

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

OCTOBER 8, 2023 † TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

In the fast pace of our consumerist culture, with the overload of flash point news and the manipulative influence of social media, it is difficult to sustain a sense of personal presence. Our present-day culture screams for our attention, vying for our political, economic, and social allegiance that makes it quite easy to lose a sense of personal presence that honors our true inner nature. Human consciousness in an age of artificial intelligence challenges our ability to be present to ourselves in the dignity of our spiritual nature. So much external stimulation and manipulation of social bias stresses our ability to focus on the active presence of God.

The ability to be present is foundational to what it means to be human. 'Presence' expresses the disciplined capacity to relate to others in meaningful ways that establishes critical human relationships. It implies a consciousness towards connectedness in the ability and desire to maturely relate to others. What makes this foundational to our human nature? God is the essence of presence. God is the perfect essence of presence, relationship, and connectedness. To be human is to be in relationship. To be in relationship is to be present to others in a way that bonds of love and unity are created. God is present in any relationship of love.

As we move the tabernacle into the sanctuary, I want to take this opportunity to reflect with you on the meaning of Real Presence. We are not a culture of presence. We are a culture that annoyingly demands our attention. Presence is the maturity of disciplined choice that opens us to relationships that form bonds of love and unity. Presence draws us to the presence of God within ourselves.

Real Presence is an act of faith that believes Jesus, now risen from the dead, is fully present to us in the form of bread and wine. Any human relationship is an act of faith that trusts the sincerity and integrity of shared presence. In the case of the Eucharist, we trust the words of Jesus who promised to be with us always. On the night of the Last Supper hours before his death, Jesus took bread and said, "This is my Body given for you." Taking a cup of wine Jesus said, "This is the cup of my Blood given for you." In the desire of Divine love, Jesus promises to be with us always. This Divine promise establishes an eternal relationship of love through the living presence of Christ who died for the sake of our redemption and who is now alive in all who seek him.

This could not be a more personal relationship. All that Christ is, in his human and Divine nature risen from the dead, is now fully present to us in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. This presence of Jesus is personal and unique to each of us in the relationship we have with the Lord. This presence is a bond of unitive love. With faith in the Real Presence as we receive Holy Communion, Jesus in his person enters into us. As we receive Jesus, he receives us into himself. This is the communion. It is not just one way. It is two ways. He comes to us and dwells in us. He receives us into himself, and we dwell in him. He does not simply 'take' us. We, in our love and desire to receive him, are invited to consciously give ourselves over to Jesus. This is the holy communion of our mutual sharing in faith-filled love.

This is the fullness of what presence means in the reception of communion. It is the core of our faith because it is the core of who we are in God and who God is in us through the dying and rising of Jesus. Jesus is always fully present and longing to be received into us. The challenge to prepare in a conscious and reverent way to not only receive Jesus but also to offer ourselves to him. Presence takes two. Communion in the Eucharist is the union of the Lover and the beloved.

Part of the challenge is to learn to be present to ourselves. This calls for a focused discipline of faith and trust in God and a sincere desire to personally share in the life of the Lord Jesus. As a person in Christ how do I learn to be present to myself? Do I believe and trust in God's love for me? In this love, do I love and accept myself as I am? Am I at home in my own skin with a positive sense of personal identity as a person of love? Am I free from binding anger, resentment, unforgiveness, or overly dependent on the culture? Can I forgive myself? Can I allow Jesus to forgive me?

Do I have a mature capacity for relationships with others that sow bonds of love, connectedness, and Christian unity? Accepting my limitations, weakness, and failures, can I surrender to the redemption of Christ and seek to be an agent of Christ in the world?

We all know the bonds of love and the presence of goodness they offer us. Jesus, in the Holy Eucharist is the source, the core, the origin of every bond of love. Be present to Jesus and receive him with love. With love surrender yourself into him.

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 9, 2023

8:00am Mass: Jacquelyn Pantano† req. by Family

TUESDAY, October 10, 2023

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Deanna reg. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, October 11, 2023

8:00am Mass: Christopher Hudy (Special Intention) req. by Mom THURSDAY, October 12, 2023

8:00am Mass: Deceased parishioners who did not have a Funeral Mass.

Intentions

SATURDAY, October 14, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, October 15, 2023

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Ernest Szward† req. by Immaculata Rosary Group

Clarice Kovala† req. by Corrine McCarthy Barbara Merchel† req. by Paula Moran



"Say the rosary every day to bring peace to the world and the end of the war."

Our Lady of the rosary to the three children at Fatima

Readings for the Week

October 8, 2023

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

Monday: Jon 1:1—2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk

10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/ Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8/Lk

10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10/Lk

11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk

11:5-13

Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-

9/Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: J1 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk

11:27-28

Next Sunday: Is 25:6-10a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 6cd)/

Phil 4:12-14, 19-20/Mt 22:1-14 or

22:1-10

This Wednesday All Are Welcome

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

27th

violent increa Prophe with t

Jesus' parables are much stranger than most people realize. This week is an attention-getting example. He tells the religious leaders a parable about a completely absurd situation. Blood-thirsty and insane tenants violently abuse and kill the servants of their landlord. Inexplicably, the owner keeps sending them more victims of increasing value — up to and including his own son. Weird.

Usually, we hear this parable and assume it's an allegory: Jesus is the murdered son, the servants the prophets, etc. Fair enough. But notice — and here is where the weirdness deepens — Jesus seems to *disagree* with the Pharisees' interpretation that the landowner should and will punish the inheritance-obsessed murderers. So, is Jesus praising the psychotic and greedy murderers?! You can imagine the furrowed brows and deriding laughter as the scoffing crowd shuffles away.

If we stay with this tough parable, perhaps this truth emerges: God wants us to have an over-the-top obsession with a totally undeserved inheritance. Of course, we are forbidden to use violence. But the parable's violence gets our attention because it highlights the crazy goodness of the landowner. Jesus reveals that God is not merely in the business of rewarding the good and punishing the bad. He is playing a much stranger game — one marked by a kind of over-the-top mercy, a breathtaking giving of what is not deserved. What would our week look like if we embraced this kind of desire for God's kingdom on earth, even if others think we're nuts? This week let's seek God's kingdom with a passionate confidence in God's desire to give the good things we don't deserve.

NEXT SATURDAY 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.



Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Adoration and Benediction at Noon

Rosary

Snack Bag Decorating and Filling

Prayer Blanket Decorating

Making Baby Hats

Blessing Bag Items

Prescription eye glasses and hearing aid collection

St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Drive

In church and online 9am to Noon

Administration Bldg. Patio Begins 10am

Administration Bldg. Begins 9:30am Administration Bldg. Begins 9:30am

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Administration Bldg. Begins 9:30am

Administration Bldg. Begins 9:30am

Collection boxes located at entrance doors of church

Truck open Sat. 9-12 & 3:15 to 4pm and Sun. 8:15-8:45am & after Mass until 10:45am

Evangelical Service Corner

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING

Tuesday, October 10, 2023

St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:30pm in church. Those interested in joining this ministry are welcome.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE FALL CAMPAIGN

September 27 to November 5, 2023

Those able to pray to save babies outside Planned Parenthood at 23338 Woodward in Ferndale can sign up for vigil hours at https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/vigil-hours-signup.aspx?l_id=583

If you are unable to pray outside, offer rosaries, Masses and hours of Adoration whenever you are able. Abortion is legal in the state of Michigan through all stages of pregnancy. Pray for God's mercy and protection of these most vulnerable human beings.

October 10, 2023 is World Mental Health Day

People of all ages have mental health concerns from time to time. The key is to recognize when you yourself need help or to recognize that need in those closest to you. Everyone is encouraged to wear yellow in honor of the day to show everyone, that we all have mental health needs and people are not alone if they are dealing with overwhelming feelings.

Mental Distress in Older Adults

Many older adults can suffer with mental distress associated with limitations in daily activities, physical impairments, grief following the loss of a loved one, caregiving or challenging living situations, or untreated mental illness. About 25% of adults aged 65 or older experience some type of mental health problems not associated with normal aging. Social ties are one of the strongest predictors of well-being, yet 12% of adults report they "rarely" or "never" received the social and emotional support they needed. One reason this occurs is that signs of distress are brushed off as normal aging.

Mental health distress is associated with unhealthy behaviors that can interfere with self-care and decrease recovery from illness. For example, older adults with distress are <u>less</u> likely than those with no distress to be nonsmokers, eat fruits and vegetables daily, and participate in physical activity during an average week.

We can help identify older adults with mental distress by periodically asking them if they are experiencing any stress, depression, or problems with their emotions. We can also help them recognize any unusual increase in stress or sadness and help them understand that these symptoms are not a "normal part of aging", There are interventions in collaboration with your doctor and social support that can reduce depressive symptoms, functional impairments, and improve quality of life.

Remember there are people who care, God loves you, let someone know how you feel. God bless you.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse



SHMS SEMINARIANS HALLOWEEN OUTREACH Collecting October 14th to 22nd

It's that time of the year again! Halloween is just around the corner, and Sacred Heart Major Seminary needs your help. Each year the seminary community opens their doors and their hearts to over 2000 children from the surrounding Detroit neighborhood so that the kids can have a fun and safe place to play games and trick-or-treat. But they need your help to make this year a success! They are asking for donations of Halloween candy that will then be passed out to the many kids.

Place candy donations in the marked basket in back of church or drop off at Parish Office during week. Donations accepted thru Sunday, Oct. 22nd.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God's kingdom is open to anyone who will produce its fruit. He offers it to every single one of us. We must be ready to bring forward the goodness of God into each and every day.



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, floods, 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

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

PRIESTS & MARRIAGE COUNSELING

Question: How can a priest counsel people about marriage when he has never been married?

Answer: If a marriage counselor is in a bad marriage does that mean that he or she will be a bad counselor? If one's counseling ability depended upon first-hand experience, would that require counselors to be perfect before they can help others? Obviously not. Some of the skills necessary to help others do come out of personal life experience. But you don't need personal, first-hand experience in order to understand something. We would not think that a doctor, who is an oncologist, would not be able to treat cancer because he himself has never been sick. We also would not expect every doctor to treat cancer. It is the same with priests.

Essentially marriage is a relationship and we've all been involved in different kinds of relationships: in our family, with our friends, and with God. And so counseling people about marriage is really helping them to look at the issues that really are part of their relationship, finding ways to better understand themselves in relationship to one another and in relationship to God. In many ways a priest's training, background, and experience, as well as his personal knowledge of many different relationships in families and couples, gives him a broad background from which to draw upon. Most priests are quite capable of helping couples prepare for marriage and discussing the issues that are important as they begin their life together. And they do not do it alone. With the help of married couples and specially trained counselors, most parishes offer a very good preparation for the sacrament of marriage.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Is 5:1-7

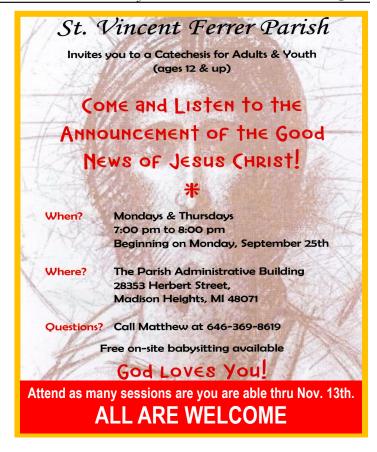
The prophet Isaiah uses the metaphor of a vineyard to express God's anger with Israel. How do you communicate your displeasure with a loved one?

Second Reading: Phil 4:6-9

Paul teaches the Philippians that prayer and a positive attitude is key to settling our anxious hearts and minds. What have you been anxious about this week that using Paul's advice could help?

Gospel: Mt 21:33-43

In the parable of the tenants, Jesus harshly criticizes the chief priests and elders of Jerusalem and traps them with their own judgment. How well do you accept legitimate criticism?

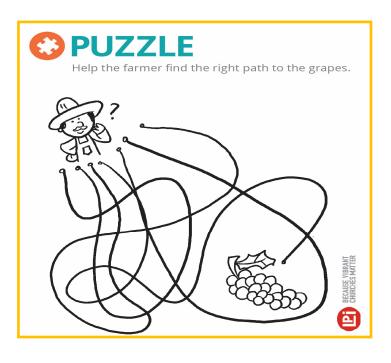


MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, October 14, 2023 at 9am Faith Formation Office in School

The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome. No registration is required.





GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...



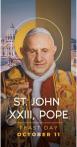
St. Dennis - October 9

St. Dennis (St. Denis) was born in Italy in the 3rd century. In 250 A.D. he was ordained a bishop and was sent to Gaul (France) with two companions. The three prepared to

enter Paris and establish one of the first. Christian communities in France. They were met with opposition. According to St. Gregory of Tours, their preaching was so effective that they were arrested imprisoned and eventually beheaded. Their bodies were thrown in the Seine River, but were immediately rescued and properly buried. A chapel was then built over their tomb, around which arose the famous Abbey of St. Dennis.

However, during the seventh century, St. Dennis of Paris was accidentally confused with St. Dennis of Athens. As a result, the following legend arose: Pope Clement I sent him to Parish to establish a Christian community, where he met with much opposition. The Parisians tried to put him to death by wild beasts, fire and even crucifixion. Finally he was beheaded. The dead body of St. Dennis then rose on its feet and, led by and angel, walked two miles from Montmartre to where the abbey church of St. Dennis of Paris is now located, carrying his head in his hands surrounded by singing angels. He was buried there.

St. Dennis is the patron saint of Paris, France, frenzy, headaches, hydrophobia, rabies and the possessed.



SAINT JOHN XXIII, POPE | OCTOBER 11

Saint John XXIII was born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli on November 25, 1881, in a small village in Italy. He was ordained in 1904 and later earned a doctorate in canon law. During World War I he served as a stretcher-bearer and chaplain for the Italian army. Beginning in 1925 he served as a Vatican diplomat, first in Bulgaria, then in Greece and Turkey. From 1935 through the Second World War he

helped save thousands of Jewish people. In 1944 he was named papal nuncio to France. He was named cardinal and appointed patriarch of Venice in 1953. A quiet pastoral life passing into retirement, however, was not in God's plan for the saint.

Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli was elected Pope in 1958 and took the name John. His papacy was short, but full of action. He transformed the Vatican, calling for openness, a spirit of ecumenism, and the setting aside of politics. He called the Second Vatican Council in the fall of 1962, the first meeting of its kind in almost a century, setting the agenda to work for the spiritual regeneration of the Church. His efforts changed the face of the Catholic Church. At the same time he worked diligently and publicly to ease tensions during the Cuban missile crisis, pleading with leaders for the end of the Cold War.

Saint John XXIII's kindness, sense of pastoral care, and works of reconciliation and peacemaking made him beloved not only to Catholics but to people around the world. He died on June 3, 1963. He was beatified in 2000 by St. John Paul II, and canonized by Pope Francis in 2014.



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

Ministry Schedule

October 14/15, 2023

00.00001 14/10, 2020		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Simmons	R Grant
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	P Allen
	R Pasiak	R Grant
	M Simmons	T Karolski
Greeters	R Pasiak	N Oparka
	T Pasiak	T Oparka
	J Ballantine	D Vu
	L Proszkowski	P Miles

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of October 14/15
Bernadette Gutowski

Prayer when Persecuted

Dear Lord,

When we encounter those who disrespect our faith, at school, at work, in our communities, give to us Your grace. Root Your truth deeply into our hearts, so that we can speak and act and rest in You. Amen. ©LPi

The Gift that Gives Back

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

It never ceases to amaze me how often I fall into the trap and end up grumbling about the greatest gifts in my life. A husband, children, a life that is full almost to bursting: these are things for which I once begged God. These are the jewels in the crown of my life.

Oh, but the children need care. Constant care. And a husband — a real flesh-and-blood creation of God, entrusted to me by God, to help me be holy and relying on me for holiness in turn — well, that relationship is a lot of work, isn't it? And a "full life" — I laugh to think of it, and then I blush with shame, because I admit sometimes, I do yearn for a life that is a little less ... full. A full life can leave you awfully tired at the end of the day.

I would imagine it's the same for everyone, no matter your life circumstances or vocation. Your greatest blessings are also those things that require much of you, more than you imagined you would ever be asked to give. The biggest jewels make the crown heavy.

But if we had any of these gifts without the effort it takes to maintain them, would they be half as sweet?

In this same way, the work of the vineyard is opened to us through baptism; we are given the chance to produce fruit for the kingdom. It's a chance we never dared to dream would be given to us.

It's a gift. But just like with any gift worth having, it requires effort. Upkeep. Work.

It requires that we give in return. And it's the giving that somehow, mystically, transforms us. It's the giving that turns into the gift itself.

"...the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people that will produce its fruit."

— Matthew 21:43 ©LPi



Sunday: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Monday: Columbus Day; St. Denis, Bishop,

and Companions, Martyrs; St.

John Leonardi, Priest St. John XXIII, Pope

Wednesday: St. John XXIII, Pope Saturday: St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr Next Sunday: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi





CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: What does an anchor symbolize in Catholicism? ©LPi

yuswet: Yu suchor symbolizes hope.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING SEPT. 30/OCT. 1 Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24 Budgeted Actual Over/Under YTD Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants 245 121 Offertory (including loose cash) \$ 5,293.00 \$5,629.31 336.31 (1,509.28)289.00 Energy \$193.00 (96.00)(506.08)Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles \$ 1,115.39 429.00 (782.39)(13,354.90)Holy Days: All Souls 57.00 57.00 n/a Mass Intentions 50.00 1,390.00 n/a Special AOD Collections: Mission Appeal 3,235.00 5,350.00 n/a Holy Days: All Saints 7.00 n/a Budget deficit donations 3,548.00 135.00



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Dennis C. Swanson FUNERAL DIRECTOR

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