



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

AUGUST 18, 2024 † TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

The body of Jesus was, is, and will forever be the eternal Body of Christ. ‘In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.’ The Incarnate Christ pre-existed in the communion of the Father with the Holy Spirit. As the words of the prologue of John’s gospel proceed, we read ‘and the Word became flesh.’ Boom! The final act of redemption is underway.

We are in the fourth of five weeks on the theme of the Eucharist. The gospel this week is the most challenging. As a central and essential expression of Catholic Sacramental theology, it is necessary that we come to a working awareness of the meaning and purpose of the Eucharist, the Body and Blood of Christ. To do this, we are well served to look at the larger view to come to a deeper appreciation of the immediate reception of this Sacramental reality.

The body of Christ begins with the Incarnation. In the letter to the Hebrews we are told, “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me.” Heb 10:5. The reference is to the sacrifices of the Old Testament, to be replaced by the sacrifice of the Body of the Lord, true and living. This movement of our redemption begins with the Incarnation of God in the flesh.

Mary, Mother of Jesus becomes the body of Christ. Through the power of the Spirit, God is conceived in the womb of Mary. The body of Mary forms and gives birth through the fruit of her womb to the body of Christ in the person of Jesus. In all his humanity, Jesus comes forth as a sensate, vulnerable, dependent body-person to be nurtured by his mother and foster father, Joseph. A body has been prepared by the will of God to accomplish the work of redemption.

The personal body of Jesus matures through childhood and grows into a deepening awareness of his union with the Father. At twelve he is thought to be lost in the Temple. He did not perceive himself to be lost. He longed to be about this Father’s work.

Maturing into adulthood he sets forth to fulfill his mission. He has grown into communion with the Father with the singular desire to do the Father’s will. As time unfolds it becomes more and more clear to Jesus that his body-self would become the agent of our redemption. He comes to understand that he will be the new covenant of love the Father desires with the world. The old sacrifice of bulls, and goats and

lambs will no longer serve as an act of atonement for sin.

Jesus comes to his Passion. The Last Supper is his final face-to-face legacy with his disciples. Sharing the Passover meal, he makes it clear that he will become the new lamb of sacrifice. His legacy is one of humble service and love. He washes feet as a sign of service as well as healing and forgiveness.

At the table he takes bread, blesses it, breaks it, and shares it says, “this is my body which will be given for you.” Then the cup, “this is my blood, the blood of the new covenant poured out for you.” The Incarnation has come to its full purpose. The body of Jesus becomes the Body of Christ only in the total self-emptying sacrifice of his person on the Cross. Jesus freely gives his body, his life, all that he is to atone for sin and reconcile us to the Father.

This sacrifice is made fruitful in the Resurrection. The total sacrifice of the dead body of Jesus is now restored, transformed, and glorified. He is alive. His body transforms our bodies through the Eucharist that we may share in his glorified body.

Jesus offered his body as food for the world. The body-person-self of Jesus remains with us in the gift of the Eucharist. His blood-life-sacrifice remains effective for us through our reception of his Body and Blood. We share in the person and the life of Jesus through the Eucharist. His body is real food and his blood real drink because it was fully given for us as sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin; then transformed and glorified through his death and Resurrection.

Every Mass makes present the redemptive mercy of Good Friday. Every time we consume the Eucharistic elements we are further transformed into the person and life of Jesus. We become what we receive by the will and intention of God, and the sacrifice and gift of the Lord Jesus.

Your body is the Body of Christ. Through the Eucharist you become the body of the Lord in the world today. Your hands can be his hands. Your words can be his words. Your love is to be his love through you for others. Your body is holy. It is a sacrament. It is for God’s purpose in service and love. You can be the real presence of Jesus for others through his Body and Blood which you consume. Real food and real drink. You are the Body of Christ.

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



There **WILL NOT** be an 8:00 morning Mass on
Monday, August 19th or Monday August 26th.

TUESDAY, August 20, 2024

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

WEDNESDAY, August 21, 2024

8:00am Mass: Jay Botsford & Catherine Brown req. by
Family

THURSDAY, August 22, 2024

8:00am Mass: Pranas Juska† (33rd R.A.) req. by
Regina Juska-Svoba

SATURDAY, August 24, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Jerome Esper† req. by Family
Donna Dietrich† req. by Family
Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom
Baby Lauren Ashby req. by Jean & Mike Pietraszewski
Jessica Dion (for health) req. by Marie Bessler
Carolyn Dragonette (for health) req. by Marie Bessler

SUNDAY, August 25, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Ron Sadowski† req. by Nancy Sadowski
Fr. Ron Henery OP† req. by Nancy Sadowski
Maria Maiorana† req. by Virga Family
Joseph Dong Kim Pham



Readings for the Week

August 18, 2024

Sunday: Prv 9:1-6/Ps 34:2-3, 10-11, 12-13, 14
-15 (9a)/Eph 5:15-20/Jn 6:51-58

Monday: Ez 24:15-23/Dt 32:18-19, 20, 21/Mt
19:16-22

Tuesday: Ez 28:1-10/Dt 32:26-27ab, 27cd-28,
30, 35cd-36ab/Mt 19:23-30

Wednesday: Ez 34:1-11/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mt
20:1-16

Thursday: Ez 36:23-28/Ps 40:5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/
Mt 22:1-14

Friday: Ez 37:1-14/Ps 107:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Mt 22:34-40

Saturday: Rv 21:9b-14/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17
-18/Jn 1:45-51

Next Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b/Ps 34:2-3, 16
-17, 18-19, 20-21, 22-23 (9a)/Eph
5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32/Jn 6:60-69

Accept the Invitation

We can easily feel obligated to attend a party, wedding, or other event that we find ourselves invited to as a guest. If we want to go, then we get dressed up and rush off with anticipation of fun and good times with friends. If we dread going, we get ourselves together slowly and arrive late, hoping that the event will not be so long and we can then get on with the rest of our day. The difference in our feelings may have to do with many aspects: the host, the attendees, the reason for celebration, or even the venue. Either way, the invitation has been given to us because someone feels that our presence would make a positive difference. Our response is entirely our own. We decide how we will answer the invitation.

Every Sunday, every day in fact, you and I have received an invitation to a banquet more celebratory and grander than any wedding or birthday party. The host is actually Jesus Christ himself, and he has prepared a feast that promises to satisfy. He has prepared for this event by giving all he has to give. No host has ever been more gracious. His hope is that you will be happy to attend for your presence does make a tremendous difference. Would he invite you if attending made no difference at all? Will you RSVP with a sense of joy and anticipation? If this is just another invite that obligates you and you approach the event with indifference, the host wonders if you really comprehend what he went through to make this meal possible. He also wonders if you really understand what is truly being celebrated.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©LPi



20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A priest I know was asked by a door-to-door evangelist, "Do you believe in Jesus?" He answered, "Yes, I do. But if I may ask you," he continued, "Where do you experience Jesus' body and blood?" His interlocutor responded somewhat confusedly, "I don't. I just believe in him. That's all that is needed." Later my priest friend would relate to me, "The more I thought about it, that response struck me as totally inadequate. As human beings, we need to encounter Jesus' body and blood, not just hear about him and mentally believe. Otherwise, Jesus is just a ghost."

This week we see this central point as we arrive at the climactic moment of Jesus' teaching on the Eucharist. Jesus has established the importance of believing in him as the "bread of life come down from heaven." Belief deeply matters because it leads to a real, bodily encounter with Jesus through eating and drinking. That's why Jesus emphasizes to an almost outrageous degree the non-metaphorical necessity to "eat my flesh and drink my blood" (John 6:54). The real presence of Jesus' body and blood — he himself, truly, really, substantially — has been the Church's treasure since Holy Thursday. Internal belief in the heart *and* the ritual act of eating and drinking the Eucharist, the Church has stubbornly insisted on *both*, not just one or the other.

This is not meant to criticize non-Catholic Christians who deeply trust and love Jesus, nor is it a triumphal elitist claim about the Catholic Mass. Rather it is a humble, trusting acknowledgement that God in Jesus comes to us in a way most proper to human beings: in our hearts *and* our bodies, faith *and* the Eucharist.

— Father John Muir
©LPi

On Sunday, August 11, 2024

Reverend John Esper
Administered the Sacrament of
Baptism to

True Alaia Jones

We welcome her into
Christ's family.

May she grow strong in her faith.

May God bless our newly baptized and her family.



ROSARY PRAYER INVITATION

Admin. Bldg. Patio

THIS MONDAY AUGUST 19th - 7:00pm

The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary. The Immaculata group prayers will begin at 6:30 pm and the Rosary will begin at 7:00 pm. Please bring your own lawn chair & rosary.



CSA 2024 Please help us reach our goal of \$88,000.
CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL **Already Pledged: \$ 67,460.34**

Thank you to all who have already made contributions or pledges to CSA 2024. We continue to accept contributions and pledges to help reach our fundraising goal of \$ 88,000.00. Donate online at www.stvincentferrer.net. If mailing contribution, follow the instructions on the pledge card and use the return envelope provided in the packet. **Checks need to be payable to Archdiocese of Detroit-CSA and mailed to the AOD gift center in Albert Lea, MN.**



Queenship of Mary

Question:

Why do we have a feast for the Queenship of Mary?

Answer:

For many of us, the language of kings and queens may seem like they belong to history or a medieval movie. Royalty have absolute authority over a kingdom and their subjects, a concept that is foreign to many of us today. While Jesus doesn't rule a political kingdom, we honor and recognize him as the King of Kings, Lord of Heaven and Earth. To God alone belongs absolute authority over all of existence.

We may think of queens as the spouse of the king, but there is another key relationship: the king's mother. In Biblical history, we see instances where the mother of the king is given due as a queen herself, complete with a throne! Mary's guiding influence over her Son is seen most notably in the Wedding Feast at Cana. Mary is not Queen on her own merit. She is "full of grace" and "blessed" in "all ages" because of the reign of her Son. ©LPI



Sunday:	20 th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday:	St. John Eudes, Priest
Tuesday:	St. Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church
Wednesday:	St. Pius X, Pope
Thursday:	The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday:	St. Rose of Lima, Virgin
Saturday:	St. Bartholomew, Apostle
Next Sunday:	21 st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Prv 9:1-6

We hear from Proverbs how Wisdom herself invites us to a deeper understanding of life. Is there someone in your family or among your friends who you consider a "wise" person?

Second Reading: Eph 5:15-20

Paul taught the Ephesians that a wise person strives to understand the will of the Lord and lives a life of prayer and gratitude. What are some ways we can grow in prayer and gratitude in our daily lives?

Gospel: Jn 6:51-58

Jesus promises *eternal life* those who believe in him if we eat his flesh and drink his blood (participate in the Eucharist). How can we show our gratitude to the Lord for such a gift? ©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.

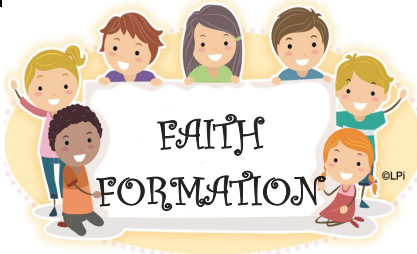
Lord Jesus,

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

O C I A

Adults (18+) who are being drawn to membership in the Catholic Church through Baptism or Profession of Faith are invited to contact the Parish Office.

If you were baptized, but never received the Sacraments of Eucharist and/or Confirmation, and you are interested in pursuing these Sacraments for your faith life, please contact the Parish Office at 248-542-8720.



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 God-willing helping it grow.

Sincerely,
Matthew Zinser

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Question:

I've heard that gratitude is a fruit of the Holy Spirit. What does that mean?

Answer:

In St. Paul's letter to the Galatians, he talks about the "fruits of the Holy Spirit." He is referencing an idea that Jesus talks about frequently in the Gospels. "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:16). He uses the example of a plant. If the plant is healthy, it will bear good fruit. If the plant is unhealthy, it will bear rotten fruit or none at all. Jesus echoes this idea at the Last Supper, when he says that if we remain close to him we will "bear much fruit" (John 15:8). If we allow the Holy Spirit to work in our lives, we will bear the fruits of the Spirit!

Technically, gratitude is not one of the fruits St. Paul lists. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control" (Galatians 5:22-23). But doesn't that sound like the response of a grateful heart? When we're grateful, we experience a sense of joy and peace that makes it easier to love. We can be kind, patient, generous, and gentle with others rather than possessive or competitive. When we're grateful, we don't need to grasp at what we don't have. We practice self-control. Gratitude helps us to be faithful, knowing God will always be with us. Sounds like good fruit to me!

©LPi

By consuming the Body and Blood of Christ, man bears within himself, already on this earth, the seed of eternal life, for the Eucharist is the sacrament of life in God.

Pope St. John Paul II

Ministry Schedule

August 24/25, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	T Karolski
Reader #1	R Pasiak	R Grant
Reader #2	T Riley	T Karolski
EME	M Simmons	R Grant
	R Pasiak	L Yolkievicz
	T Riley	C McCarthy
Greeters	M Smith	M McLaughlin
	J Ballantine	P Rarus
	R Pasiak	B Turchin
	T Pasiak	D McLaughlin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Aug. 24/25, 2024
Darren & Lisa Gray

Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24TH - 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.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. CATERINA VOLPICELLI (1839-1894)



St. Caterina Volpicelli was born into an upper middle-class Neapolitan family. She was well educated at the Royal Educational Institute of St. Marcellino. She was a typical young woman of her class with a vibrant social life, however, she experienced a conversion through conversations with many holy people. One of these, Blessed Father Ludovico da Casoria, urged her to enter the Third Order of the Franciscans, which she did, remaining in society and evangelizing.

On May 28, 1859, Caterina left the lay order and entered the Congregation of Perpetual Adorers of the Blessed Sacrament. But her stay was short, she was forced to leave because of a severe illness. Caterina was deeply saddened that she had been unable to complete her vocation. But this was the Lord's design, for it was during this time that she learned of a movement in French Jesuit monasteries called the Apostleship of Prayer. This powerful apostleship dedicates each day to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, finding God in every moment, every task. This prayerful way of life and her devotion to the Eucharist, with hours spent in adoration, marked the next stage of her life.

Finally, Caterina founded her own order, the Servants of the Sacred Heart on July 1, 1874. Her order opened the orphanage of the Margherites, a lending library, and set up the Association of the Daughters of Mary. The sisters even nursed the many victims of cholera in 1884. St. Caterina participated in the first National Eucharistic Congress celebrated in Naples in 1891. She was canonized on April 26, 2009, by Pope Benedict XVI. Her story of conversion and perseverance marked by a prayerful dedication to the Sacred Heart is an inspiration. St. Caterina Volpicelli, pray for us!

©LPi

Prayer of Eucharist



Dear Lord,
May our congregation be more deeply assured of Your love each time we receive Communion. May our "Eucharist" make our lives a song of worship and thanks, sung to You. May this sacred food nourish us to be bold and brave disciples of You. Amen.

©LPi



St. Bartholomew is also known in Scriptures as Nathanael, the apostle who "had no duplicity in him (Jn 1:47). St. Bartholomew is patron saint

of leatherworkers, bookbinders, plasterers, butchers, tanners, and shoemakers.

The Fullness of Life

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Like any other child of the '90s raised by budget-conscious parents, I've spent my fair share of Sunday mornings in line at an Old Country Buffet, hot plate in hand. Kids ate for chump change on Sundays, and I never left that fine establishment without getting our money's worth. I always came away stuffed to the gills.

But I never, ever remember feeling satisfied.

In fact, if I recall correctly, most of the time I felt rather empty. I was always thinking about the food I didn't get to eat — whatever I couldn't fit on my plate, or whatever they were bringing out from the kitchen just as we were about to leave.

As I've gotten older, it's a feeling I've encountered again and again, and not just at buffets. Haven't we all? The people you think are perfect reveal themselves to be deeply flawed. The things you want the most are never as satisfying to possess as they are to long for. The experiences you anticipate the most end up being letdowns, when instead it's the ordinary moments — maybe even the hard moments, the painful moments — that stand out, that become cherished memories.

Today's scripture readings equate wisdom and fullness with an acceptance of something that makes no sense, that defies scientific explanation, cultural norms, and even common sense: the Real Presence of our God in the Eucharist.

Is it strange to believe that we are consuming the Body and Blood of Christ in our worship, and that only by doing so will we ever achieve everlasting life?

Perhaps. But we are asked to do many strange things as Christians. We are asked to love when we do not feel like loving, when the object of that love has not earned it. We are asked to forgive even when the recipient of that forgiveness does not seek it or merit it. We are asked to believe, in moments when belief feels impossible.

Socrates says that the only wisdom is in knowing that you know nothing. Perhaps the only spiritual fullness is in knowing that there is only emptiness to be had here in this world, that there is no physical experience or indulgence that can really make you feel satisfied and strong. That the only food that really nourishes you in a way that lasts is a small white Host you can barely taste on your tongue.

"My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink."

— John 6:55 ©LPi

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus warns us that unless we eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, we do not have life within us. The Eucharist is the wellspring of our Christian life, in every place and in every moment. Let us always remember that where there is no Eucharist, there is no life.

©LPI



MASS SCHEDULES

National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica

2100 W. 12 Mile, Royal Oak, 48073

SATURDAY - 8:30am and 4:30pm (livestreamed)

SUNDAY - 7:30am, 9:30am, 11:30am 3:30pm (Spanish), and 6:00pm

WEEKDAYS (*Monday thru 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

Communion Service - 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



Women's Infertility Group Forming at St. Anastasia in Troy

A Catholic Infertility Ministry

Infertility can be an isolating experience, impacting our marriage and other relationships, and testing our faith. If this is your experience, you're not alone! We invite you to join with others walking this path in a small group for women: *Arise*. We will be guided by materials from Springs in the Desert, a Catholic infertility ministry, and our group will be a place to acknowledge the pain and complex emotions associated with infertility and loss through prayer, sharing, and reclaiming our identities as beloved daughters of God. Meetings will be held at St. Anastasia Parish in Troy starting in September. For more information contact Theresa Mineau at tarupinski13@gmail.com or (586) 480-0366. It is our honor to walk with you!

www.springsinthedesert.org | info@springsinthedesert.org

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Who said, “Let it be done according to your word,” in response to an angel’s announcement to her? ©LPI

Answer: Mary, the mother of Jesus.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 10/11, 2024

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	99		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,785.22	(399.78)	2,245.67
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	209.00	(263.00)	(821.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	271.00	(1,402.00)	905.84
Bequests				110.00
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days: Assumption of Mary		81.00		187.00
CSA 2024 Pledged \$67,460.34				Paid 58,287.84

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