefit from our virtuous ancestors going back a thousand generations (see Sirach 44:10-12). We are also adversely affected by the sins of parents, grandparents and great-grandparents and by the sins of the ancestors, who adversely affected them, with consequences that may extend to what is inherited materially, emotionally and physically.

In his book entitled *Intergenerational Healing*, Fr. Robert De Grandis writes: "intergenerational healing is, for the Christian, an opportunity to recognize and bring healing to family influences from the past, with implications for the future. Intergenerational healing suggests the possibility that negative acts and deeds of our ancestors can somehow enter our "bloodstream" and take a toll on future generations. Transforming the connection with these troublesome roots is what intergenerational healing is all about. It's an exciting, fascinating area of the healing ministry."

### SPIRITUAL BOUQUETS FOR PRIESTS

In honor of Priesthood Sunday, September 25, the Office of Priestly Vocations is inviting parishioners to offer a spiritual bouquet for their pastors and associate pastors.

**To learn more and sign up, visit:**  
[detroitpriestlyvocations.com/priesthood-sunday/](http://detroitpriestlyvocations.com/priesthood-sunday/)

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



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

**Clarice Kovala**

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

**MERCY IN ACTION DAY**  
**October 1st - drop in any time between 9am-12pm**

<i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament &amp; Adoration</i>	In church and online	ALL are welcome
<i>Rosary</i>	Outside at Mary Statue 10am	ALL are welcome
<i>Card Decorating</i>	School Gymnasium 10am to Noon	Children, parents, grandparents, everyone is invited to join us in decorating/coloring pop up cards for our homebound seniors. Materials will be provided.
<b>DRIVE UP</b>	<b>DROP OFF</b>	<b>COLLECTIONS</b>
<i>Blessing Bag Items</i>	Admin building	Travel size: deodorant, tooth brush, tooth paste, shampoo, conditioner, comb, brush, kleenex packet, hand/foot warmers, tube socks. No liquids.
<i>Pet Supplies</i>	Admin building	Wet & dry cat/dog food, "Science Diet" food is requested ,cat/dog treats, toys, towels, blankets, trash bags..
<i>Prescription Eye glasses &amp; Hearing aids</i>	Admin building	Prescription glasses, cases and hearing aids accepted.
<i>Incontinence Supplies</i>	Admin building	Adult size large and X-large are requested



**SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES**

- Sunday: Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time; Patriot Day; Grandparents' Day
- Monday: The Most Holy Name of Mary
- Tuesday: St. John Chrysostom
- Wednesday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Thursday: Our Lady of Sorrows
- Friday: Ss. Cornelius and Cyprian
- Saturday: St. Robert Bellarmine; St. Hildegard of Bingen; Blessed Virgin Mary



**EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER**

**FOOD PANTRY**

Parishioners in need of food at this time can contact Doris at St. Mary Magdalen Parish (248-542-8060)



**Pray for**

*....all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful*

**resolution to the Ukraine crisis.**

**...medical and humanitarian aid for the wounded in Ukraine and the refugees fleeing the country.**

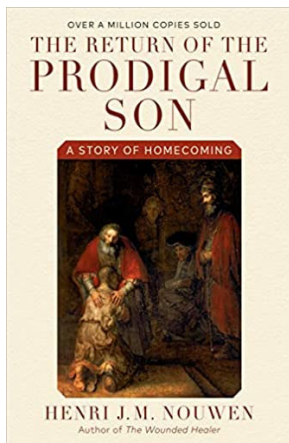
**...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.**

**...the homeless and all who are suffering physically and emotionally due to economic conditions.**

**...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 especially during this crisis. 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*



**WEDNESDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY**  
beginning  
**Sept. 21, 2022**

***The Return of the Prodigal Son***  
A Story of Homecoming

**Henri J.M. Nouwen**

In seizing the inspiration that came to him through Rembrandt's painting of the Prodigal Son, Henri Nouwen probes different aspects of the parable from the gospel story: the younger son's return, the father's restoration of sonship, the elder son's vengefulness, and the father's compassion. Henri takes us on a journey of exploring themes of homecoming, affirmation, and reconciliation in light of the human condition.

**Series begins on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> after the 8am Mass. A light breakfast will be served. Please call the parish office at 248-542-8720 to register. Books are available online through Amazon or other book dealers.**



**The Faith Formation office will open on Monday, September 12th to begin accepting registrations for 2022-23 Faith Formation school year.**

**In person classes for students will be on Monday evenings beginning in October. Details to come. Faith Formation Office 248- 398-1743**



**Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

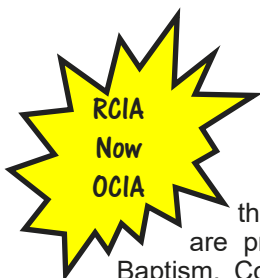
Look upon us, O God, Creator and ruler of all things, and, that we may feel the working of your mercy, grant that we may serve you with all our heart.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

**Reflection question:**

In what ways do I serve God?

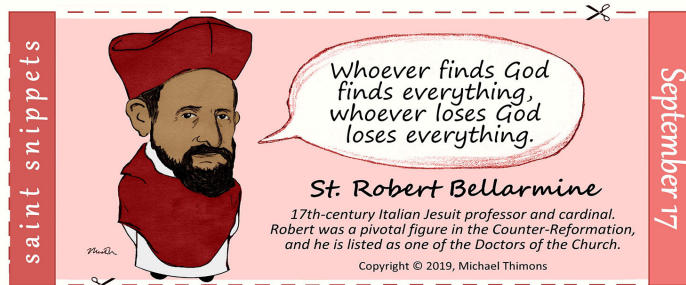
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**ORDER OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS - "OCIA"**

A new change has been made in the title of the process in which adults are prepared in the Catholic Church for Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist, and for reception into the Catholic Church for persons already Baptized in another Christian tradition. Formerly known as "RCIA" or Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, the process will now be referred to as "OCIA" or "Order of Christian Initiation of Adults." "Why the change?" you may ask. This is a change that focuses on the initiation process, recognizing the candidates for the sacraments of initiation are in a life-changing journey within the Catholic community. Upon participation in the "Rite of Acceptance" at which candidates express their free choice to pursue preparation for the Sacraments, they officially are welcomed into the Church's "Order of Catechumens" which affords them certain rights in the church.

The ongoing support of our local faith community is essential for this journey. So please pray for those who may be considering a call to Baptism within our parish. If you know an adult who is at this place in her/his life, encourage them to contact Mary Ann Przybysz, OCIA coordinator, at the parish office, (248)542-8720.



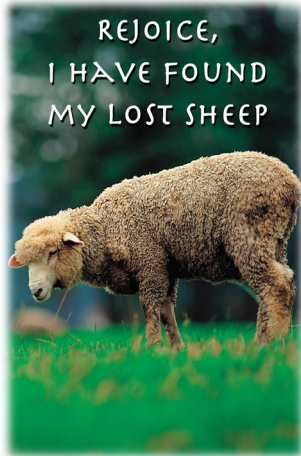
**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

**Saturday, Sept. 17th - 9am**

**Faith Formation Office in School Building**



No need to register, no cost involved. Join fellowship at any time. Come and see what God might want to say to you! Bring a friend or come and make new ones.



**Twenty-fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time**

If we were reflecting on all of today's scriptures and wanted to come up with one intimate name for God, perhaps it would be "God of Second Chances." Over and over we see examples of God offering just that. In Exodus, the Lord is frustrated by the behavior of the people, and Moses, speaking very boldly, has to talk God into calming down and recalling the covenant

with Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Israel. Psalm 51, "The Miserere," is the great psalm of repentance and cleansing. Take the time to read and pray with the whole psalm at your leisure. Paul confesses his own blasphemy and arrogance, and how Christ is using it now. In the extensive Gospel from Luke we experience Jesus using parables to tell about the widow and the lost coin, the shepherd and the lost sheep, and the lost son and a loving father's welcome.

**TAKE ALL THE LOST HOME**

In the 70s there was a popular Folk Mass song by Joe Wise, "Take All the Lost Home." It is like our Gospel reading today. For truly, we've all had moments when we have lost our way and needed others to get us back on track. Perhaps this means reconnecting with someone we once knew and making amends, or seeing a therapist to make things right. Maybe it means finally seeking help to stick with the diet and exercise plan, or joining a 12-step program to deal with an addiction. Could it be time to meet with a financial expert to manage credit card debt, or go to confession or meet with a spiritual director to find your way home spiritually? It is hard to ask for help or admit we are lost. We dread the reactions of others, thinking they will be angry, hurt, or defensive. We feel shame. Sometimes people hold grudges for years because neither they nor another will break down and make the first move. We feel fear. This sets us up for the classic story of the prodigal father, where we see two possible outcomes.

**WELCOME HOME**

The son returns home and, expecting the worst, confesses his sinfulness. His brother has an angry, self-righteous response, but the Father is full of joy and mercy. Such is the case in all the Gospel parables today. We hear God say, "You are the one who is important." There is another poignant song by Brian Flynn entitled "The Prodigal Father" that presents the perspective of the parent waiting and worrying about their lost child, watching the road and praying for the child's return. And if for some reason your own family will not accept you, you will find that there are many intentional families, friends, and parishes waiting with open arms to welcome you. Or perhaps you can offer the same welcome to another returning soul.



**OUR FAMILY - MASS SCHEDULES**

*National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica*

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

**SATURDAY**

8:30 am

4:30 pm (livestreamed) and 6:30 pm

**SUNDAY**

7:00 am, 9:00 am (livestreamed)

10:45 am, 12:30 pm,

4:00 pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00 pm

**WEEKDAYS (Monday - Friday)**

6:30 am (Livestreamed), 8:30 am

*St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen*

1631 E. Elza Hazel Park, 48030 (St J)

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030 (St MM)

**SATURDAY - 4 pm - St. Justin**

**SUNDAY - 9 am & 11 am - St. Mary Magdalen**

**MON-WED, FRI- 9am - St. Justin**

No Mass on Thursday

*St. Mary*

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

**SATURDAY - 4:30 pm**

**SUNDAY - 9 am, 11 am**

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

**WED - 12:10 pm**



Offertory Env. Distributed & e-fund participants Aug 6/7	727
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	115
Total Amount in Offertory Env. & e-funds rec'd	\$ 5,565.00
Loose Cash /Check Collection	120.00
Total	\$ 5,685.00
Budgeted Amount for Offertory	\$ 9,340.46
Energy	\$ 401.00

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Michael Kairis, Sherry Marshall  
 - Parishioners

FUNERAL DIRECTORS

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Email: [sales@jspaluch.com](mailto:sales@jspaluch.com)

## Elizabeth "Betty" McEvoy E.A.

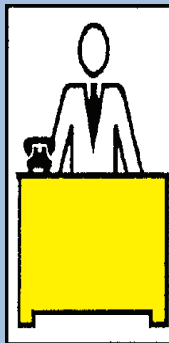
Individual and Small Business  
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Cell: **(248) 808-4353**

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WHY IS IT?



Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.

For further information, please call the Parish Office.

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