



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

OCTOBER 1, 2023 † TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

To live the Christian life as presented by Jesus is not easy. Sounds good on paper: God of love and mercy, ready forgiveness, endless love and patience, and the promise of eternal life. How can you go wrong? The fruit of the Cross has its cost.

Self-giving love is difficult in the best of circumstances. Self-giving love under the weight of sin, selfishness, desire for control, and the inclination for personal comfort can be easily dismissed as unreasonable or impossible. Consider the second reading today which conveys the reality of what we profess in Jesus as our Christ and God.

For the sake of our redemption, Jesus willingly rejects or sets aside his rightful glory as the Divine Son. He becomes fully human subject to the limitations of our human experience, short of sin. He totally empties himself becoming subject to the slavery of our sin. In obedience, he surrenders himself to a humiliating and torturous death on a Cross. A death that leads to his Resurrection and ours. His death brings death to our sin in the overpowering truth of Divine love and mercy.

Because of this, God the Father exalts him above every person and thing, that at the name of Jesus all in heaven, on earth, and under the earth will proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord to the glory of God.

The second reading helps us to see more clearly the message of the first reading and the gospel. If you have not yet realized and accepted that you are a weak and vulnerable human being along with the rest of us, today is a good day to wake up and smell the coffee. The humility of Jesus challenges us to the humble and honest admission of our sins and our essential need for redemption.

The first reading captures a common human disposition. "...The Lord's ways are not fair." God's response, "Is it my way that is unfair, or rather, are not your ways unfair?" The people had turned from God through idols and disordered living. They found themselves exiles in Babylon and whined about their painful circumstance.

Sin serves as its own punishment. Disordered ways of living create disordered consequences of life. God points out this reality through the respect given to humanity in the gift of free will. If you turn from the ways of virtue to the ways of sin, you will be lost. If you change your mind and turn from sin, returning to virtue, you will find life. As the essence of love, God will not force us to follow the Divine way. Mature, sincere love cannot be forced. We are free to choose.

To say God is not fair mimics the human inclination

to whine, blame, and project fault anywhere but where it belongs. Accusing another of the fault we know as our own disobeys the nature of love, which is the nature and truth of God.

The gospel conveys the same reality with a shocking twist that reveals the mercy of God. The parable is directed to the chief priests and the elders; those who hold others to the Laws of God, but they do not follow. It serves as a perfect image of free will as well as the wisdom to change one's mind and heart. The image reveals the necessity of personal responsibility. This was the same challenge in the first reading.

For centuries, Israel held sin as a matter of national conscience. God's 'punishment' was a national matter. God's message through the Prophet Ezekiel challenged the people to an individual conscience of personal responsibility. Each person, in their desire to honor and worship the Lord, must have a personal relationship with God that calls for honesty and humility. Sins can be confessed, repented, and forgiven, rather than hidden, blamed, or scapegoated onto another.

The first son in the gospel responds with a quick, "I will not go." Later, changing his mind, he does his father's will. The second son, just as quickly says, "Yes sir," but he did not go. Which of the two did the father's will? The first son. He changed his mind out of reverence for the relationship with his father and obeyed him. The second son, as an image of the chief priests and elders, pretended to obey but did not, and likely had no intention to obey his father.

Now the shock. The elders and priests are teachers of God's Law, but they do not practice it. They heard the words of John the Baptist but would not accept them. They saw the powerful words and deeds of Jesus but would not change their minds and believe in him. No personal relationship here. Merely lip service to God with little commitment to live the Divine way.

Jesus makes it clear. "Amen, I say to you, the tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you." Why? They knew they were sinners. They were honest about it. When they heard God's word in John, and realized the mercy of Jesus, they accepted it. They changed their minds and hearts and sought a personal relationship with Jesus. In his love, they were set free. The way of humility and self-giving is hard. The Cross of Jesus was not easy, but he did it for us out of perfect love. Be honest with yourself, and with God. Change your mind and surrender to the love of Christ. No blame, whining, or excuses needed.

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
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,
Friday 9-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
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

Faith Formation Office

248-398-1743

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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

MONDAY, October 2, 2023

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

TUESDAY, October 3, 2023

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

WEDNESDAY, October 4, 2023

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

THURSDAY, October 5, 2023

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

SATURDAY, October 7, 2023

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

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

Kathy Boguslawski† req. by Family

Jessica Magri (4th R.A.) req. by Kim Magri & Family

SUNDAY, October 8, 2023

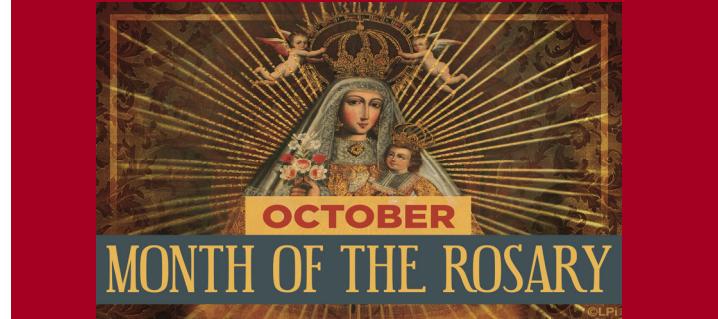
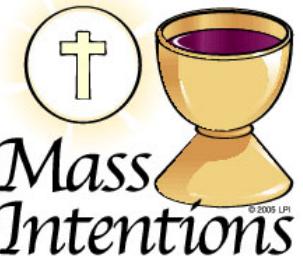
9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Mike Kapolka† req. by Wife & Son

Ernest Szwarc† req. by Linda Karolski

Living & Deceased Members & Families of Fr. Heary

Knights of Columbus Council



Readings for the Week

October 1, 2023

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| Sunday: | Ez 18:25-28/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9, (6a)/
Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32 |
| Monday: | Zec 8:1-8/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and
22-23/Mt 18:1-5, 10 |
| Tuesday: | Zec 8:20-23/Ps 87:1b-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk
9:51-56 |
| Wednesday: | Neh 2:1-8/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6/Lk
9:57-62 |
| Thursday: | Neh 8:1-4a, 5-6, 7b-12/Ps 19:8, 9, 10,
11/Lk 10:1-12 |
| Friday: | Bar 1:15-22/Ps 79:1b-2, 3-5, 8, 9/Lk
10:13-16 |
| Saturday: | Bar 4:5-12, 27-29/Ps 69:33-35, 36-37/
Lk 10:17-24 |
| Next Sunday: | Is 5:1-7/Ps 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-
20 (Isaiah 5:7a)/Phil 4:6-9/Mt 21:33-43 |



Right to Life - Life Chain Sunday, October 1, 2023

Thousands of participants across the United States will stand on the sidewalks in witness of their commitment to love and protect the preborn and their mothers. Right to Life-LIFE CHAIN challenges the community to be aware and to care.

Join others standing along 12 Mile in Warren east of Dequindre from 1pm to 2pm

For a list of other sites to witness at in Metro Detroit area visit: <http://milifespan.org/events/2022-35th-annual-life-chain/>

Prayer to Respect Life

Dear Lord,
What a gift You have given in every human life.
Inspire us to respect Your handiwork in every
human we encounter.
Embolden us to protect the dignity of the most
vulnerable members of society.
Amen.

©LPI

NEXT WEEKEND

Baby Shower OCTOBER 7/8



Return unwrapped gifts next weekend or drop off at Parish Office by Noon on Fri., Oct. 6th

ITEMS REQUESTED

diapers (all sizes)	shampoo
baby wipes	body wash
diaper bags	outfits
wash clothes	rattles
burp pads	onesies
quilts, blankets	socks
receiving blankets	booties
pacifiers	nail clipper sets
layettes	brush and comb sets
bibs	light-weight sleepers
bottles	

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

A life-long Catholic friend of mine recently mumbled to me, "I can't stand all these converts to the faith. They're always rocking the boat." It surprised me because he is dedicated to evangelization, and yet he struggles with openness to new Catholics. It made me realize how easily I close my heart to those whom I perceive to be outsiders who become new members of the Catholic community. Almost unconsciously I reduce the world to the categories of "us" and "them." The result is that meaningful community silently shrinks in my life. Don't we all do that to some degree?

This week Jesus' punchy parable about the two sons blows up that black and white world. One son said he wouldn't get to work, and then did. The other said he would, and then he did not. "**Which did the will of his father?**" asks the Lord. Like so many of us, in identifying the first as the answer, the religious authorities manifest hidden hypocrisy in refusing to follow Jesus. They — like us — intuit the correct path but simply won't do it. The tax collectors and prostitutes are indeed following Jesus and thereby getting to work in the kingdom of God. *Everyone* is called to do God's will regardless of the labels we may apply to them.

This week let's reject the convenient but damaging categories of "insiders" and "outsiders." Instead, let's embrace a grateful attitude that Jesus is calling fallen, weak, and broken men and women like you and me. Then we begin to see that the tax collectors and prostitutes aren't *them*. They are *us*. And Jesus wants all of us working in his boat, no matter the rocking.

— Father John Muir ©LPI

SAVE the DATE

International Exhibition MIRACLES OF THE EUCHARIST ACROSS THE WORLD

Devised and planned by Carlo Acutis



A Slideshow Presentation
on Eucharistic Miracles

Based on the Website of Blessed Carlo Acutis

Wednesday, October 11, at 7 pm

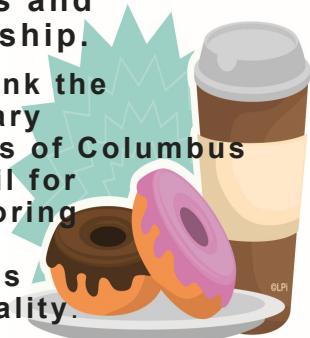
St. Vincent Ferrer Church

28353 Herbert St. Madison Hgts. 48071

Followed by a reception in the Social Hall

Join us after the
9:00am Mass next
Sunday for coffee,
donuts and
fellowship.

We thank the
Fr. Heary
Knights of Columbus
Council for
sponsoring
this
month's
hospitality.



MERCY IN ACTION Day of Service

Our parish is participating in a “day of service” that will be held throughout our Archdiocese on **Saturday, October 14, 2023**. Here at St. Vincent Ferrer, the time will be from 9am to 12 noon. The goal of this event is to witness to the power of God’s mercy.

Please join us for Opening Prayer and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in church beginning at 9am. Your prayerful presence, for as long as you can stay, will be a blessing.

Other activities for the whole family include: decorating snack bags to be filled, decorating prayer blanket squares, making fleece baby hats and filling blessing bags for the homeless. These activities begin at 9:30am and continue to 11:30am in the administration building. Rosary will be at 10 am on the porch of the administration building. At 11:30ish we will begin to move to church for closing prayer and Benediction.

Again, your participation will be essential to this effort. On the Day of Service, come and stay 20 mins., 30 mins. or as long as you wish and move freely about the many activities. To let us know where you plan to participate, sign up sheets are available in back of church.



MERCY IN ACTION

Saturday Oct. 14

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Adoration and Benediction at Noon	In church and online 9am to Noon
Rosary	Administration Bldg. Patio Begins 10am
Snack Bag Decorating and Filling	Administration Bldg. Begins 9:30am
Prayer Blanket Decorating	Administration Bldg. Begins 9:30am
Making Baby Hats	Administration Bldg. Begins 9:30am
Blessing Bag Items	Administration Bldg. Begins 9:30am
Prescription eye glasses and hearing aid collection	Collection boxes located at entrance doors of church
St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive	Truck open Sat. 9-12 & 3:15 to 4pm and Sun. 8:15-8:45am & after Mass until 10:45am

Evangelical Service Corner

MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION

October 7/8

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 foods from:

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

October 8

Our Parish Nurse, Angela, will be checking blood pressures after the 9am Mass at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality next Sunday.

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

**Jeanette Julian
Lorraine Kuczborski**



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

Pray for the Sick

Pray for...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding a peaceful solution to world tensions.
...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from economic hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, 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



St. Vincent Ferrer Parish

Invites you to a Catechesis for Adults & Youth
(ages 12 & up)

**COME AND LISTEN TO THE
ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE Good
NEWS OF JESUS CHRIST!**



When? Mondays & Thursdays
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm
Beginning on Monday, September 25th

Where? The Parish Administrative Building
28353 Herbert Street,
Madison Heights, MI 48071

Questions? Call Matthew at 646-369-8619
Free on-site babysitting available

God LOVES You!

Attend as many sessions as you are able thru Nov. 13th.

ALL ARE WELCOME

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

HISTORY OF THE ROSARY

Question: What is the history of the rosary? Where did this prayer come from?

Answer: Although a longstanding tradition attributed the rosary to Saint Dominic and the Dominican Order, the practice of using beads to count prayers predates the Dominicans by a few hundred years. In fact, it seems that what we now think of as the rosary (which means "garland of roses") was first developed by illiterate peasants and religious brothers and sisters as a way of offering 150 "Our Fathers" to replace the praying of the 150 psalms in the Divine Office.

The practice of reciting 150 Hail Marys (which was later subdivided into 15 decades of 10 Hail Marys) arose during the late Middle Ages. Devotion to the rosary began to flourish in the nineteenth century, especially as new devotions to Mary began to spread throughout Europe and the New World. An annual liturgical celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary was introduced into the Church calendar in 1573 and it has been observed on the date of October 7 since 1913.

In the apostolic letter On the Most Holy Rosary, Pope Saint John Paul II not only added five new mysteries to the traditional fifteen, but he also reminded Catholics that the rosary is, at its core, an opportunity to go deeper into the life of Jesus: "The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at heart a Christocentric prayer ... It has all the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety, of which it can be said to be a compendium. It is an echo of Mary's prayer, her perennial Magnificat".

©LPi

All women in our Family of Parishes are invited to participate in

Women's Sacred Journey

St. Vincent Ferrer has begun a group for women in the family of parishes who wish to gather to pray and share their personal reflections on Scripture passages.

The Scripture readings for each meeting will be provided.

Our next meeting will be
**Saturday, Oct 7, 2023 - 9am to 10:30am
in the Faith Formation Office in the school building.**

No registration or fee is required.

Upcoming meetings
October 7, 21 November 4, 18
December 2, 16, 30

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Ministry Schedule

October 7/8, 2023

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	J McCown	D Gray
Reader #2	M Kairis	L Yolkiewicz
EME	J McCown	A Goll
	R Pasiak	M Black
	M Kairis	P Miles
Greeters	L Proszkowski	M Bessler
	R Pasiak	B Gutowski
	T Pasiak	D Vu
	J Ballantine	T Lane

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of October 7/8
John & Bernie Turchin



**For he will command his
angels concerning you to guard
you in all your ways.**

PSALM 91:11

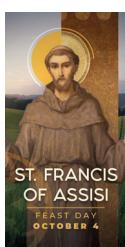
GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...

FEAST OF THE GUARDIAN ANGELS OCTOBER 2

It's good to know we're not alone. This October 2nd we celebrate the feast of our guardian angels. This ancient belief has roots in Scripture. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus implies the special guiding care of the angels. "See that you do not despise one of these little ones, for I say to you that their angels in heaven always look upon the face of my heavenly Father" (Matthew 18:10). Our guardian angels are given to us by God to protect and watch over us from the moment of our conception until the hour of death. Let's pray together to our own heavenly help:

Prayer to Your Guardian Angel

*Angel of God, my guardian dear, to whom God's love
commits me here, ever this day be at my side to light,
to guard, to rule, and to guide. Amen.*



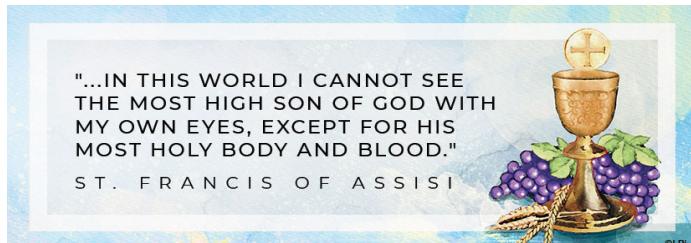
ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI FEAST DAY OCTOBER 4

St. Francis of Assisi (1181 – 1226) left a life of luxury for a life devoted to Christianity after reportedly hearing the voice of God, who commanded him to rebuild the Christian church and live in poverty. He founded the men's Order of Friars Minor, the women's Order of St.

Clare, the Third Order of St. Francis and the Custody of the Holy Land.

Born in 1181 in Italy, St. Francis of Assisi was renowned for drinking and partying as a youth. During a military expedition/battle between Assisi and Perugia, he was captured and imprisoned for ransom. He spent nearly a year in prison and began receiving visions from God. After his release from prison, St. Francis of Assisi claimed to have heard the voice of Christ, who told him to restore the Christian Church and live a life of poverty. As a result, St. Francis of Assisi abandoned his life of luxury and became a devotee of the Catholic faith.

Today, St. Francis of Assisi, known for his deep love of nature and animals, is the patron saint of the environment and animals. Each October, many animals are blessed on his feast day. ©LPI



MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY- 8:30am and
4:30pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY-7:30am, 9:30am (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

Announcements From the Parish Nurse

September was Prostate Cancer Awareness Month. Should you get screened for prostate cancer? The answer is different for each man. Talk to your doctor about your risk and learn about the possible benefits and harms of screening. If diagnosed early, many prostate cancers grow slowly and don't cause any health problems. If you decide not to get screened, you can change your mind later. You can get screened anytime you have a doctor's appointment.

October is breast cancer awareness month, an annual campaign to raise awareness about the impact of breast cancer. Wear pink in support of survivors, those we lost, and support the progress in breast cancer treatments to defeat breast cancer. You have the power to help yourself and others to pursue a healthy life.

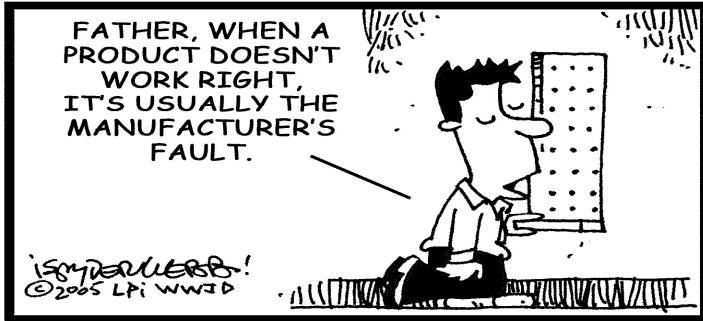
Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: A pontifical college is known by what other common name?

©LPI

Answer: A seminary



When making monetary donations to St. Vincent de Paul, make checks payable to St. Vincent de Paul
NOT
St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Ez 18:25-28

The prophet Ezekiel teaches that all people (the just and the wicked) are capable of doing evil as well as repenting. What do you think motivates anyone to repent?

Second Reading: Phil 2:1-11 or 2:1-5

Paul encourages the believers in Philippi to have the same attitude of humility as Jesus. Is humility one of your strengths?

Gospel: Mt 21:28-32

Jesus criticizes the religious leaders of Jerusalem for lacking self-reflection. How often do you examine your own behavior and choices? ©LPi

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God invites each of us to work in His vineyard, but it's our choice whether we "clock in" or stay home. Let's never fail to show up. It's the most important job we will ever have.

©LPi



Sunday:	26 th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
Monday:	The Holy Guardian Angels
Wednesday:	St. Francis of Assisi
Thursday:	Saint Faustina Kowalska, Virgin; Bl. Francis Xavier Seelos, Priest
Friday:	St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin
Saturday:	Our Lady of the Rosary
Next Sunday:	27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING SEPTEMBER 23/24

Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	99		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 4,994.66	(298.34)	(1,845.59)
Energy	289.00	\$ 265.00	(24.00)	(410.08)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	109.00	(1,006.39)	(12,572.51)
Special AOD Collection: Priest Retirement Fund	n/a	155.00		1,150.00
Mass Intentions	n/a	10.00		1,340.00
Special AOD Collections: Mission Appeal	n/a	1,995.00		2,115.00
Holy Days: All Saints	n/a			7.00
Budget deficit donations		145.00		3,403.00



248-585-7770

hopcroft1948@yahoo.com | hopcroftfuneraldirectors.com
31145 John R. Road • Madison Heights, MI 48071

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