



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

March 3, 2024 † THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

From The Pastor

The Ten Commandments remain a foundation of the Christian life as well as all who seek an ordered life in God. The Commandments remain the ground upon which we stand even as we embrace the life of the Spirit in whom we live. Life in the Holy Spirit fully released in the death and Resurrection of Jesus is the fulfillment of the Ten Commandments in their meaning and purpose.

To begin, it is helpful to understand the context of when and why the commandments are given. God calls Moses to be the liberator of an oppressed and enslaved people. This extended period of slavery lasted for four hundred years. The people lost their personal and collective identity. With compassionate mercy God claims the people as his own. Freed from slavery, the Israelites had to be formed into God's people. As such, the commandments were intended to form the people in the image of God and the nature of the Divine identity. This is much different than a demand for religious moral obedience. The commandments gave the people an identity of dignity and value in Divine compassion and justice.

The first commandment is prefaced by an introduction. To begin the relationship, God reveals who He is. "I, the Lord, am your God who delivered you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery." What do we learn? God cares deeply for his own and delivers the oppressed from slavery and sin. God is redemptive, giving to us what we cannot give or do for ourselves.

In the first commandment, God is One. "You shall not have other gods before me." Do not carve idols for yourselves from any created thing, or make anyone or anything more important than I. Do not worship things of your own making. Notice that God says: "I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous God..." This means God is protective, lovingly possessive of the people he claims as his own. This is the zeal or wrath of God who passionately defends the people in His compassionate care.

Second, God is Holy. "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain." God deserves singular reverence and honor. We surrender to the Sovereignty of God in our dependence on God for all things. God is worthy of all reverence.

Third, "Remember to keep holy the Sabbath." Six days are for work, the seventh day is for God. The meaning is two-fold. God is to be worshipped with reverence and gratitude reflected in putting work down. The Sabbath is also for our sake to rest and

maintain a rightly ordered life. We are not made for work alone. Our life is ordered to give glory to God in work and in rest.

These first three commandments define God and our rightful relationship with God. They are primary and foundational for a growing relationship of faith and trust in God that will mature into life in the Spirit of Jesus.

The last seven commandments direct us to the dignity and identity that is ours as God's holy people. Claimed as God's possession in just compassion we walk in righteousness with our Creator-Redeemer. Further, the last seven commandments are God's gift (wisdom) for social order and stability of human society. Wounded in sin that leads to disordered living, we are blessed with a standard and boundary of moral behavior for the betterment of all.

We have little to brag about in this regard. In too many segments of society these commandments appear to hold little influence. All society suffers and the moral decline impacts the stability and advancement of our path to God through our relationship in Christ. Human connectedness and healthy relationships are diminished in fear and mistrust. Faith wavers as moral decline weakens trust is God's saving presence leading to wavering religious participation. Holding reverence, faith, and trust in God falls to the ignorance of self-made personal identity of truth. The cycle of slavery to sin and the gift of redemption continues to turn.

Our hope lies in the truth of Christ. The new and final covenant establishes the promise of eternal redemption. The Cleansing of the Temple is the sign of a new and final path to God. Jesus becomes the fulfillment of covenant sacrifice. Temple Law and the commerce of unending animal sacrifice ends. Jesus himself becomes the new Temple and the Lamb of sacrifice. The sacrifice of bulls, goats, and lambs is impotent. Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the fulfillment of the new and eternal covenant liberating us from the slavery of sin and death.

The Ten Commandments are a gift, an early beginning on our path to God. With surrendered obedience, Jesus is the Lamb of God who is our eternal redemption. Obedience is surrendered love that serves the glory of God and our liberation from this earthly realm. Honor God. Keep the Commandments. Strive to live in the fullness of the Spirit. You are God's holy people.

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 Noon

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 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, March 4, 2024

8:00am Mass: Stefanija Juska† (16th R.A.) req. by Regina Juska-Svoba

TUESDAY, March 5, 2024

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

WEDNESDAY, March 6, 2024

8:00am Mass: Dianne Karolski† req. by Frank & Nina Virga

THURSDAY, March 7, 2024

8:00am Mass: Greg Bail† (Memorial Birthday) req. by Spitz Family

SATURDAY, March 9, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Stefan Campa† req. by Wife & Family
Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, March 10, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Father Ed Prus† req. by Tom Karolski
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Cathy McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 (Jn 6:68c)/1 Cor 1:22-25/ Jn 2:13-25 Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3,4/Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
- Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17/Mk 12:28-34
- Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14
- Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (6ab)/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21

*All are invited to Fr. John's
Lenten Reflections on*

**EUCHARIST REVEALED
AND RECEIVED IN THE
LENTEN SEASON**

*Wednesday evenings
March 6, 13
at 7:00pm in church*

Virtual Soup Supper

Donations for our third Virtual Soup Supper will go to Angel's Place. Angels' Place is an organization that provides group residences that offer an environment of love and compassion, coupled with an atmosphere of acceptance, dignity, friendship and the potential for personal growth and independence for people with developmental disabilities who have a primary diagnosis of intellectual disability. These persons may need help in order to cope with common life demands and who may not be able to complete some or many of the tasks of daily living that are typically expected of people in their same age group. It is a Christ-centered community that enhances the lives of those they serve and their families. You can visit their website at info@angelsplace.com. Make a donation to Angel's at Fr. John's reflection, at the Parish office or online at www.stvincentferrer.net. **Checks must be payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.**



Thanks to Mary Ann P. for the following soup recipe:

CHICKEN SOUP with KLUSKI

Need:

- 1 package of skinless and boneless chicken thighs
- 2 quarts of chicken broth or stock
- 3 medium sized carrots
- 2 celery stalks
- 1 small onion
- 1 chicken bullion cube
- ½ package of kluski noodles

Clean and chop carrots, celery and onion.

In a large cooking pot, pour the chicken stock (broth) and then add the chicken bullion cube, chicken thighs, and vegetables. Bring to a boil, then simmer for ½ hour. Bring to a boil again, and add the kluski noodles. Bring back down to a simmer for 20 minutes. Serve and enjoy.

**Come Spend
Time With Jesus**

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is on Tuesdays following the 8:00am Mass until Noon.



I am the Lord your God ... You shall not have other gods beside me. —Ex 20:2-3 One of the greatest golfers of all time — if not the greatest — was Jack Nicklaus. Which is why it is baffling that at the beginning of each season he would return to his childhood coach and re-learn how to grip the golf club. It's like Shakespeare re-learning the alphabet and grammar. Why would he do that? Because Jack knew that the fundamentals are always relevant. Perfecting and obsessing over his grip allowed him to do everything else in the game well. In sports and life, the best ones love the basics.

Similarly, as we begin Lent, we re-learn the spiritual basics in the Ten Commandments. Consider the first, to **"have no other gods besides me."** This is our "grip." Is our connection to God one of absolute fidelity and exclusive worship? Am I willing to let go of my precious idols, the things I cling to instead of God? Once we say "yes" to this fundamental question of our spiritual "grip," then we are ready to properly engage with everything else in life. Watch how beautifully the game of life unfolds in the next nine commandments (numbered in parentheses): how we speak to God and others (2 and 8), how we organize our week (3), how we relate to our family (4) and the wider community (5 and 7), how we live our sexuality (6), and how we order all the other desires of the human heart (9 and 10). But don't rush to these later Commandments too soon! Everything in life is built on the first Commandment. The more we focus on worshiping God alone, the better we navigate the complexity of life with panache, effectiveness, and love.

Lenten challenge: This week, identify what you can do to better worship God alone. If you're not sure, scan the last nine commandments to identify what you are most likely to worship instead of God. Power, pleasure, control of your time, possessions, family, health, reputation, money? Commit to concrete action to help you let go of this "idol" to better hold on to God alone in faithful worship. Remember: the best love the basics. — *Father John Muir*

©L.Pi

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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



David Rudy

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



**Daylight Savings Time begins Next Sunday.
Set your clocks ahead one hour
next Saturday evening, March 9th.**



**EASTER TABLE GOODIES
RAFFLE ON PALM SUNDAY**

Again this year, on Palm Sunday, March 24th, we will be conducting an Easter table themed raffle after the 9:00 am Mass in the Parish Hall. All will be welcome. To make this a successful and joyful parish community-building event, we will need donations of Easter-themed breakfast or lunch baskets for the raffle. The weekends of March 9/10 and 16/17, a sign-up table will be available in the rear of church with suggested basket contents that would be valued between \$25.00 and no more than \$30.00. Basket donors are asked to bring their filled baskets to the Parish Hall before the 9:00am Mass on March 24th.

Raffle tickets will also be sold, 1 ticket at \$2 or three tickets at \$5. Raffle ticket proceeds will be used for scholarships for our Religious Education program.

NEXT WEEKEND - March 9/10

**ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES**

The annual collection for Catholic Relief Services will be next weekend. Contributions are used to support Migration and Refugee Services, give aid to victims of persecution and natural disasters, advocate for the powerless, provide legal services to poor immigrants and water to the people of Kenya and Zambia.

Envelopes for this collection are at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

EVANGELICAL SERVICE CORNER

**MONTHLY CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION
March 9/10**

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

**FILLED EASTER BASKETS FOR
OAKLAND COUNTY JAIL OUTREACH MINISTRY
Collection March 4 thru 17**

Help the Oakland County Jail Outreach Ministry secure Easter Baskets for families that they serve.

**Filled Easter Baskets are needed
for all ages**

Label baskets by age and gender:

- Infant to age 1
- Youngsters ages 5-8
- Teens ages 13-18
- Toddlers ages 2-4
- Pre-teen ages 9-12
- Adults



ITEM SUGGESTIONS:

Baskets should come complete with your typical items found in an Easter basket such as but not limited to: stuffed or plush animals, toys, candy, games, a card or a prayer, children's books/coloring books/religious books

PERSONAL CARE ITEMS:

hair brush, comb, hair ornaments, toothbrush, toothpaste, body wash, bubble bath, soap etc.

SPECIAL TOUCH OF BEAUTY

You might consider including a packet of seeds, so a child or adult is encouraged to plant and care for some beauty of their own planted near their home.

Filled Easter Baskets can be left on designated tables in church on weekends or dropped off at the Parish Office during the week.



Thank You!

The members of St. Vincent de Paul Society wish to express our gratitude to all the parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer and Fr John Esper who have supported the work of the Society so faithfully in 2023.

We assisted several families and individuals with phone calls, rent, utilities (Consumers Energy, DTE, etc..) clothing, furniture, and household items. We were also able to assist other conferences in our district and support St. Vincent de Paul Detroit projects and outreaches as well. Without your generous support, none of this could have happened. Please continue to pray and support this ministry.

If you are interested in joining St. Vincent de Paul Society, we meet at the back of the Church every 2nd Tuesday of the month from 6:30PM to 8PM. You can also reach us at svfconference@gmail.com.

PREPARE YOURSELF TO EXPERIENCE THE
 RESURRECTION OF CHRIST THIS EASTER WITH
 THIS SPECIAL LENTEN CATECHESIS!
 MONDAY & THURSDAYS 7PM ADMIN BLDG



ATTENDANCE AT ALL SESSIONS IS NOT REQUIRED

JESUS IS ALIVE AND RISEN!

HE HAS CONQUERED DEATH FOR YOU!

**WHY DO WE DO THAT?
 CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

END OF MASS

Question: Is it ever Ok to leave Mass before it ends?

Answer: This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.

Women's Sacred Journey



SATURDAY, MARCH 9TH - 9:00AM

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE—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.

Ministry Schedule

March 9/10, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	C McCarthy
Reader #1	T Riley	A Goll
Reader #2	P Miles	C McCarthy
EME	D Tourville	N Virga
	R Pasiak	A Goll
	M Simmons	T Karolski
Greeters	R Pasiak	M McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	D McLaughlin
	J Ballantine	P Rarus
	M Smith	B Turchin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of March 9/10, 2024
 Michelle Waskowski



...all government leaders to seek wisdom in finding peaceful solutions to world wars and tensions.

...medical and humanitarian aid for those suffering from hardship due to catastrophic weather, fires, wars, 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

EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES

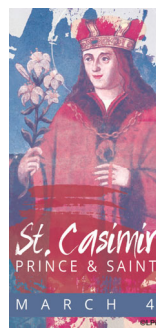
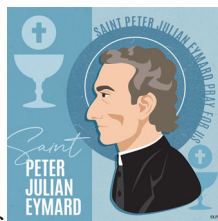
St. Peter Julian Eymard (1811-1868)

St. Peter Julian Eymard, was born in La Mure d'Isère, France. When he was a child, he felt a strong calling to the priesthood and a devotion to Mary. He attempted to enter the Oblates of Mary Immaculate at age 18 but had to leave due to health problems. Eymard frequently had lung issues and migraines that disrupted his life. He tried to enter the priesthood again through the Diocese of Grenoble and was ordained a diocesan priest at the age of 23. After a few assignments he chose to join the Marists and entered the Society of Mary seminary in Lyon, France. By 1844 he had risen to the position of Provincial of the congregation.

While visiting neighboring Marist communities, Eymard experienced the perpetual adoration of the Eucharist for the first time. His devotion to Christ in the Blessed Sacrament grew, and he decided to start a Marist community specifically devoted to perpetual adoration. His vision wasn't supported by his Marist superiors, though, so he eventually chose to leave the Society of Mary in order to start his new religious congregation.

In the late 1850's he founded The Society of the Blessed Sacrament for men and, along with Marguerite Guillot, the Servants of the Blessed Sacrament for women. The congregation's ministries were different from other Eucharist-centered groups at the time because, beside perpetual public adoration of the Eucharist, their goal was to nurture and to inspire those estranged from the Church to return and to educate those outside of the Church about the love of Christ.

St. Peter Julian Eymard's contributions to Eucharistic spirituality earned him the title "Apostle of the Eucharist." His writings on the Eucharist, including the book "The Real Presence," continue to inspire and guide believers in their understanding of the Sacrament. St. Peter Julian Eymard, pray for us! ©LPi



St. CASIMIR - MARCH 4TH

We live in a culture that tells children, "Follow your dreams! Be who you want to be!" It might be hard to imagine the courage it took to be St. Casimir. A prince second in line for the throne of Poland, the young man had great expectations placed upon him. Inspired by a devout tutor, St. Casimir developed a deep faith. As a teenager, he would often sleep on the ground, reject courtly finery for plain clothes, and dedicate long hours to prayer. He even made a private commitment to celibacy. Casimir's avoidance of a military engagement made his father furious. The king imprisoned his own son. The episode confirmed to St. Casimir that he served a higher King, Jesus Christ. He would spend the rest of his life in prayer, study, and service to the poor. When we need courage to do what is right, St. Casimir, pray for us! ©LPi



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays at 7:00pm
March 8, 15, 22
in church or online at our
youtube channel

ALL ARE WELCOME

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Question: Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

Answer: The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the "Via Dolorosa" ("The Way of Suffering") or the "Via Crucis" ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us. ©LPi

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent
Monday: St. Casimir
Thursday: Sts. Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs
Friday: St. John of God, Religious
Saturday: St. Frances of Rome, Religious; St. Catherine of Bologna
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent, Daylight Saving Time begins ©LPi

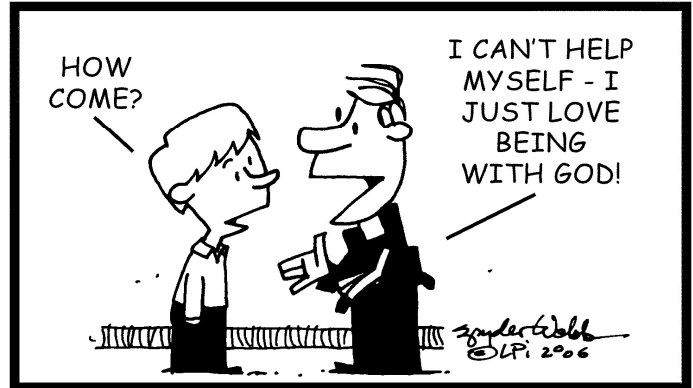
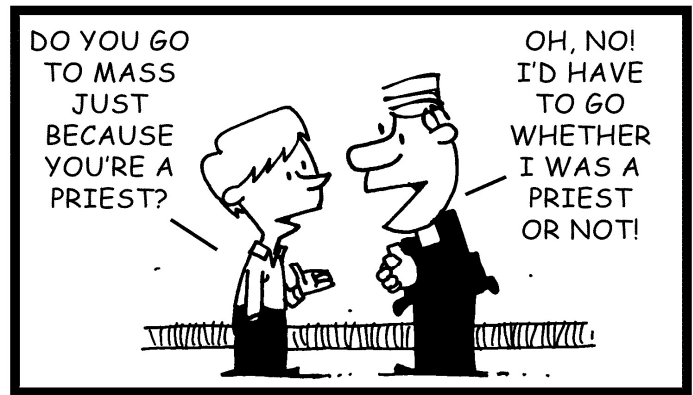
Why Should You Belong To A Parish?

A video from the Archdiocese of Detroit at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vpkIJy_lmG8

Just as our bodies need cleaning, so also our souls.

COMMUNAL RECONCILIATION SERVICE

Wednesday, March 20th - 7pm
Save the Date



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
The “10 Commandments” given to Moses at Mount Sinai reveal God’s moral and ethical expectations for Israel. Which of these Commandments do you personally find most challenging to follow?

Second Reading: Cor 1:22-25
Early in his letter to the Corinthians, Paul speaks of his firm conviction in the power and wisdom of his proclamation, “Christ crucified.” What are you confident about in your faith life?

Gospel: Jn 2:13-25
Jesus’ deep passion (“zeal”) for the Jerusalem Temple led to his strong (and violent) reaction to what he witnessed in the Temple. What is something you feel passionate about as it relates to your faith?

©LPi

Men’s Conference 2024 - FACING GOLIATH
Confronting the Giants in Our Lives
St. Anastasia - 4571 John R - Troy
Saturday, March 9th - 7am to 3:30pm

4 Sessions
Presenters: Fr. John Esper, Fr. Jim Lowe, Monsignor Todd Lajiness and Fr. Drew Mabee

\$40/ticket
includes continental breakfast & lunch
www.stanastasia.org/men

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 24/25

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	93		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 4,348.60	(944.40)	(5,033.51)
Energy	289.00	255.00	(34.00)	(1,205.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	163.00	(952.39)	(31,671.56)
Mass Intentions	n/a	250.00		4,290.00
AOD Collections: Church in Central & Eastern Europe	n/a	95.00		540.00
Holy Days: Easter	n/a	10.00		4,617.00
Budget deficit donations		98.00		6,475.87
2023 CSA overage (pledges outstanding - 2,876.00)				6,833.92

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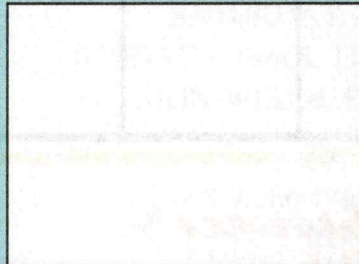
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- Carbon Monoxide



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