



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

AUGUST 27, 2023 † TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

Today's gospel is foundational to the Christian life. More broadly, it can also serve as a path to a focused and meaningful life for all human beings. It appears to be focused on Jesus and his interest in who people think he is. It is that and so much more.

Jesus knows who he is. The reality of the question is less about Jesus and more about those who choose to become his followers. The fundamental question is one of identity. Secure in his own identity and actively on a path to fulfill the purpose of his life, Jesus presents the question of identity to his closest followers. Yes, Jesus is interested in what others think of him, and who they believe he is. Much more than a popularity survey, Jesus seeks to deepen the awareness of his identity in those who acknowledge him as the Son of God.

The question of identity is universal and timeless. It is an unavoidable question for each of us who seeks to live a focused and meaningful life. I still remember with some degree of clarity my early years in Junior High School. Identity was the focus of Religion class and faith formation. Who am I? Why do I exist? What is the meaning and purpose of my life? Consider these questions personally in your present stage of life. The definitive answer was not realized in middle school.

A parallel question quickly followed. Who is God? Why did God make me? How does God know me, and how do I come to know myself in God? Do I create my own identity? How do I know what my identity is, or if the identity I create is true for me? Basic as these questions are, they can be quite fruitful as I ponder the movements and call of my spiritual life.

Each of us has a particular and unique identity formed by the sum of our life experience. Some of this experience is good, some bad, some quite impactful, while much is forgettable. Personal identity changes and develops as we move through the various stages of life. This is true of our spiritual identity as well. A sense of self is formed early in life yet evolves as we are influenced by the rhythms of life.

This is the point of the Lord's question to the disciples. What impact is Jesus having on those who encounter him? Do people allow themselves to be influenced by the words and the works of Jesus? The question is not about Jesus, but rather about those who are drawn to him in faith and hope for a better life with God.

At this stage of your life, who do you say Jesus is? Take time to ponder this in a meaningful way. Easy and obvious answers will quickly come to mind. To actively connect Jesus to your personal identity deserves a considered response. You are really talking to yourself, feeling and perceiving within yourself the impact you allow Jesus to have on your life and way of being. Your answer will impact your relationships, your faith, and the effect faith will have on your identity.

An effective way to access this question Jesus poses is to reverse the question. As Jesus asks, 'who do people say I am?' we can ask Jesus, 'who do you say I am?' You can do this in a time of prayer or personal reflection. To listen to the Lord for his answer, you will gain a deeper sense of your personal and spiritual identity with Jesus.

What we have learned about God and come to believe through Jesus will help us perceive who Jesus may say we are. What have we learned about God and Jesus? God is love. Jesus is God. God loves us personally. God knows us intimately. Through the Incarnation, God became human in Jesus to share in the life we have. God gave us Jesus as Redeemer, Lord, Savior, Brother, and friend. Jesus chose to die for us that we would be free of sin, reconciled to God, and personally forgiven for our happiness and freedom to love ourselves and others. Jesus calls us his beloved ones. Jesus wants us to know and share in the communion of love he shares with the Father.

With these basic Christian truths, who would Jesus say you are? I believe Jesus would say, 'You are my beloved, my friend, my longing, my hope, and my desire. You are in me, and I am in you. I have your heart and I have given you my heart. You are my joy. I believe in you. I am your deepest identity, and I will be with you always. Come and share my Father's joy.'

Consider a similar time of pondering. See if you can set aside an immediate sense of self and look more deeply inside. Ask Jesus to speak to you like he spoke to Peter who made his profession of faith. God the Father inspired Peter with that act of faith, and it transformed his identity for the rest of his life.

Who do you say Jesus is and who does Jesus say you are? How is that reflected in the way you live your life on your way to the Kingdom of God?

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

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 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

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
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

**Faith Formation Summer Office Hours:
by appointment 248-398-1743**

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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



MONDAY, August 28, 2023

8:00am Mass: Mike Kapolka† req. by Bill & Judy Marin

TUESDAY, August 29, 2023

8:00am Mass: Intentions for Deanna req. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, August 30, 2023

8:00am Mass: Personal Intentions req. by George Kaspar

THURSDAY, August 31, 2023

8:00am Mass: Msgr. Vincent Krische† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

SATURDAY, September 2, 2023

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

Fr. John Esper (Birthday Blessings)

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

Richard Collins† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler

Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, September 3, 2023

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

Fr. John Esper (Birthday Blessings)

Mike Kapolka† req. by Bill & Judy Marin

Ron Heffling† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler



READINGS THIS WEEK

August 27, 2023

Sunday:	Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 (8bc)/ Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20
Monday:	1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Mt 23:13-22
Tuesday:	1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mk 6:17- 29
Wednesday:	1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11- 12ab/Mt 23:27-32
Thursday:	1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 24:42-51
Friday:	1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/Mt 25:1-13
Saturday:	1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14 -30
Next Sunday:	Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (2b)/ Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27

**Save
The
Date**

**Intergenerational
Healing Mass
Wednesday, Sept. 13th—7pm**

**Who Do You Say
That I Am?**



by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I once knew a very devout woman whose adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

His godmother wanted more for him. She planned to speak with him about his life, hoping to encourage him to return to the practice of the faith. She knew that, when she brought this up, he would reply that it wasn't important to attend Mass or to receive the Eucharist, that was all just "extra."

She told me that she was going to begin their conversation by asking him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15 — the critical question in all our lives, the question whose answer will define what we become in this world and the next.

Her godson knew the answer. She was confident, unshakably, that he did. He may have forgotten it or ignored it. He may have tried to convince himself he wasn't entirely sure. He may have refused to give an answer. But he knew it. He knew the answer.

There is a reason that, after Peter's response, Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

"Who do you say that I am?"

Let our whole lives be our answer.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
— Matthew 16:16

©LPi

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



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

Timothy Wrobel

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. JOHN!
September 1st**

*Holy Spirit,
Please watch over Fr. John as he celebrates another year of life. May you be present with him in this time of reflection, gratitude, and looking ahead. May you guide him with joy and love on this special day and in the coming year. Amen.*



CHOIR RESUMING!

**Practices will be Wednesdays
at 7:00pm in the Admin Building Choir Room**

You are invited to join us in Choir Room of the Admin Bldg. at 7pm on Wednesday, September 6th to see if this ministry is a good fit for you.

**Wednesday Mornings
Book Study**

How Big is Your God?

by Paul Coutinho, SJ

PAUL COUTINHO, SJ



How Big Is Your God?

The Freedom to Experience the Divine

Includes a 15-minute DVD with Paul Coutinho

FOREWORD BY FR. RICHARD ROHR, OFM

"How big is your God? In other words, what limits have you placed upon God in your life? If your experience of the Divine has become static and predictable, or if you have a relationship with God that is small and confined, Fr. Paul Coutinho, invites you to believe that God is bigger – much bigger! This book will challenge one to grow deeper and stronger in faith by embracing a God whose love truly knows no bounds." – Loyola Press

The Wednesday Morning Book Study begins September 13th at 9:00am in the Parish Administration Building. The book will be studied over a 16-week period allowing us to prayerfully reflect on the chapters. Each class will offer a time for teaching, reflection, and sharing. A small breakfast is offered so please let the office know if you are attending, 248-542-8720.



A session for parents and godparents of infants and toddlers to prepare for your child's Baptism will take place on **Saturday, Sept. 9th from 1:30pm to 3:30pm in the parish administration building.** If

you wish to have your baby or toddler baptized, please call the parish office to register for this class.



PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful resolution to the Ukraine crisis.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship and from complications caused by catastrophic weather, earthquakes and disasters

...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

Ministry Schedule		
September 2/3, 2023		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	M Simmons	D Gray
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	M Simmons	D Gray
	R Pasiak	M Black
	D Tourville	M Waskowski
Greeters	L Proszkowski	R Juska-Svoba
	L Collins	J Turchin
	R Bertolini	B Turchin
	J Ballantine	T Lane
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of September 2/3		
Marie Sankuer		



Evangelical Service Corner

FOOD PANTRY

Our food Pantry has closed, but if you are in need of food, contact the parish office for information on local food pantries.

EYEGASSES & HEARING AID COLLECTION

We continue to collect hearing aids and eyeglasses for the Lions Club. Donation boxes are at the church entrances. Please do not leave eyeglass cases.

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY



Calling all crafters, sewers, and artistic adults and children: The Prayer Blanket ministry resumes on Thursday, September 28, 2023. We are in need of decorated prayer blanket squares to begin this year's ministry. There is a basket of blank squares by the Herbert Street entrance of the church under the crucifix. Please take as many as you wish to decorate. We need some children's decorated squares as well as adults. Squares can be decorated with permanent fabric markers, embroidered, needle point, or by sewing machine. Please leave a 1 inch boundary around all the edges for sewing purposes. The finished squares can be placed in the basket next to the basket of blank squares. Thank you and may God bless you for helping in this ministry.

MERCY IN ACTION COLLECTIONS BLESSING BAG & SNACK BAG ITEMS NEEDED Sept 2-24

Mercy In Action will be Saturday, October 14th. We are collecting the following items to be assembled in bags on Mercy in Action Day. Items can be put in baskets in church or brought to the parish office during the week.

Travel size: deodorant, brush, comb, Kleenex packet, shampoo & conditioner, toothpaste, tooth brush, tube socks, hand & feet warmers

Individual lunchbox sized: juice boxes, granola bars, cereal bars, crackers, cookies, fruit snacks



OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist
- Friday: First Friday
- Saturday: First Saturday
- Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPI

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

THE GIVING OF TREASURE

Question: Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

Answer: Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called “tithing,” in which 10 percent of a person’s goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, “The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities” (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice “tithing” in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

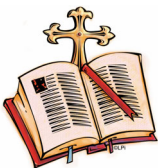
How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, “As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied graces” (4:10).

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MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, September 2, 2023 at 9am
Faith Formation Office in School

The men’s fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday at 9am in the Faith Formation Office of the school building. All men are welcome. No registration is required.



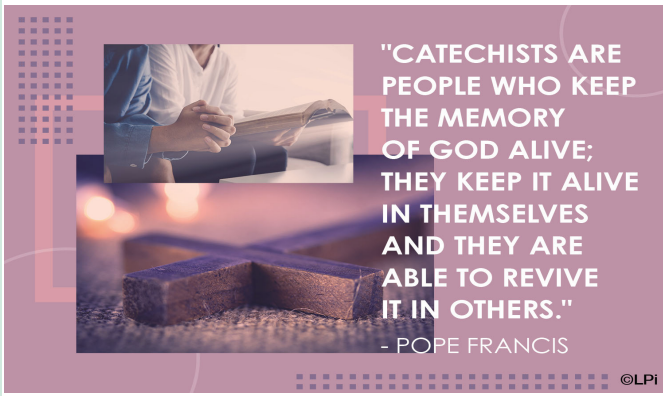
Children’s Faith Formation

Classes to begin September 25

Registration forms are available at our website or you can pick up a packet at the Parish Office

CATECHISTS NEEDED

Catechists are still needed for the 2023-24 Children’s Faith Formation Program. Please prayerfully consider whether God is calling you to this ministry. If you have questions or are interested in sharing your faith with our young people, please call Matthew Zinser, DRE at 646-369-8619, or email matthew@stvincentferrer.net.



Prayer for Students Returning to Classes

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for the gift of learning!
I want to grow closer to you in everything I do at school. In math and science, help me to see your beautiful plan in the world. Help me to discover new stories and values as I read and write. In arts and music, help me to be creative. In sports, help me to treat my teammates and my opponents fairly. Help me to learn new skills in technology.

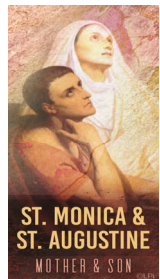
Jesus, you are the perfect teacher. Help me to listen with open ears, an open heart, and an open mind to all my teachers at school. Help me to treat my classmates with care, kindness, and respect.

Thank you, Jesus, for school!

Amen.

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GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...

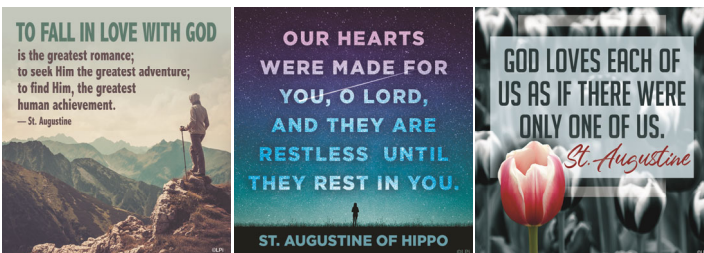
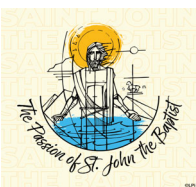


SAINT MONICA - AUGUST 27
SAINT AUGUSTINE - AUGUST 28

Holiness Runs in the Family

Raising faithful children is no easy task. For St. Monica, it seemed nearly impossible. Her husband wasn't Christian and often mocked her faith. Their son, Augustine, fell quickly into wild ways. He and his friends drank, stole, and caroused throughout town. Monica never stopped praying for Augustine, no matter how far he strayed. Augustine became swept up in heresy, a false form of Christianity. He lived with a mistress and had a child out of wedlock. All the while, Monica kept praying. Conversion came slowly to Augustine, but at age 32, he was finally baptized. Augustine would go on to become a priest, then bishop, then world-renowned theologian whose works have stood the test of time. May St. Monica and St. Augustine inspire us to never stop praying for our loved ones.

©LPi

**THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST -AUGUST 29**

"The Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist complements the Solemnity of his birth, celebrated on 24 June. John is the cousin of Jesus. He was conceived when his parents, Zechariah and Elizabeth, were elderly.

Both his parents were descendants of priestly families. John's birth took place about six months prior to that of Christ, and coincides with the Gospel episode of the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth. The liturgical celebration of his martyrdom, which occurred between 31 and 32, has ancient origins. It was already celebrated in France in the 5th century, and in Rome the following century and can be traced to the dedication of a small basilica that dates back to the 5th century where he was buried in Sabaste in Samaria. Tradition holds it was on this day that his head was found. Pope Innocent II had it later transferred to Rome to the Church of Saint Sylvester in Capite.

The king promptly dispatched an executioner with orders to bring back his head. He went off and beheaded him in the prison. He brought in the head on a platter and gave it to the girl. The girl in turn gave it to her mother. When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a tomb. (MK 6:17-29)"

For complete text visit: <https://www.vaticannews.va/en/liturgical-holidays/memorial-of-the-passion-of-saint-john-the-baptist.html>

**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 (livestreamed), 11:30am
4:00pm (Spanish-livestreamed), and 6:00pm

WEEKDAYS (Monday - Friday)
6:30am (livestreamed), 8:30am

St. Justin, St. Mary Magdalen

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

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

SATURDAY - 4:00pm - St. Justin

SUNDAY - 9:00am & 11:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

MON-WED & FRI- 9:00am - St. Justin

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

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"Who do you say that I am?" Let our whole lives be the answer, given not in words, but in action. If the world looked at your life, your decisions, your words, and your deeds, would they conclude that you are a person who believes Christ is the son of the living God?

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION**First Reading:** Is 22:19-23

The Lord condemns Shebna (the master of King Hezekiah's palace) for ignoring Isaiah's prophetic warning and gives to Eliakim the authority and honor that belonged to Shebna. What helps you stay focused on following God's commandments?

Second Reading: Rom 11:33-36

Paul celebrates the wisdom and knowledge — the mystery — of God. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

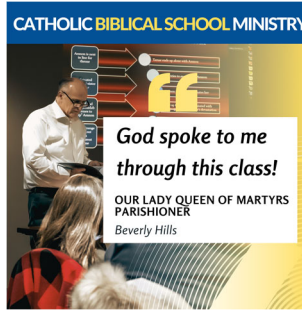
Gospel: Mt 16:13-20

In Peter confessing Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," Jesus gives him the authority to hold the keys to the kingdom of heaven. How do you use authority in your life?

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Prayer for Unity

Dear Lord,
 Your love knows no bounds, your compassion no borders. Your mercy extends to all people and places. Form our hearts after yours. Help us to open our doors, our minds, and ourselves to others. In the discomfort, be with us. Amen. ©LPi



What do the Old Testament Prophets have to do with our Catholic faith?

As Catholics we study the Old Testament in light of the New to see how it points to Christianity and our Catholic faith. We must also remember that the Old Testament

“retains its own intrinsic value” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, para. 129). Thus, we also always study the Prophetic Books in light of their own time as we explore the culture and meaning the prophets had for the original audience to whom they were sent to preach. The Prophets prompt us to consider the Covenant and how we are living it as a community and as individuals. Through their words, we are taking an intellectual journey and a deeply spiritual one. By letting God speak to our hearts through the Prophets, we can live the Covenant more fully in our lives.

Grow your faith this year through the Prophets with live, engaging lectures from Cathryn Torgerson, MA, of the Catholic Biblical School of Ministry. Weekly class meets from mid-September to mid-May in **Royal Oak (Shrine of the Little Flower) Wednesdays 1-3 pm** or **Beverly Hills (Our Lady Queen of Martyrs) Tuesdays 7-9 pm**. All are welcome. Scholarships granted to all who ask. Find out more at cbsmich.org or call/text 586-438-3085. Register by Sept 6th.



PUZZLE

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

Johh prophets Peter	Father blessed Elijah	Christ revealed Jeremiah
Jhno Eilhaj Jeemirha prepohts Preet Crsith bsseeld reevalde Fearth	J o h n _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	

From the Lighter Side...

An elderly woman was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. When she put the heavy package on the counter, the postal clerk asked, “Is there anything breakable in here?”
 “Just the Ten Commandments,” the lady replied. ©Lpi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the term used to describe the denial of God the Father’s existence ©LPi

Answer: Atheism

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 19/20				
Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	95		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 4,692.12	(600.88)	(382.94)
Energy	289.00	\$ 175.00	(114.00)	(331.53)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	.00	(1,115.39)	(7,798.37)
St. Vincent de Paul	n/a			
Mass Intentions	n/a			870.00
Special AOD Collections:	n/a			
Holy Days: Assumption	n/a	140.00		627.00
Budget deficit donations		225.00		2,477.00

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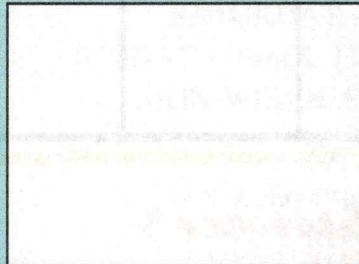
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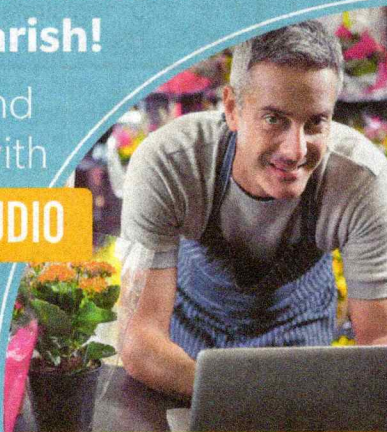
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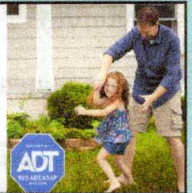
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