

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

JULY 14, 2024 † FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

What role will your life play in salvation history? How is your life revealing the glory of God? With the spiritual blessings that are yours in Christ, how will your individual and personal way of believing in and loving God make Christ more evident in the world? Though this may sound heady or inflated, it is the call and purpose of our lives in Christ as we share the Divine nature.

The Letter to the Ephesians today is not only a beautiful expression of the nature and identity of Jesus. It is also a call and expression of who we are in Christ and the will and plan God has for us and all creation. St. Paul is putting to words the essential movements and designs of Christian spirituality. The work of creation and the gift of redemption is an unsolicited gift of God. With willful intention, God takes the initiative to create and to redeem all that has been made. God initiates and we respond. Our response to God's offer is free; in faith we can accept a loving relationship with God, or we can reject God's offer to make our own meaning in life.

Moving through the verses of this beautiful passage, we can ponder the life given us in the Lord Jesus. 'Blessed be God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us in Christ every spiritual blessing in the heavens.' God has chosen you as his own with unending love. Consider this truth. Beyond our religious identity, we are blessed and chosen by God. This is not a spiritual nicety, but a fact of our Christian faith. Neither sin nor human failure changes the nature we share with God in Christ. In love, God chose you and made you his own. I hope this is a felt part of your faith. Can you name a time when you have not felt chosen, but forgotten, abandoned, or of little value to God or another? This kind of feeling is an open door of an awakening to the inclusive love and acceptance of God. Many have come to God this way.

God has not only claimed us as his own in Christ but has done so with loving desire. Why? That we may give praise and glory for the grace of God. That we might proclaim God's goodness through our manner of life as his beloved. Do you feel the goodness of God in you? The nature and the goodness of Christ is a vital part of you. It is the will and design of God that we know his goodness and reflect it to others. Not feeling this so much? It is there. It can't not be there. In Christ, it is the essence of your nature given you in his Incarnation.

How? 'In Christ and through his blood we have

been redeemed and our sins forgiven so immeasurably generous is God's favor to us.' This is familiar to us. We know the Cross Jesus endured for the forgiveness of sin that offers a new relationship with God. Do you feel this in your life of faith? Is this redeeming, healing, forgiving love real for you? The words are common and readily professed as true. But do you trust and feel them in a life-giving way? Does this freedom in Christ allow you to live peacefully in the mind of grace and acceptance, or are you stuck in the mind of sin that creates fear and doubt?

It can be a challenge to accept the goodness and love of Divine forgiveness. The weight of sin causes shame, guilt, and a sense of unworthiness that often resists the grace and mercy freely given in Christ Jesus. Let God love you. Make the redemption of Christ personal and effective in your life. God's forgiveness is real. It is a pure gift of perfect love. Jesus as a man, human in all things but sin, freely chose to give his life to ransom us from the death of sin. You are so important to God that God freely and willingly gave himself to us in Christ that we may forever be one with God, here and hereafter. Resistance is a waste of energy. God will never give up on you.

In Christ, God has made known the Divine plan for all creation. Jesus is the truth of God made flesh. Jesus is the fulness of time, the fulness of all God intends and desires for us. You are part of God's plan for the beauty and goodness of the world. At least four times in this reading, God makes it clear that we exist to praise his glory. What does that mean?

If you allow God to love you, forgive you, and be an active part of your life, your life will become an image of God for others. Your life will be an image of God's goodness, revealing his glory. It will not make you perfect. You will not glow in heavenly light. But you will, despite every trial or distress, know the peace of Christ. Some days you will suffer. Some days God will seem absent. Still, the grace of God will be ever-present.

Jesus is the glory of God. You are the glory of Christ. That means you accept Christ and live in such a way that you make Christ more evident and present in the world. Your life is God's gift. Give all glory and praise to God with loving gratitude. Despite all, you are in him, and He is in you. Let that make your day.

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 HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm,
Closed Friday, 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

MASSt INTENTIONS

MONDAY, July 15, 2024

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

TUESDAY, July 16, 2024

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Members of Holy Spirit Bible Study Group req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

WEDNESDAY, July 17, 2024

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

THURSDAY, July 18, 2024

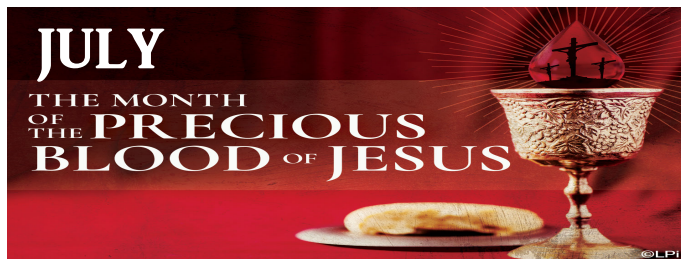
8:00am Mass: Corrine McCarthy (Belated Birthday Blessings) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

SATURDAY, July 20, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Theresa Ingels† req. by Angela Hamm

SUNDAY, July 21, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Richard McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Diane LePage† req. by Martha Eggert
Intentions of Doug & Mary Ann Evans req. by Tom Karolski



Readings for the Week

July 14, 2024

Sunday: Am 7:12-15/Ps 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14 (8)/Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/Mk 6:7-13
Monday: Is 1:10-17/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/Mt 10:34—11:1
Tuesday: Is 7:1-9/Ps 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8/Mt 11:20-24
Wednesday: Is 10:5-7, 13b-16/Ps 94:5-6, 7-8, 9-10, 14-15/Mt 11:25-27
Thursday: Is 26:7-9, 12, 16-19/Ps 102:13-14ab and 15, 16-18, 19-21/Mt 11:28-30
Friday: Is 38:1-6, 21-22, 7-8/Is 38:10, 11, 12abcd, 16/Mt 12:1-8
Saturday: Mi 2:1-5/Ps 10:1-2, 3-4, 7-8, 14/Mt 12:14-21
Next Sunday: Jer 23:1-6/Ps 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 2:13-18/Mk 6:30-34

ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION

THIS MONDAY - JULY 15TH
7:00pm - Admin. Bldg. Patio



The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary on the first and third Mondays of July and August. The Immaculata group prayers will begin at 6:30 pm. The Rosary will begin at 7:00 pm for others who wish to participate.

Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.

Shake Off the Dust

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Our kitchen floor is at least 35 years old, and it's the ugliest color to come out of the '80s. But it's a good, durable floor, and my husband, bless his heart, guards it like it was a finely finished hardwood imported from Brazil.

Every time the kids track mud and sand across its vinyl surface, he immediately gets down on his hands and knees and lovingly wipes the mess away. I'm too impatient to do this myself — *we have kids, so we're going to have a dirty floor*, is my attitude. But this is the hill upon which my husband dies. On hands and knees, scraping dirt off an almost 40-year-old floor, he is the silent, long-suffering sentry, and if it kills him, he will keep these floors pristine. He is Gandalf, and the dirt is the Balrog. *You shall not pass.*

"Shake the dust off your feet." This is what Christ tells his disciples to do when they — and his word — are rejected. Shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them. Why does he say that? It's not an act of dismissal. It's not a thumbed nose or a stuck-out tongue. No, it's an act of caution: *Don't bring it with you. Leave it there.*

When we walk through the world, we pick up a lot of dirt. Misguided notions, disordered priorities, habits, and desires that we never noticed until we realized they left a trail. We come into a situation intending to do what is right, but somehow it all goes sideways, and we walk away from it with detritus clinging to us in places we don't notice. *They wouldn't listen. They'll see, we think. Oh, they'll see. They'll see how right I was.* Pride and vengeance hitch a ride on the soles of our feet, and we track them all through the world.

What to do about this? You can be like me with my ugly old floor. You can shrug your shoulders and say, "It happens, I guess. I'm only human. I meant well."

But here's what would be better: be like my husband. Get down on your knees and get rid of the dirt. Stop the trail in its tracks.

*"So they went off and preached repentance."
 — Mark 6:12*

SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION

JULY 6-21

Items requested:

backpacks	2 pocket folders
composition notebooks	glue sticks/white glue
#2 pencils/pens	pencil cases
scientific calculators	erasers
colored pencils	24 pack crayons
scissors (blunt & regular)	rulers
markers/washable markers	highlighters
spiral notebooks (wide & college ruled)	
looseleaf paper (wide & college ruled)	
Trapper keeper for middle & high schoolers	

To be distributed through Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan and Oakland Jail Outreach Ministry.



Please help us reach our goal of \$88,000.

Thank you to all who have made contributions/pledges to CSA 2024. Although we have exceeded the target amount required by the Archdiocese, we have not yet achieved our fundraising goal. **Donations and pledges can still be made.** All funds received over our Archdiocese target amount will be returned to St. Vincent Ferrer Church. That excess amount, together with funds received in the monthly budget deficit envelopes, will be used to help balance our budget deficit due to declining enrollment in the academy renting our school building.

Donations can be made online at our website: www.stvincentferrer.net using the donations tab or see the other ways to give on the pledge card. If you would like to increase your original pledge or are able to give an second donation, please contact Sheryl or Debbie in the Parish Office.

*Catholic Social Teaching:
Our call to further the Common Good*

Wednesday, July 24th at St. Vincent Ferrer
28353 Herbert St. Madison Heights 48071

12:30 Luncheon - 1:00 Presentation
Free-will offering

An RSVP for a luncheon count is appreciated: 248-542-8720

Presented by:



Fr. Dave Buersmeyer

Fr. Buersmeyer is a priest of the Detroit Archdiocese of Detroit, a teacher, and the Chaplain for Strangers No Longer. After retiring last year, the diocese asked him to serve temporarily at Nativity and St. Charles.

He will talk the basic themes of the Church's social teaching based on the life and dignity of the person, and discuss implications for our lives today.

Prayer
REQUESTS

...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

Follow Me

“Thousands followed Christ throughout his earthly ministry. Since his Resurrection, countless Christians have traveled to holy sites in order to connect concretely with places where heaven and earth have touched.

When Jesus gave us the gift of the Eucharist, he gave us a new way to walk alongside him. Catholicism now has a vibrant history of Eucharistic processions! In this tradition, the Eucharist is carried through the streets, accompanied by the faithful. We walk publicly with Our Lord so that others may encounter him personally, just as they did 2,000 years ago.”

Pilgrims coming from all four directions along designated routes have been walking with Jesus in the Eucharist since this past May. They are finishing the last legs of their travel with Jesus this week as they enter Indianapolis, Indiana to participate in the Eucharistic Congress from July 17 to 21. Videos of events along the pilgrimage routes have been posted on youtube.

The last Eucharistic Congress was 83 years ago. Attending the Congress might not be an option for you, but you can join others “in prayer that our nation encounters our Lord powerfully as he journeys to be near to us in this remarkable way!”

More information at: www.eucharisticcongress.org

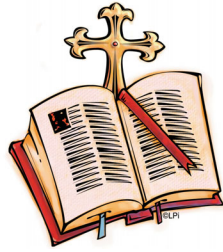
**National Eucharistic Congress
Special Event**
Wed. July 17th - 3:30pm
SS Peter & Paul Church—Indianapolis, IN

All pilgrims from the Archdiocese of Detroit who will be in Indianapolis for the National Eucharistic Congress are invited to a special Mass with Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron on Wednesday, July 17 at 3:30 p.m. at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Indianapolis. For questions or to be added to a contact list for all AOD pilgrims attending the National Eucharistic Congress, please contact Kathy Fech at feh.kathy@aod.org.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

**Saturday, July 20th 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.



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

CONFESSION AND CHILDREN

Question: Our Catholic grade school is doing a penance service this Lent. Do young children really need to go to Confession? How much sin can they really have?

Answer: Ask any mom about her children and see how many would say she has a brood of perfect angels! Parents know that kids do things that are wrong ... and they often know they're doing it! Even toddlers have a sense of right and wrong. The Church recognizes that their minds and consciences are not yet fully developed, however, and typically waits until age seven to offer the sacrament of Confession. Around that age and beyond, most young people, when asked, can easily explain why something is wrong.

Confession for children is an excellent way to help them reflect on their actions and accept responsibility for their behavior. It helps them to grow in their understanding of sin and how it affects others. This helps them to form their consciences and make better choices in the future. Most importantly, they learn the value of forgiveness, both given and received. Rather than singling out what's wrong, Confession offers hope and a new start! Children can grow in understanding God's unconditional love and develop a sense of inner dignity that transcends their failings.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Am 7:12-15/

The Israelite priest Amaziah was threatened by the prophet Amos from Judah. What are some ways you have helped others who feel at risk in a difficult situation?

Second Reading: Eph 1:3-14 or 1:3-10/

Paul teaches the Ephesians that in "the fullness of times," God's plan is "to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth." What are some things in your life you are waiting for?

Gospel: Mk 6:7-13

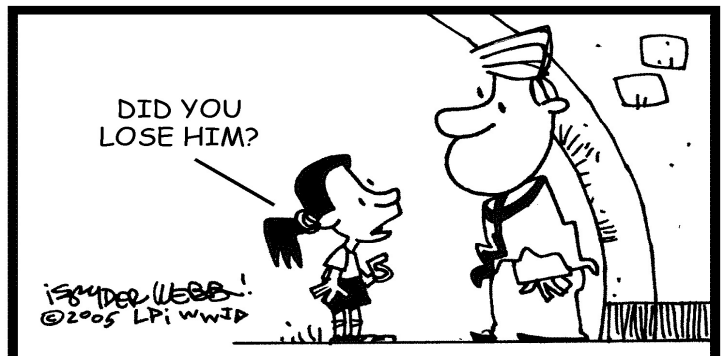
Jesus taught the apostles to preach and heal only in places where they were welcomed. Do you recall a time or a place where you felt truly welcomed? ©LPi

Ministry Schedule

July 20/21, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Kairis	D Gray
Reader #2	P Miles	T Karolski
EME	T Riley	C McCarthy
	J McCown	L Yolkiewicz
	M Kairis	D Gray
Greeters	R Juska-Svoba	T Oparka
	R Pasiak	N Oparka
	M Smith	B Gutowski
	T Pasiak	S Bosetti

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of July 20//21, 2024
Bernadette Gutowski



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which Gospel writer and evangelist was a physician by trade?
©LPi

Answer: Luke.

MINDFUL OF THOSE IN OUR MIDST

I recently got into an Uber car for a ride to the airport. I like talking with drivers if I sense they are open to it. On this particular day, the driver was very talkative and told me about how he was an inventor. He had several patents and was about to sell one of his inventions for a ton of money. We had a wonderful conversation, and he was such a warm and interesting person. I asked him why, with his good fortune with inventions and all the work he was doing aside from Uber, he was still driving. He smiled and said, "There are still some people I haven't met yet. I never know who is going to get into my car next."

What an amazing answer! Too often we live our lives in semi-solitude, walking around with blinders on so we don't make eye contact. We have our family and friends, but we don't get up each day wondering with excitement who we will meet that day.

God puts people into our path all the time. Maybe we need them or they need us. But we do not walk through this world alone. If we choose to not be mindful of who is in our midst, we miss the chance to receive whatever gifts they may have to give. In the same vein, they miss out on what we have to share with them if we stay closed and quiet. Pay attention to those around you. God may come to you in the words of a friend, the request of a homeless man, or in the wisdom of an Uber driver.

-Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi

EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES

ST. NORBERT | JUNE 6
c. 1075-1134



Born to nobility, St. Norbert of Xanten was ordained as a subdeacon and served in the court of Henry V, Emperor of Germany, however, at court it was easy to be distracted by wealth, power, and luxury and he lived a worldly and corrupt life there. By the grace of God while traveling in a storm he was nearly struck by lightning and almost killed. This experience changed St. Norbert and he became penitent, left his court post, and after a period of discernment in a monastery, felt called to be a priest.

Norbert became an itinerant preacher, preaching against worldly attitudes but at the Pope's request finally settled in northern France and founded the Norbertine order established according to the rule of St. Augustine. The order grew rapidly and soon founded a women's branch. Norbert traveled and preached across Germany where he also founded a lay branch of the Norbertines. In Belgium he preached against heresies which denied the Blessed Sacrament, this earned him the title "Apostle of the Blessed Sacrament". He and those of his orders had a great love of and devotion to the Blessed Sacrament, with a devout faith in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Eventually he was made Archbishop of Magdeburg, Germany, and later he traveled to Rome in support of Pope Innocent II, against the antipope. Afterward he returned to Germany to court of Emperor Lothar as advisor, at end of life, in failing health, St. Norbert was carried back to Magdeburg where he died. St. Norbert of Xanten, pray for us!

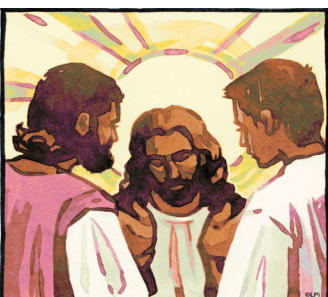
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Observances for the Week

- Sunday: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: St. Bonaventure, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Tuesday: Our Lady of Mount Carmel
- Thursday: St. Camillus de Lellis, Priest
- Saturday: St. Apollinaris, Bishop and Martyr; Blessed Virgin Mary
- Next Sunday: 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

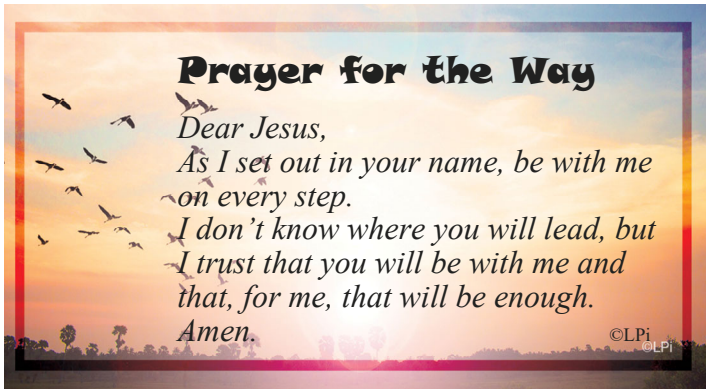
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LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK



Jesus sends his disciples into the world with no money or provisions — just as he sends us. But make no mistake — he has given us everything we need: the strength that comes from faith in Christ, and the will to do what God has asked. Let's get to work.

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WHAT WE CARRY FROM TOWN TO TOWN

In my experience, there are two kinds of people: the folks who kick off their shoes the second they walk through the door, and the ones who don't.

People can feel strongly about this on both sides. The main thrust of the Shoes-Off Brigade seems to be this: we track a lot of weird stuff on the soles of our feet. Little reminders of all the places we've been — whether it's a private home or a public bathroom — cling to our shoes long after we leave.

This same theory applies to our spiritual lives. As human beings and as disciples, we visit a lot of figurative towns and pick up a lot of figurative dust. Sinfulness. Shame. Defeat. Anger. Fear. Doubt. No matter how hard we try to keep free of it, these things have a way of attaching themselves to us, sometimes without us even noticing. We need to take a good look at what unhelpful and unconstructive baggage from our past we're tracking into our present and future encounters.

What is the "town" God is asking you to visit today in His name? Is it a tough conversation with a friend, a brief witness to a stranger in the checkout line, a call to be present to someone in your family? Before you go, remember, shake off the dust. Don't let a past disappointment constrain you. Don't allow yesterday's failures or burdens to keep you from the joy of today's witness, whatever form it might take.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

Together in Holiness Marriage Conference

Together in Holiness is a comprehensive marriage enrichment initiative that inspires spouses to grow together in holiness and empowers and equips parents to form their children in the Catholic faith. *Together in Holiness* includes: an annual one day conference and year round formation for couples.

Registration for the conference is now open! Catholic married and engaged couples are invited to join us on **Saturday, October 12, 2024** from 9:30am-4:30pm at **St. Therese of Lisieux Parish** in Shelby Township. Conference begins with Mass celebrated by Archbishop Allen Vigneron, followed by presentations focused on St. John Paul II's teaching of "**Family, a School of Virtue**":

- To register, visit: <https://forlifeandfamily.org/form-page-th24-dtmi/>
- Couple Ticket: \$54 | Individual Ticket: \$35 - Includes lunch and a light afternoon snack
- An Early Bird discount is available through Monday, August 19
- Childcare: \$5/child (6m-12yrs) | \$20/family (4+children)
- Full and partial scholarships are available

If you have any questions, please email Conference Coordinator Cameron Kelly at cameron@forlifeandfamily.org or call (832) 779-1070.

Real Presence

Christ is present whole and entire in each of the species and whole and entire in each of their parts, in such a way that the breaking of the bread does not divide Christ." Council of Trent (CCC 1377)

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JULY 6/7, 2024

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	15		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 6,038.32	853.32	517.51
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	631.00	159.00	(156.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	40.00	(1,633.00)	(3,256.00)
Bequests		50.00		50.00
AOD Collections: Peter's Pence		50.00		787.00
Holy Days: Assumption of Mary		10.00		10.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 60,860.34				Paid 48,522.84

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