

## St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

**AUGUST 11, 2024 † NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** 

## From The Pastor

It is hard to seek the way of holiness, to follow the Lord through thick and thin, even if you are the Savior. This is not something new. Even in the beauty, dignity, and goodness of the human person, it is difficult to persist in seeking the Divine way. Jesus himself, as the Divine Son, was challenged to persist through the most ardent resistance and persecution.

Hungry souls who perceive and accept the presence of God in their life with the desire to do God's will need to be fed. It is a long journey, beginning to end, and those who seek this path must be nourished along the way.

Elijah was a powerful Prophet and agent of God in the Old Testament. His name and image grew even larger than the powerful works he performed through the action of God. Even in his zeal for the Lord and the works God accomplished through him, Elijah had times of discouragement, fear, and exhaustion that led him to want to die. This is the setting of the first reading.

Standing alone against the false gods of his day, Elijah was steadfast in his faith of the living God of Israel, Yahweh, God of all that is. Elijah has just defeated the false prophets of Baal through his sacrifice offered to God as proof that God alone is Lord. His sacrifice, soaked in gallons of water is consumed in the fire of God. All the people acclaim God as the Lord, whereby all the prophets of Baal are slain.

Elijah flees for his life as Jezebel, a believer in Baal, seeks to kill him. He hides in the wilderness feeling defeated and exhausted. He wishes for death. All power and zeal appear lost. Yet, notice the fidelity of God to his faithful servant. As a man, a person in grave distress, God comforts Elijah with consolation and encouragement, as well as real food and drink for his body. God understands weakness and discouragement even in the strongest ones among us. Twice, Elijah is told to eat and drink lest the journey ahead be too much for him. Elijah is restored by the comfort and action of God that revived his spirit and strengthened his body. Nourished in soul and body, Elijah travels for forty days to Mt. Horeb to meet the Lord.

Similarly, St. Paul had his share of pain and persecution in his service to the Lord. Persisting against every kind of resistance to the faith he preached against the wayward behavior of his listeners. Paul is steadfast in his instruction to reveal the truth of Christ. Paul challenges the incongruence of his listeners who accept the faith as they persist in old habits of hate,

pride, anger, and malice toward one another. The instruction, "Do not grieve the Holy Spirit..." The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Jesus, and to profess love for Jesus yet show hatred and malice against others grieves the Holy Spirit. Judgement, disdain, even hatred for others defeats the love of Christ we profess to hold within ourselves. Loving your neighbor as you love yourself is the joy of the Holy Spirit. To hate your neighbor with fear, jealousy, and judgement grieves or defeats the love a Christian professes. Rather, Paul directs, 'Be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.'

Even Jesus, God incarnate in human flesh, bears the weight of human judgment, criticism, and disdain. As we continue through the discourse on the Bread of Life, Jesus bears his soul with ardent desire to reveal himself to all who would believe in him. He does not have an easy time of it. Not understanding, those who know Him including his family, gossip in their confusion. How can he say, "I have come down from heaven."

Jesus tells them to stop murmuring and judging. He wants them to listen and try to understand. The same is true today. To believe in Jesus, we must be drawn by the Father, perceiving an inner knowing that stirs us to believe in the truth of love revealed in the person of Jesus. Faith is a gift. A gift from God available to all. Yet, faith must be realized and accepted. This happens by grace, by listening, and trusting what is heard. This is the work Jesus pursues. He says, "Whoever believes has eternal life." Faith is critical, an undeniable necessity to come to know and accept Jesus as the Bread of Life.

Following the example of the first reading as God feeds and restores the body and soul of Elijah, now it is Jesus who gives his very self to all who believe in him as the Bread of Life. The life of Jesus is the Bread of love that sustains and nourishes us on the Christian journey. The Body of Jesus is given on the Cross for the redemption of our bodies. The life Blood of Jesus is poured out for us in the redemptive act that restores our union with God.

How is Eucharist the food of Jesus? The Eucharist is Jesus himself who heals, forgives, redeems, and transforms those who accept the love of the Father through the life of the Son. Love heals and gives life; a love that will never grieve the Holy Spirit. See you at the table of the Lord.

Father John Esper

# Liturgical Schedule

### DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

Church doors open 1/2 hour before Mass begins

# SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm in Adoration Chapel

Only one person allowed in chapel at a time. Persons seeking Sacrament of Reconciliation will be allowed in church to line up at 3:00pm



Live Streaming of Mass Monday thru Thursday 8:00am and Sunday 9:00am

Adoration on Tuesdays 8:45am to 10:00am

# Livestream of Rosary on Thursday following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or connect via our APP or website

# Contact Information

### ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071 248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721 Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

## **PARISH OFFICE 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



### MONDAY, August 12, 2024

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

TUESDAY, August 13, 2024

8:00am Mass: Debbie Tourville (Birthday Blessings) req.

by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, August 14, 2024

8:00am Mass: Vicky Heard† req. by Debbie Tourville 7:00pm **ASSUMPTION VIGIL** Mass: Parishioners of St.

Vincent Ferrer

THURSDAY, August 15, 2024 ASSUMPTION

8:00am Mass: Mary Lou Ignasiak† req. by Marie Bessler & Family

SATURDAY, August 17, 2024

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

SUNDAY, August 18, 2024

9:00am Mass: Deborah Wright req. by Joan Wright Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Diane LePage† req. by Martha Eggert Bernadette Gutowski (Birthday Blessings) req. by Corrine McCarthy

> Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary



# Readings for the Week

## **August 11, 2024**

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

(9a)/Eph 4:30—5:2/Jn 6:41-51

Monday: Ez 1:2-5, 24-28c/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12,

13, 14/Mt 17:22-27

Tuesday: Ez 2:8—3:4/Ps 119:14, 24, 72, 103,

111, 131/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14

Wednesday: Ez 9:1-7; 10:18-22/Ps 113:1-2, 3-4, 5

-6/Mt 18:15-20

Thursday: Vigil: 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps

132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14/1 Cor 15:54b-57/ Lk 11:27-28 *Day*: Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/

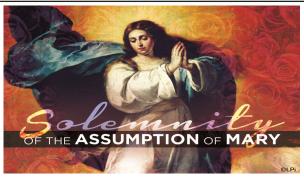
1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56

Friday: Ez 16:1-15, 60, 63 or 16:59-63/Is

12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6/Mt 19:3-12

Saturday: Ez 18:1-10, 13b, 30-32/Ps 1:12-13, 14-15, 18-19/Mt 19:13-15 Next Sunday: Prv 9:1-6/Ps 34:2-3, 10-11, 12-13, 14

-15 (9a)/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58



# HOLY DAY MASSES Vigil Wednesday August 14th 7:00pm and Thursday, August 15th 8:00am

The Assumption: A Sign of Hope

Is the resurrection a concept or reality? For many of us, the resurrection of the dead may be a stray idea recite in the Nicene Creed. Heaven we discuss. But resurrection? The feast of the Assumption is a reminder to us that heaven gets even better! We pray that the souls of the faithful departed would soon be united to God in heaven. The truth is, the separation between our souls and our bodies was not God's original plan for things. It's one of the results of the Fall, of original sin. At the end of time and Jesus' second coming, our bodies and souls will be reunited. Lest we forget, Mary's Assumption is the reminder. Today, we celebrate that Mary is enjoying what we, too, hope to participate in — complete joy in heaven with our God, experienced body and soul. Today and every day, let's pray for those who have died and that we may meet them again in the heavenly kingdom.





I want to thank everyone for your prayers, cards and Masses said for me while I was in the hospital and then recuperating at home. You are all special to me and I am so very glad to be back with you. God bless everyone of you.



Christians first began celebrating feast days in honor of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, in the fifth century. That celebration (originally called the Feast of the Dormition and now known by Roman Catholics as the Solemnity of the Assumption) was celebrated on August 15. Very soon, however, other special days dedicated to Mary began to appear in Jerusalem, Rome, and other major cities of the Christian world. These days of feasting became important parts of the life of the community. But, more importantly, each of these unique celebrations became an opportunity to focus on a different facet of the Christian faith, as believers focused their attention on specific events or mysteries of the lives of Mary and her Son.

Over the centuries, some of these celebrations became universal (such as the Assumption on August 15, the Immaculate Conception on December 8, and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1). Other celebrations were more closely tied to certain religious orders (such as the Carmelites celebration of "Our Lady of Mount Carmel" on July 16 or the Servite Friars feast of the "Seven Sorrows of Mary," which is now celebrated as the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows on September 15).

In more recent times, Marian apparitions (like Guadalupe, Lourdes, and Fatima) have inspired special liturgical celebrations. Pope Francis has added two new celebrations of Mary to the Church's calendar: The Memorial of Mary, Mother of the Church (on the Monday after Pentecost) and the Commemoration of Our Lady of Loreto (on December 10). The various titles of Mary (like those we find in the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary) help us to reflect on different aspects of Mary's faith and the ways that the Holy Spirit is at work in her and through her, especially as the Mother of Jesus.

In the end, whatever the event or mystery being celebrated in a particular liturgy or the title of Mary being used, we are invited to always see Mary in connection with the saving work of her Son. She is, of course, a patroness and protector for every Christian, but she is also a model of discipleship and contemplation: "Having entered deeply into the history of salvation, Mary, in a way, unites in her person and re-echoes the most important doctrines of the faith: and when she is the subject of preaching and worship she prompts the faithful to come to her Son, to his sacrifice and to the love of the Father" (Lumen Gentium, 65).

## Men's Health at Every Age

Men don't seek health care as much as they should. Studies show men delay preventative care and are not always honest about how they feel. This is due to some degree of societal attitudes in relation to masculinity. It can be difficult to know when to seek help from a professional. Sometimes the symptoms of a mental health problem are like those of a physical health problem. In fact, both physical and mental health issues can cause body aches, change in sleep, digestive problems, fatigue, headaches, and heartburn.

Preventive care includes a visit to your primary care physician once a year is a must for physical, screening tests, and mental health assessments. Even if you have the "I'm healthy, why should I go?" mentality. Here are the recommendations by age group.

- Age 20-30's: Physical, Check-up on reproductive and prostate health, BP, cholesterol levels, blood sugar, skin exam and depression screening, and current immunizations.
- Age 40-50's: All the above and Primary Care Physician for physical and urologist. Men with a history of high BP or family history of heart disease should add a cardiologist. Colonoscopy starting at age 45. Prostate cancer screening.
- Age 60+: All above and continue physicals and follow up with urology, cardiology, bone density testing, and screening tests as recommended. As you get older you might want to see a geriatric specialist.

It is important to know studies have found men are more likely to be impulsive, aggressive, or exhibit noncompliant behavior when dealing with emotions. Its important to recognize it's always ok to ask for help. Whether the concern is mental or physical professionals are there to help and you should always ask your physician about his recommendations to improve your health care outcomes.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

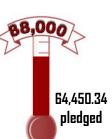


# Please help us reach our goal of \$88,000.

Thank you to all who have already made contributions or pledges to CSA 2024. We have reached 70% of our fundraising goal of \$88,000.00. It's

not too late to donate! Donations/pledges are still being accepted. 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.

To make a pledge or contribute by mail, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided. Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN.





### ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING AUGUST 13

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday, August 13th at 6:30pm in the church. If you are interested in becoming part of this ministry, you are welcome at the meeting.



...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

# Observances for the Week

Sunday: 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time Monday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal,

Religious

Tuesday: Sts. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus,

Priest, Martyrs

Wednesday: St. Maximillian Kolbe, Priest and

Martvr

Thursday: The Assumption of the Blessed

Virgin Mary

Friday: St. Stephen of Hungary

Next Sunday: 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi



Dear Parishioners,

I hope your summer is going well! As the summer comes to an end and the school year begins, we are continuing preparations for the start of religious education/faith formation classes at St. Vincent Ferrer. Last year, we had 25 students in our program, and I know there could be many more, but for that to happen I need your help.

I'm asking all St. Vincent Ferrer parishioners to invite their Catholic neighbors (who have children in grades 1-8) to join our religious education program. Many times all it takes is a personal invitation and sharing of information for people to sign up. Classes are on Monday evenings from 6:15-7:30 pm beginning on September 23rd. If you know of anyone, please ask them to call or text me at (646) 369-8619 with questions or to sign up.

I thank you in advance for your help in spreading the news about our program, and Godwilling helping it grow.

Sincerely, Matthew Zinser

### CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who baptized Jesus?

**©LPi** 

Answer: His cousin, John the Baptist.

Are you or is anyone you know interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith with the thought of becoming a Catholic Christian through



Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist? Or are you a baptized adult who has been baptized in the Catholic Faith but never received First Eucharist or Confirmation? Or perhaps you have been baptized in another Christian tradition and wish to become Catholic? If you say "yes" to any of these questions, now would be the time to contact Mary Ann Przybysz, St. Vincent Ferrer's OCIA Coordinator, at (248)542-8720. She will arrange to meet with you and have a conversation about how we at St. Vincent Ferrer can work with you toward your faith-journey goals.

# MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, August 17th at 9am Faith Formation Office in School

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

## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: 1 Kgs 19:4-8

The prophet Elijah was exhausted and prayed for death under a broom tree. How do you help a friend or family member who has such despair?

Second Reading: Eph 4:30 - 5:2

Paul's high standard for living in the community of believers was literally unheard of in the ancient world. How can any community of faith achieve such an ideal way of living?

Gospel: Jn 6:41-51

Despite opposition from those who knew Jesus and his family personally, Jesus offered eternal life to all who believe in him. How can someone remain open to new or challenging ideas?

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## **Ministry Schedule**

August 17/18, 2024

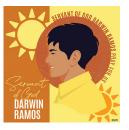
August 17/10, 2024				
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am		
Sacristan	P Miles	C McCarthy		
Reader #1	M Simmons	P Allen		
Reader #2	P Miles	C McCarthy		
EME	T Riley	P Allen		
	M Simmons	A Goll		
	R Pasiak	D Gray		
Greeters	Volunteer	T Oparka		
	R Pasiak	N Oparka		
	M Smith	B Gutowski		
	T Pasiak	S Bosetti		

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Aug. 17/18, 2024 Kathy Menard

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

SERVANT OF GOD DARWIN RAMOS 1994-2012

Servant of God Darwin Ramos was born on December 17, 1994, in Pasay City, south of Manila in the Philippines. He was born into



the poorest of families, living in the slums of the city. There was no pre-school or kindergarten for Darwin, instead he and his younger sister scavenged trash heaps for things to sell so the family could eat. By the time he was 6 years old, the first symptoms of the disease that would take his life began to show. Darwin was afflicted with Duchenne muscular dystrophy, a genetic disease characterized by the progressive loss of muscle.

When he was no longer able to use his legs, Darwin's father took advantage of his son's condition, dropping him off at the Libertad station to beg for money. Members of the ANAK-TnK Foundation, which works to care for the street children of Manila, began to talk with Darwin and eventually convinced him to live at a center managed by the foundation with other children with special needs.

At the center Darwin received the kind of care his condition required, enough food to eat, and education. He was introduced to the Catholic faith and entered a special relationship with Jesus. Never brought low by the disease which attacked him daily, he now spoke of his illness as his "mission for Jesus." Darwin was baptized in 2006 and received his First Communion and Confirmation a year later. Those that knew him during this time were blessed with his ready smile and compassionate friendship. He was known as the Master of Joy.

Servant of God Darwin Ramos died at the age of 17, on September 23, 2012. Darwin was declared a Servant of God on November 7, 2018, and the diocese of Cubao (Philippines) opened the cause of canonization on August 28, 2019. Servant of God, Darwin Ramos, pray for us!

STEPHEN

OF HUNGARY

## Murmurings

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

When people whisper, what they whisper usually is not flattering. It's also usually not accurate. If it was either of these things, it probably wouldn't have to be whispered.

"Stop murmuring among yourselves," Jesus tells the community in today's Gospel, and I think I detect a hint of impatience in his voice — or is that just my own bias? Maybe, maybe not. But it's true that what they were whispering about wasn't particularly flattering, and it also wasn't very accurate: Did you hear what he said? That he's the bread of life?

Do they disbelieve, or are they simply confused? Resentful? Afraid? Overwhelmed? We don't know, but we do know that they're not bringing their questions into the open. They're whispering them, trading them secretly, like contraband candy.

We know this guy. Who does he think he is? Well, if you ask me...

And then we get to what is usually the true purpose of a whispered opinion: the desire to make oneself out as the correct and unchallenged judge of the matter at hand.

In many ways, we have become a Church of murmurers. Did you see what Bishop So-and-So said to Such-and-Such newspaper? Did you hear what Fr. Whatshisname said in his homily? Who does he think he is? Well, if you ask me...

Perhaps it was always this way, even before modern times. Perhaps this Gospel shows us that this is no new thing.

Today, we see Jesus respond to his sulking critics by drawing their attention back to the truth at the heart of his teaching. Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me. And that is the end of their murmuring.

The truth is like a brick wall, and it knocks them over — or rather they, hurling themselves against it, knock themselves over.

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever." — John 6:51

©LF

## St. Stephen of Hungary | August 16

Born a pagan in the 10<sup>th</sup> century Saint Stephen was baptized as a boy when his father converted to Christianity. Saint Stephen married Gisela, daughter of Duke Henry II of Bavaria who would become Saint Henry II. He succeeded his father as leader and began to transform the nation into a Christian kingdom.

Pope Sylvester II proclaimed him the first king of Hungary in 1001, sending him a crown and gold processional cross. The crown, made in the Byzantine style, has become a symbol of Hungarian nationhood.

King Stephen's reign was a relatively peaceful and prosperous time. He outlawed paganism, mandated church building, and tithing for support of the parish, and commanded all to marry except

clergy and religious. He founded a Benedictine monastery, and Hungary became an important place along the route to the Holy Land for many pilgrims.

Unfortunately, Stephen's son and heir died in a hunting accident, causing much conflict over the succession when the saint died. Eventually the kingdom was won back for Christendom and father and son were canonized in 1083 by Pope St. Gregory VII. Saint Stephen I is now patron saint of Hungary.



Holy Days: Assumption

## What's Your Hearth Cake?

"Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you." I've been to a lot of meetings in my years of work in the Church, and you can take my word for it: the ones with snacks just seem to go better.

I don't know what it is exactly. Maybe it's just that people are in a more agreeable mood if you show up with donuts. Or maybe it's about the very real sense of community and camaraderie that is created at a table where people are engaging in that most human of tasks — eating — beside one another. I think a big part of it comes down to the simple fact that we're all just nicer people when we're fed.

This rings true spiritually, too. We simply must remain fed if we, in turn, are to feed others. Think of a time when you have neglected your relationship with God — when you haven't fed yourself with whatever it is that you need to remain committed to the journey of a Christian life. Is it Mass attendance? Is it prayer or Scripture reading? Is it time with your small group, or conversation with a trusted friend who knows your soul? What sustains your ability to be a good disciple, a good steward? What inspires you to give more freely, to love more abundantly?

Whatever it is, that's your hearth cake. That's your jug of water. Don't neglect it. The Angel of the Lord is nudging you in your sleep: "Get up and eat, or the journey will be too much for you."

20.00

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

38.00

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JULY 27/28, 2024							
Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD			
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	88					
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 3,853.01	(1,419.99)	(965.75)			
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	160.00	(312.00)	(983.00)			
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	1,260.00	(413.00)	3,880.84			
Bequests				90.00			
AOD Collections:							

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 3/4, 2024							
Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD			
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	117					
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 8,796.20	3,611.20	2,645.45			
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	897.00	425.00	(558.00)			
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	100.00	(1,573.00)	2,307.84			
Bequests		20.00		110.00			
AOD Collections:							
Holy Days: Assumption of Mary		68.00		106.00			
CSA 2024 Pledged 64,450.34				Paid 54,105.34			



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