



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

March 17, 2024 † FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

From the Pastor

The word of the Lord given to Jeremiah to prophesy to the people marks a profound change in the movement of our salvation. The people are in a period of restoration after exile and God wants to establish a living covenant with his people. Realizing the infidelity of the people, God moves his covenant with them away from the Law and into the heart.

‘I will place my Law within them and write it on their hearts; I will be their God and they will be my people.’ The Law is an external form of faith. It calls for an exterior obedience to remain faithful to the tenants of the Law. Law is an early form of moral development. The motivation to keep the Law is to avoid punishment and the fear of displeasing God. The Law was a necessary and essential step in the formation of God’s people. The people loved the Law and honored it as an expression of their love for God. But human beings are weak, and the Law is broken causing a perceived separation from God.

The critical move from head to heart changes everything. No longer an exterior relationship with God, now God is known in the heart. It is a clear movement away from life with God through the Law to one of relationship with the Spirit of God. It creates the development of personal conscience through obedience of the heart. When things move to the heart faith gets real. It can take a while to get there, but faith and love in the heart cannot lie. It is either embraced or simply toyed with. Heartfelt honesty will either accept the surrender of surface and passing things or cling to the status quo of exterior living.

In the fifth week of Lent things quickly turn to the heart of the season. Several of the major themes of John’s gospel come to the fore. Triggered by the desire of some Greeks to see Jesus, the scene is set for the coming of the Cross. Jesus makes it clear, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.” Jesus knows his fate and is ready to embrace it. Jesus says, “Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit.” Jesus is that grain of wheat, becoming the model we are invited to follow.

‘Hour’ means the hour of the Cross and the death of Jesus. ‘To be glorified’ means that in his death Jesus receives the glory of his Father for making the love of the Father known to the world. The death of Jesus makes known the pure love for the Father through the obedient surrender of the Son. The love of the Father and the Son is one in a singular desire to redeem the world. Jesus is a pure gift of love from the Father for

the sake of our redemption. The Holy Spirit is the constant flow of this love for the world.

What does that look like for us who follow Jesus? “Whoever loves his life will lose it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life.” What does this mean? Are we to hate ourselves in this world? No, not at all. To truly know ourselves is to know God, and to know God is to truly come to know ourselves in love. Before we can die to ourselves in Christ, we must know who we are in the love through which we are created and redeemed.

Dying to himself was not easy for Jesus. He deeply loved his life in the body and had a personal love for all persons. It was difficult for Jesus to surrender his life to the Father for the sake of our salvation. Although we often think of obedience as a suffering that limits us, true obedience is an act of love. Pure love was the deepest desire that gave Jesus the courage to accept his Cross for the sake of our union with God. The death of Jesus bears great fruit.

This is the fullness of the prophecy that came through the Prophet Jeremiah. The exterior action of the Law would never reveal the depth and purity of God’s desire to be one with us in love. Our love for God must be from the heart with willing gratitude and desire to honor and imitate the gift Jesus has given us. The Law can keep us too much in control. A person can rightly keep the Ten Commandments and remain unaware of the power and truth of God’s love for us in Christ.

The challenge is to live from the heart; to direct our lives in the desire and motives of love. This kind of love can only lead to dying to the self, putting aside personal wants, preferences, and ego to surrender our love to the needs of others. We become the grain of wheat that dies to the self I have made to become the Christ-self who lives in me. Not easy, but a heart of love knows the way through the action of the Holy Spirit.

Obedient surrender is neither a popular nor understood reality in our world. Yet, it is what every single human being most deeply needs and wants. If we live selfish lives, we lose the awareness of God. If we live with love from the heart in the model of Jesus, eternal life will be ours. Jesus showed the way. Ours is to follow in love. Imitation is the greatest form of flattery. Do not seek to flatter, just love freely and the evidence will be clear.

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



MONDAY, March 18, 2024

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

TUESDAY, March 19, 2024

8:00am Mass: Tina Smith (health & peace) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, March 20, 2024

8:00am Mass: Logan McKay (Birthday Blessings) req. by Jane McKay

THURSDAY, March 21, 2024

8:00am Mass: Jane Ryan Bischoff† (12th R.A.) req. by Jane McKay

SATURDAY, March 23, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Bob Shaner† (6th R.A.) req. by Barb Shaner

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

Richard Collins (1st R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

SUNDAY, March 24, 2024 PALM SUNDAY

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Barbara Merchelt† req. by Family

Lorraine Kuczborski† req. by Family

Leonard Kwapis† req. by Members of SVF St. Vincent de Paul Conference

David Rudy† req. by Bishop Foley HS Class of 1979



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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

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

May 17, 2024

- Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15
12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or
13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Jn
8:1-11
- Tuesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-
5, 27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53,
54, 55, 56/Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: Gn 17:3-9/Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Jn 8:51-
59
- Friday: Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7/
Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13/
Jn 11:45-56
- Next Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/
Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 (2a)/
Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39


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**COMMUNAL
RECONCILIATION
SERVICE**

**THIS WEDNESDAY
MARCH 20 - 7PM
ALL ARE INVITED**




WHEN YOU FEEL
UNCLEAN
BECAUSE OF
SIN IN YOUR
LIFE...



ISLAND WEBS!
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THERE ARE
THESE
WONDERFUL
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SHOWERS
INSTALLED
IN EVERY
CATHOLIC
CHURCH!




**NEXT SUNDAY
EASTER TABLE
GOODIES RAFFLE**

AT THE TABLE IN BACK THIS WEEKEND

Sign up to donate an Easter themed breakfast or lunch basket for the raffle. Suggested items for baskets total under \$30.

Pick up some raffle tickets: 1 ticket at \$2 or three tickets at \$5. Raffle ticket proceeds will be used for scholarships for our Religious Education program.

EVANGELICAL CHARITY

Prayer Blanket Ministry Meeting
March 21- 6:00pm - Parish Hall

The Prayer Blanket Ministry will meet Thursday, March 21st from 6-9 PM in the social hall. (Note the change back to 3 hours instead of 2 hours.)

Card Decorating for Shut-Ins Ministry will not be meeting this month.

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS
Next Sunday, March 24

Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures at the Palm Sunday Coffee & Donut Hospitality



Friday March 22nd at
7:00pm

Good Friday March 29th
at 12:30pm

in church or online at our
youtube channel

Lost in the Crowd ▀ by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I write my phone number on my kids' arms when we go into large crowds at summer festivals, in case we get separated. If you think this makes me sound like a neurotic person with an overactive imagination who watches too many true crime documentaries, you would be correct. I am all of those things.

However, I am also practical, and I've endured moments of panic after looking up and briefly not being able to locate a child who has wandered off or lagged behind. The phone number, scrawled across their sunscreen-streaked skin, is a safeguard, however insignificant. It's something they can hold up to show an adult, something they can point to and say, "This is where I need to be. Help me get here."

When I reflect on my own life, it occurs to me that I was born lost. We all were. It was only in Eden that a human being ever knew what it was to be at home. In Eden, I would imagine, the feeling of safety was so natural that it was only noticed after it was gone. But original sin came like a noisy crowd to bear us away from the place we needed to be, and since that time, our human lives have played out against a backdrop of insecurity and unfamiliarity. We are cold and alone and confused. And God, our heartbroken parent, never stops seeking us, never stops calling our names.

Baptism, the etching of God's law onto our heart and soul, is not a phone number written on our arms. It's something far better — it's a homing signal, planted deep within. And it will lead us back to where we need to be.

"But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people." — Jeremiah 31:33 ©LPi



...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

MEMORIAL FLOWER ENVELOPE DEADLINE

To be included in the Easter bulletin, memorial flower envelopes must be submitted before noon on Friday, March 29th.



WHEN OUR OWN HOUR COMES

We parents know that it's tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it's okay to be scared, that it's something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behavior for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being "troubled" and he speaks of "the time of judgment." There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

"Yet what should I say?" he asks them. "Father, save me from this hour?" But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
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HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY

THREE THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE **REAL** ST. PATRICK:





1. HE WAS NOT IRISH!
St. Patrick was born in Roman Britain then kidnapped and sold into slavery in Ireland when he was 16.



2. His birth name was Maewyn Succat. He changed his name to **PATRICIUS** after becoming a priest.



3. After escaping slavery in Ireland and becoming a priest, he willingly returned to the country to promote Catholicism. He is now the **PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND.**

Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD - 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.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

COMMUNION: HAND OR TONGUE?

Question: Why do some people receive Communion in the hand, while others have it put on the tongue? And is one better than the other?

Answer: Prior to the liturgical reforms that accompanied the Second Vatican Council, it was the universal practice that Catholics would receive communion “on the tongue,” meaning that the one receiving would allow the priest distributing communion to place the consecrated host on their outstretched tongue. At this time, only the priest celebrant (and, on special occasions, priests assisting at the Mass) was allowed to receive the Precious Blood.

Since 1977 (with the approval of the Holy See) the bishops of the United States have officially approved two equally valid options for receiving Holy Communion in Masses celebrated according to the Ordinary Form of the Mass. As the bishops’ statement *Norms for Holy Communion Under Both Kinds* states:

The communicant may choose whether to receive the Body of Christ in the hand or on the tongue. When receiving in the hand, the communicant should be guided by the words of St. Cyril of Jerusalem: "When you approach, take care not to do so with your hand stretched out and your fingers open or apart, but rather place your left hand as a throne beneath your right, as befits one who is about to receive the King. Then receive him, taking care that nothing is lost" (no. 41).

As we noted, both ways of receiving communion are equally valid in the United States and it is important that we always keep the instructions of the bishops in mind as we reflect on which method we might prefer. ©LPi



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Jer 31:31-34

Through the prophet Jeremiah, God promised Israel “a new covenant”: the Lord’s law will be written in our hearts and known by all who believe. Do you know people who seem to have a heart-felt faith?

Second Reading: Heb 5:7-9

Hebrews teaches us that Jesus struggled with his own impending suffering and death. During this Lenten season, what has been a struggle for you?

Gospel: Jn 12:20-33

Jesus taught that through his own suffering and death, he would drive out the “ruler of this world” (Satan) and draw everyone to himself. In what ways are you drawn to Christ? ©LPi

PREPARE YOURSELF TO EXPERIENCE THE
RESURRECTION OF CHRIST THIS EASTER WITH
THIS SPECIAL LENTEN CATECHESIS!

Jesus is alive and Risen!
He has CONQUERED DEATH FOR YOU!

SPECIAL LENTEN CATECHESIS

For Adults and
Youth
(12 yrs old & up)

**MONDAY &
THURSDAYS
7PM ADMIN
BLDG**

Attendance at all
sessions is not
required.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which play, made into a television show, was written by Pope John Paul II in 1960?

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Answer: The Jeweler's Shop

Ministry Schedule

March 23/24, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	P Miles/Deb
Reader #1	R Pasiak	J Kosnak
Reader #2	D Tourville	P Miles
EME	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
	M Simmons	T Karolski
	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
Greeters	L Collins	D McLaughlin
	R Bertolini	T Lane
	R Pasiak	B Turchin
	T Pasiak	M McLaughlin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of March 23/24,2024
Kathy Bush

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



Since Christ Himself has said, 'This is My Body,' who shall dare to doubt that it is His Body?

- ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM

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ST. CYRIL OF JERUSALEM (c.315-386)

St. Cyril of Jerusalem was born and raised in Jerusalem. He was educated in the Faith and had a love of Scripture at an early age that guided him toward the priesthood.

After he was ordained a priest by the bishop of Jerusalem, he went on to serve as a catechist for those newly baptized in his congregations. The writings he produced during the early years of his priesthood have gone on to help give the modern Church a clear example of how the Church of the East did things during those first few centuries of Christianity. They included teachings on the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist, prerequisites for Baptism, the Eucharistic liturgy, and more.

During the fourth century the Arian heresy, which denied the divinity of Christ, was threatening to tear the young Church apart. It was during this time that Cyril was ordained Bishop of Jerusalem and accused by his contemporaries of Arianism. They exiled him from his homeland on three different occasions, but he was ultimately acquitted of the accusations both in his own time and a thousand years later when he was named a Doctor of the Church in 1822.

Once back in Jerusalem, he and a bishop named Gregory, who would become St. Gregory, attended the Council of Constantinople, where the Nicene Creed was officially adopted. During this time, he publicly accepted and promoted the word "consubstantial," the word the Council of Nicaea chose to describe Christ's divinity and the relationship between God the Father and the Son.

His life reminds us that even a prominent theologian of the Church can suffer pain from controversy. Despite this, he never gave up and went on to be recognized as a Doctor of the Church. St. Cyril, pray for us! ©LPi

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent
- Monday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Saturday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
- Next Sunday: Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, Holy Week begins

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PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

“ TO YOU GOD ENTRUSTED HIS ONLY SON;

IN YOU MARY PLACED HER TRUST;

WITH YOU CHRIST BECAME MAN.

OBTAIN FOR US GRACE, MERCY

AND COURAGE. AMEN. ”

FEAST DAY

MARCH 19TH

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St. Joseph the Steward

By Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

St. Joseph is one of the greatest examples of stewardship we have in the Gospels. Here is a man who understands care and reverence for the property of God, a man chosen to be steward over the very life and breath of God's Son and Spouse.

Joseph was mindful. He recognized what belonged to God. When he understood that Mary was to be the mother of God, he was not jealous or bitter. He did not presume to claim ownership over her.

Joseph was prayerful. He accepted the opportunity to be in relationship with God, even if it was in a radical and unexpected way. How many of us would trust a crazy dream we have where an angel tells us our fiancée is carrying the Son of God? Well, those of us who are already profoundly connected to God through prayer. Joseph was open to receiving God, and so he was open to the truth in a way many of us would not have been.

Joseph was gracious. Even before he had full understanding of the situation, he was unwilling to expose Mary to shame. He did not give himself over to feelings of betrayal.

Joseph was committed. He persevered. The Lord had no shortage of strange and even dangerous-sounding tasks for Joseph, but he submitted to each one.

Joseph was accountable. When he awoke from his dream, "he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him, and took his wife into his home."

Joseph was a man entrusted with many gifts, and he gave of them wisely. Let us pray that we have the grace to follow in his example. ©LPi



COME IN FAITH. LEAVE WITH HOPE.

“God hears our prayers for the renewal of our Church. He will answer them through a life-changing transformation of our own hearts. The 10th National Eucharistic Congress is an invitation to experience profound personal revival so we can be sent out to share Christ’s love with a world that so desperately needs it.

Whether you can come for one day or all five, join us for this generational moment.” For more information, visit:

<https://www.eucharisticcongress.org>

Join our archdiocese at the
National Eucharistic Congress
 Indianapolis | July 17 - 21, 2024

For more information, please scan the QR code at the right.

<https://www.aod.org/events/pilgrimage-to-the-national-eucharistic-congress> [Learn More](#)

For those unable to attend in Indianapolis, sign up to attend a regional congress in the Archdiocese of Detroit

Visit: <https://www.aod.org/love-outpoured?>



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

Support SHMS Seminarians on their Holy Land Pilgrimage at the Desert Meal Potluck Dinner Sunday, April 7th - 3-6pm

National Shrine of the Little Flower Grade School Gym
 (12 Mile & Woodward, Royal Oak, MI)

The Knights of Columbus and the Serra Club of Detroit invite you and your family to the 2024 Desert Meal Potluck Dinner. Contributions assist 1st year theology students on a 4 week journey in the Holy Land.

Please RSVP by April 2nd: Call Kathy Pruse at 248-217-7109 or kpruse@gmail.com

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING MARCH 10/11

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-23 to 6-30-24</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	90		
Offertory (including loose cash)	\$ 5,293.00	\$ 4,432.38	(860.62)	(4,412.20)
Energy	289.00	201.00	(88.00)	(1,198.61)
Other: Coffee & Donuts, Flowers, Memorial Trees, Candles	\$ 1,115.39	286.00	(829.39)	(32,761.34)
Mass Intentions	n/a	20.00		4,410.00
AOD Collections: Catholic Relief	n/a	505.00		522.00
Holy Days: Easter	n/a	50.00		150.00
Budget deficit donations		191.00		6,711.00
2023 CSA overage (pledges outstanding - 2,825.00)				6,884.67

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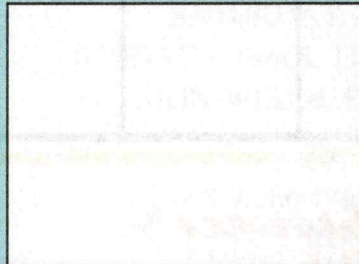
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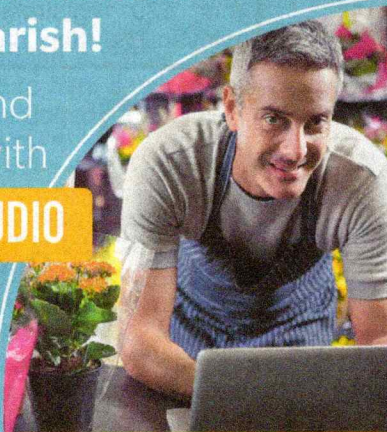
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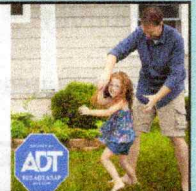
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