



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

OCTOBER 29, 2023 † THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

The greater causes of human unhappiness, separation, division, and wars are most often caused by competition for power and control. Why is that? How is it that, in the larger view of human existence, petty things can create lifelong pain and division between those who would otherwise be close friends or loving relatives?

Last week, we reflected on Jesus as the truth of God, and how Jesus had to defend himself against the competition and jealousy of the Pharisees. On the largest level, the answer is rooted in the reality of sin through the disobedience of humanity against the truth of Divine Love. Sin causes separation and division between and among peoples. This is the case in any personal family unit, social communities, cities, states, nations, and world. Sin wounds the fabric of relationships on every level distorting the truth of God and the unity and oneness that God intends. As a result, human relationships suffer on every level of society with grave consequences.

Today's gospel is another expression of the same tension. It reflects the nature of wounded and insecure people who go to great lengths to defend and protect their perceived sense of power and control. Once again, the argument is a petty one to trip up Jesus who is seen as a threat to the established religious/social power structure. It could sound like teenage jealousy over who gets to date the cutest boy or the prettiest girl. "Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?"

This is another attempt to shame and discredit Jesus in an argument that would threaten his credibility. A weak attempt at best against the One who is the truth of Divine love. Jesus avoids the pitfall on two levels. First, and most importantly, Jesus reveals the core truth and purpose of the Ten Commandments that have since been fashioned into 614 Laws. Jesus responds, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all you soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. The whole Law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

Secondly, Jesus makes it clear that all the other laws lack meaning or influence without the first and greatest commandments of loving God and loving one's neighbor as oneself. The scholar of the Law could only agree and walk away. This was an argument he could not defend. Jesus spoke undeniable truth.

How do we learn to love our neighbor if we have not learned to love ourselves? Resisting and rejecting my neighbor is only a projection of how I may be resisting and rejecting myself. It is not a mystery or a secret that,

because of sin, we are wounded human beings trying to defend ourselves against those who threaten our self-claimed power or control. The sooner we admit this very human reality, the sooner we will find peace in ourselves and improve our relationships with others.

To love our self will teach us how to love God. True or mature love of self will reveal the presence and the love of God within us. The love of self, in its truest form, is the love of God in us. This is not something we achieve by our own efforts. It is something we discover or awaken to; I can love myself because I have come to realize and accept that God loves me just as I am. If the love I have for myself is possession or performance based, that love will waver with the next best possession or the next best compliment, or not. This love is falsely created.

True love of self can only come from God who is the source and Giver of all love. Jesus is the perfect example. Jesus loved himself fully in the love of his Father. Secure in the Father's love, Jesus could readily deflect the petty arguments against him, as well as accepting a death powerful enough to redeem the world. Free from sin, Jesus had no inner division, no inner wounds, no hidden resentment, or jealousy he needed to hide or defend. Jesus' love for himself was true and undivided in the surety of the Father's love. He was free to love freely.

This is the wisdom of the Jewish Shema Jesus quoted to the Pharisee/scholar. To know, accept, and trust the love of God will lead to the knowledge, acceptance, and love of self. Outside of trusting faith, the tension of sin will lead toward competition and power games with our neighbors who we should otherwise be loving. The love of God, love of self, and love of neighbor are all the same movement. Rejection, hatred, prejudice, and judgment only serve division.

God knows and understands the challenges we face, the wounds we carry, and the sin that leans against us. The love of self is a work of faith in the gift of God's grace. Grace comes in the wisdom and the freedom of forgiveness practiced by Jesus. Forgiving yourself, God, and others is a primary movement that plants the seeds of self-love. To resist the grace and offer of forgiveness is to waste precious energy in competition against yourself and others. 'Others' can be the person right next to you or the enemy you perceive 'out there' with judgment and fear. Surrendering to the love of God will reveal a self-love free of power games with the possibility of new relationships with neighbors of every kind.

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,
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 30, 2023

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

TUESDAY, October 31, 2023

8:00am Mass: Deanna's Intentions
req. by Mom

WEDNESDAY, November 1, 2023

ALL SAINTS DAY

8:00am Mass: Virga and Miceli Deceased Family
Members req. by Virga Family

7:00pm Mass: Deceased Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

THURSDAY, November 2, 2023 ALL SOULS DAY

8:00am Mass: Milda Svoba Walters (8th R.A.) req. by
Regina Juska-Svoba

SATURDAY, November 4, 2023

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom
Paul Marion, Jr.† req. by Dolores Bail

SUNDAY, November 5, 2023

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Leonard Vertel† (19th R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski
Fred Karolski† (2nd R.A.) req. by Linda Karolski
Mike Kapolka† req. by Wife & Son
Joyce & Jim Palmer† req. by Camille Keyes
Joseph & Maria Thuy req. by Family



NOVEMBER

Month of
Remembrance



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Readings for the Week

October 29, 2023

Sunday: Ex 22:20-26/Ps 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
(2)/1 Thes 1:5c-10/Mt 22:34-40

Monday: Rom 8:12-17/Ps 68:2 and 4, 6-7ab, 20-21/Lk 13:10-17

Tuesday: Rom 8:18-25/Ps 126:1b-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6/Lk 13:18-21

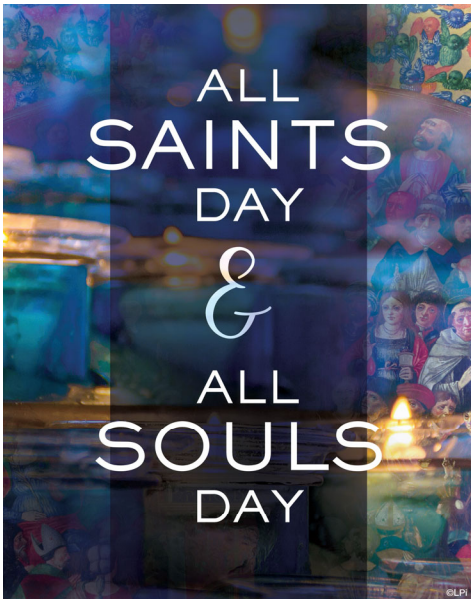
Wednesday: Rv 7:2-4, 9-14/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/1 Jn 3:1-3/Mt 5:1-12a

Thursday: Wis 4:7-14/Ps 25:6, and 7b, 17-18, 20-21/Rom 5:17-21/Mt 11:25-30

Friday: Rom 9:1-5/Ps 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20/Lk 14:1-6

Saturday: Rom 11:1-2a, 11-12, 25-29/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 17-18/Lk 14:1, 7-11

Next Sunday: Mal 1:14b—2:2b, 8-10/Ps 131:1, 2, 3/1 Thes 2:7b-9, 13/Mt 23:1-12



**HOLY DAY
MASSES**

ALL SAINTS - November 1
8:00am and 7:00pm

ALL SOULS - November 2
8:00am

**NOTE: Mass of Remembrance for
Deceased of our parish**
Tuesday, November 7th - 7:00pm

All Saints Day

I heard a story the other day of a very holy man. The commentator said, "We shouldn't call him a saint. If we sanctify him, we don't have to imitate him." This is precisely the opposite of the meaning of saints! Throughout the Church's history, we have honored saints, but not to set them apart. We honor saints to remind us what is possible for a person who loves God. The saints have stories as varied as our own. We have bishops, martyrs, teachers, doctors, former thieves and prostitutes, politicians and kings, soldiers and pacifists, single mothers, desert hermits. The list goes on! On this Solemnity of All Saints, we remember this garden of holiness, rich with diverse flowerings of a holy life. When you look at the life of your favorite saint, ask yourself, "How can I imitate this person? What is possible for me when I love God?"

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All Souls

Question:


November is called the month of All Souls. More recently, it has been called the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed. Can you tell us more about this feast and the remembrances of this month?

Answer:

November 2nd, the Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed, dovetails with November 1st, the feast of All Saints. The saints, our models of Christian living, are one with God in heaven. All the faithful departed are those who have died with hope and trust in a loving God who calls us to greater growth and development, even beyond death. This growth and development occurs in a state of being that we have traditionally called purgatory.

While the Western Church has emphasized the cleansing and purifying nature of purgatory, the Eastern Orthodox Church has emphasized the growth and development aspect of it. Today, belief in purgatory allows one who has died in Christ to continue growing and developing before meeting God face to face. God continually invites communion with these loved ones, but some feel the need to continue growing and developing before entering into full communion with God.

These November feasts vividly remind us of the rich reality known as the communion of saints. This belief stresses the strong affirmation that the church is always one in Christ. Death does not sever any of the bonds that unite us in Christ. That is why it is a fitting practice to pray for the dead and to ask them to pray for us. Just as we do that for each other when we are alive, so, too, do we continue that bond and concern for each other even beyond death.



To be sure that Christmas donations are properly credited for Christmas, please do not submit them until after December 8th.

Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, NOV. 4 - 9:00AM

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
SVF SCHOOL BLDG.**



All women in our Family of Parishes are invited to join other women to pray and reflect on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required. .



Give Thanks to the Lord
Help us provide a hearty Thanksgiving Dinner to a local family!
Non-Perishable Food Collection - Nov. 4 - 19
FOOD ITEMS CAN BE REGULAR OR SUGAR FREE

Stuffing	Olives
Gravy	Canned Vegetables
Rice	Yams
Applesauce	Soups
Cranberry Sauce	Canned Fruit
Pickles	Cookies

Monetary donations can be made electronically at our website by clicking on line giving button (under the donations tab) and choosing Thanksgiving Baskets. Envelopes with monetary donations should be marked "Thanksgiving baskets" and left in collection baskets in church or brought to the Parish Office.



Saturday, December 9th 4:00pm
Fr. John's 40th Anniversary of Ordination & Vocations Dinner

Join in celebrating Fr. John's 40th Anniversary of Ordination as a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit.
MASS 4:00PM IN CHURCH
DINNER 5:30PM IN SOCIAL HALL

Menu: country baked chicken, breaded pork cutlets, mostaccioli, mashed potatoes, salad, rolls, veggies, hors d'oeuvres, dessert and beverages

Following dinner guests will be entertained by famed Catholic illusionist, Giancarlo Bernini, who appeared on Penn & Teller's "Fool Us". He has astounded international audiences with an incredible show experience and has appeared on multiple national television programs.

Tickets: \$35 per person available next weekend.
No tickets available at the door.

If you are aware of a struggling family that would appreciate a Thanksgiving food basket, please contact the parish office at 248-542-8720.

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In our secularized culture, we all struggle with belief in God, at least to some degree. An atheist man named Robert Bridges once wrote to his friend, the Jesuit poet Gerard Manley Hopkins, asking how he could possibly learn to believe in God. Hopkins pithily responded: "Give alms." Would that help someone tempted by atheism today, like you and me?

I think so, and here's why. This week Jesus speaks of love for God and neighbor. These dual commands were nothing new when Jesus used them to sum up the Jewish law. What is new is the way he links them together in mutual dependency. In Jesus, God and man have become one. Human-love and God-love are now inseparably married forever.

The newness of the God-man means that there is now a permanently counter-intuitive way into the knowledge and love of God: love of our neighbor. To experience charity is to know God. That's what Hopkins was getting at for his friend. How we treat our fellow human beings is inseparable from faith in God. Do you want to have a stronger sense of God's loving presence and goodness? Commit to serving someone today and this week. Love him or her. Don't wait for love for God to appear in your heart before loving others. Jesus has united divine and human love. If you want to believe more in God, give alms.

- Father John Muir ©LPi



.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

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**

SACRAMENTAL SEAL

Question:

What is a sacramental seal and where did it come from?

Answer:

Leaving more than just a memory, there are some events in our life that are truly transforming, making us different people. The same thing can be said of spiritual things, especially sacraments. A sacramental seal or character is a theological concept to describe the life-changing and permanent effect of three sacraments on the person: baptism, confirmation, and holy orders. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that these sacraments confer a seal "by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions. This configuration to Christ and the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is indelible" (#1121).

Once we receive these sacraments, we are forever changed. It's a spiritual "point of no return" whereby we take a step forward in our faith journey. We are marked as people of faith, as those who have received the Spirit and as those called to serve in ordained ministry. That is why these sacraments are received only once. The direction is set, the choice is made, and we are called by God to be his people. Nothing can change that, not even our own sinfulness.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Ex 22:20-26

We hear today some of the laws that Moses received from God on Mount Sinai. Namely, God's expectation that we show compassion for those most vulnerable in society. How could you show care for those in need this week?

Second Reading: 1 Thes 1:5c-10

Paul praised the Thessalonians for being role models of the faith for the surrounding regions of Achaia and Macedonia. How do you model your faith to family and friends?

Gospel: Mt 22:34-40

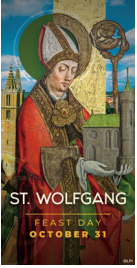
For Jesus, love of God and love of neighbor and self are the most important commandments. Which of these commandments do you do best?

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Tuesday: All Hallow's Eve
- Wednesday: All Saints
- Thursday: All Souls' Day
- Friday: St. Martin de Porres, Religious
- Saturday: St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
- Next Sunday: 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time;
 Daylight Saving Time Ends;
 National Vocation Awareness Week

Ministry Schedule		
November 4/5, 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	M Waskowski
Greeters	L Proszkowski	R Juska-Svoba
	R Pasiak	B Gutowski
	T Pasiak	D Vu
	J Ballantine	T Lane
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of November 4/5		
Frank & Nina Virga		

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS...

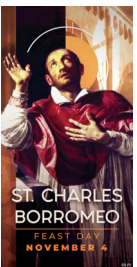


ST. WOLFGANG | OCTOBER 31

St. Wolfgang of Ratisbon (now Regensburg) was born around 934 in Swabia, Germany. The son of a wealthy family, he was tutored in the home before he studied at the Monastery of Reichenau and Wurtzburg. In 956 he elected to go to Trier with his friend, Henry, who was appointed archbishop there. Wolfgang served as a teacher in the cathedral school at Trier.

After his friend's death, he became a Benedictine monk joining a monastery in Augsburg. There he led the school which flourished under his hand and was ordained in 968. In 972 he was sent to be a missionary to the pagan Magyar tribes (Hungarian clans). The Christmas of 972 he was appointed Bishop of Regensburg, near Munich, by Emperor Otto II, the post he would hold until his death.

The new Bishop continued to wear his Benedictine habit and held to the austerities of monastic life. He preached and worked at reform and took such care of the poor he was called "the Great Almoner." The saint also tutored the future Holy Roman Emperor, St. Henry II. Saint Wolfgang died in 994 while traveling Austria, in the town of Puppington near Linz. He was canonized in 1052.



ST. CHARLES BORROMEO | NOVEMBER 4

St. Charles Borromeo (1538 - 1584) is most known for living during the time of the Protestant Reformation and helped influence reform of the whole Church during the final years of the Council of Trent.

Although St. Charles Borromeo belonged to nobility, he greatly desired to serve the Church. In 1559, his uncle was elected Pope Pius IV. He made Charles cardinal-deacon and administrator of the Archdiocese of Milan. At the time, Charles was a simple student, but because of his intellectual qualities, he was assigned several important offices connected with the Vatican. After the death of his brother, he decided to become a priest and was ordained at age 25. Soon after he became bishop of Milan.

Quietly working behind the scenes, St. Charles Borromeo is credited with keeping the Council of Trent in session and encouraging the pope to renew the Council in 1562, after its 10-year suspension. Afterwards, he devoted his time to serving in the Archdiocese of Milan.

Among his most important actions during his life, St. Charles Borromeo established seminaries, colleges, and communities for the education of candidates for holy orders. His emphasis on Catholic learning greatly increased the preparation of men for the priesthood and benefited their congregations. He died at the age of 46.

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27 Words That Matter

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

One of the quickest things you learn as a parent is how dangerous it is to explain too much, especially when your kid is teetering on the brink of a rebellion. The fewer words you use, the more power they have. A kid who is about to be carried away by their feelings needs to be brought back to earth with a tether made of short, succinct directions.

There are a lot of similarities between the Pharisees of Scripture and a toddler on the edge of a meltdown. Stay with me — this will make sense, I promise. Think about it: both toddlers and Pharisees have lots of feelings and lots of opinions. Both toddlers and Pharisees think you're out to get them. Both toddlers and Pharisees keep trying to trick you to get what they *think* they want.

A thorough Google search informs me that there are about 80,000 words in the Torah. Eighty-thousand words, and Jesus can boil it all down to 27: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It doesn't make the excess words untrue; it doesn't even make them unnecessary. Sometimes I need the long explanation, the full and complete picture.

Because sometimes, as much as I hate to admit it, I act like both a toddler and a Pharisee. I am carried away by my feelings. I don't trust God. I am about to bolt.

When that happens, I need to be told in short and simple terms what my salvation means. I need a tether made of short, succinct directions.

"The whole law and the prophets depend on these two commandments." — Matthew 22:40

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA JUST FOR FUN

Question: What’s the official name for the Dominican Order?

©LPi

Answer: The Order of Preachers

You’re invited to the...



WHEN

Wednesday, November 8, 2023

WHERE

Michigan State Capitol Steps
100 N. Capitol Ave.,
Lansing, MI 48933

SCHEDULE

11:00 am

MI March for Life Rally
at Statehouse Steps

12:00 pm

MI March for Life



**FOR MORE INFO & FAQs,
VISIT MI.MarchForLife.org
<https://rtl.org/event/march/>**



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God became human to show us that only love can change the world. Let’s not just believe in that love — let’s be that love, each and every 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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 21/22

Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	134		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$5,789.44	496.44	(2,188.95)
Energy	289.00	\$195.00	(94.00)	(746.08)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	98.08	(1017.31)	(16,373.99)
Mass Intentions	n/a	180.00		1,600.00
AOD: Priest Retirement Fund		2.00		1,182.00
AOD Collections: World Mission Propagation of the Faith	n/a	602.00		602.00
Holy Days: All Saints & All Souls (current)	n/a	100.00		911.00
Budget deficit donations		247.00		1,427.00

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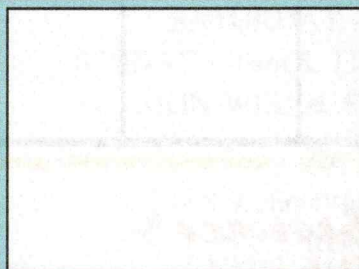
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