



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 † TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

For many important things in life an old adage rings true: ‘don’t throw out the baby for the sake of the bath water.’ It is not unusual for things of truth, goodness, and virtue to be lost simply because they take effort and commitment to understand and accomplish. Lesser things are often created as a substitute for the difficult things in the illusion that they will accomplish the same result.

Religion and spirituality are primary examples. True worship in the expression of mature religion is very different than functionally keeping external rules without the engagement of heartfelt love and devotion. Relationships are hard. Relationships of love and devotion are made secure with strong commitment from an interior stance of the human heart. Just doing the right thing because it is expected or in fear of punishment will never know the joy of love and the gift a true relationship can offer.

God gave Moses the Ten Commandments as a gift for the good of his people. The Law was an expression of the nature of God that directs people in a manner of life that unites them to God. The Law was not meant as a disciplined ‘gotta do or else’ kind of interaction. The Law opened people to the mystery and majesty of God as well as a code of behavior for the stability and integrity of society.

In the first reading, Moses is coming to the end of his life. He has led the people to the edge of the Promised Land and is giving them a final instruction before he goes the way of all flesh. For all his faults, complaints, and difficulty of life in service to the Lord, Moses loved God. He tirelessly spent his life leading, teaching, correcting, and forgiving the Israelites as they journeyed through the desert. Moses loved God through the Law and instructed his charges to do the same. We are seeing the passion Moses had for the love of God that he so ardently tried to give to the people. In this legacy message, Moses directs the people to know and love God through the Law, not adding or subtracting anything from it. In doing so, they would be seen as wise in the fruit and benefits given them through God’s Law. They would thus be blessed in the providence of God’s favor.

The theme is similar in the gospel today. However, the Law became more than it was intended to be. In his public ministry, Jesus is teaching the fulfillment of the Law through love and relationship with the

Father. He is not discounting the Law, nor making it impotent. He is simply putting it in its proper place so the people could have a living relationship with God and others.

Sin bears its effect on human nature. In wisdom, God gave Ten Commandments. Against the directive of God, the Ten Commandments were turned into 613 rules and rubrics of religion. This is the case in today’s gospel. It is always a good practice to wash hands before eating, and the Jewish people did this. Further, the tradition was created that hands must also be purified spiritually. This was a second elaborate cleansing ritual. A burdensome tradition developed through human tradition that distracted from an active relationship with God. It was taught these many man-made laws were needed and expected by God.

Jesus calls the religious leader’s hypocrites as they diminish the Divine Commandment for the sake of human traditions. Jesus points out there is no love in this religious point of view. Such religion moves away from a dynamic personal relationship with God for the sake of an external functional practice that creates empty religion. Such a way makes religion impotent. An adherent can simply say, ‘what must I do to follow the way of God.’ Such external practices, burdensome and often oppressive to follow, leaves a person void of God and unknowing of self. It creates an external moral identity of function, ‘I am what I do.’ A heart of love falls out of the picture.

Where is the spiritual growth? Where is a maturing sense of self in a love directed life? How is one to know and understand the reality of God through external functions. This is why Jesus so strongly confronts the religious leaders only interested in the power and prestige this religious system offers them. True religion and worship of God is grounded in love, inescapable of a living relationship with God and others. A love relationship is more difficult than keeping rules and rituals in the illusion of spiritual activity.

The second reading makes this clear. True religion in the worship of God is this: care for orphans and widows, seek justice, serve your neighbor in love. A person cannot love or worship God without loving one’s neighbor. For your good and for the good of others go ahead and wash your hands.

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,

Friday 9am to 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 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720



MASS INTENTIONS

MONDAY, September 2, 2024 LABOR DAY

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

TUESDAY, September 3, 2024

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

WEDNESDAY, September 4, 2024

8:00am Mass: Bernadette Pantano req. by Sheryl Brown

THURSDAY, September 5, 2024

8:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

SATURDAY, September 7, 2024

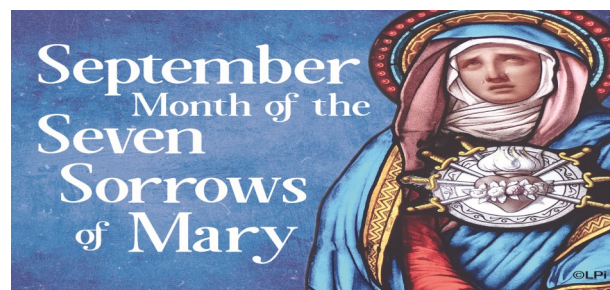
4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Michael Celmer †(4th R.A.) req. by Stan & Linda
Yolkiewicz

Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom

SUNDAY, September 8, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Living & Deceased Members & Families of the Fr.
Heary K of C Council

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family




Readings for the Week

September 1, 2024

Sunday: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8/Ps 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 1a/
Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Monday: 1 Cor 2:1-5/Ps 119:97, 98, 99, 100,
101, 102/Lk 4:16-30

Tuesday: 1 Cor 2:10b-16/Ps 145:8-9, 10-11, 12
-13ab, 13cd-14/Lk 4:31-37

Wednesday: 1 Cor 3:1-9/Ps 33:12-13, 14-15, 20-
21/Lk 4:38-44

Thursday: 1 Cor 3:18-23/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-
6/Lk 5:1-11

Friday: 1 Cor 4:1-5/Ps 37:3-4, 5-6, 27-28, 39
-40/Lk 5:33-39

Saturday: 1 Cor 4:6b-15/Ps 145:17-18, 19-20,
21/Lk 6:1-5

Next Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1B)/
Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37



MONDAY, September 2nd
Mass 9:00am

The Parish Office Will be Closed

A Prayer for Workers

*God our Creator,
 Your Word worked wonders to create
 the heavens and the earth and all they contain.
 Jesus Christ our Savior and Brother,
 You labored alongside your foster father Joseph,
 living the life of an ordinary worker.
 Holy Spirit, we are baptized into your life.
 You live and move and have your being in us
 as we go about our daily tasks.
 May all who work recognize their intrinsic value.
 Show them that their worth depends not
 on any task, responsibility, or skill.
 Remind them that their dignity lies in You, oh
 Lord.
 In all of our labors, may we remember that we
 imitate You. Amen.*

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Save THE Date!

**INTERGENERATIONAL
 HEALING MASS**

Tuesday, Sept. 10th - 7pm

Because of the fall of Adam and Eve, humanity has been affected by sin in each generation. Just as physical characteristics, types of behavior and health, each with good and bad qualities, are passed down through generational lines, so too is our spiritual inheritance. This spiritual inheritance from the blessings and sins of our ancestors can be found in Scripture. (Deut 27-29)

Through extensive penitential prayer petitions and the power of Jesus in the Eucharist, an Intergenerational Healing Mass can help stop the negative effects of past sin and bring healing and peace to the minds, bodies and spirits of current and future generations.

ALL ARE WELCOME



Choir rehearsals begin on Wednesday Sept 4th at 7pm in the music room at the Administration Bldg. If you enjoy singing you should consider coming to this open rehearsal. What you'll find is a welcoming group of people with various levels of musical background who come together to prepare for the coming week's Mass and work on some choral pieces to use in the future at holiday liturgies and throughout the year.

Where to begin regarding Music Ministry? There are many health benefits associated with singing; from increased oxygen levels in the blood stream to lowered blood pressure and increased levels of dopamine. The experience of singing in a group when everybody is in sync and the lyrics are profoundly matching the melody is an ethereal experience in which one can truly feel the presence of the Holy Spirit.

One of the charisms of the Holy Spirit is the gift of tongues. Well grafted music sung properly touches souls in ways beyond our understanding and feeds the word of God to those participating in melodious song. To be so intimately involved in the worship of the liturgy is a gratifying ministry and an honor not to be discounted.

But this takes practice and rehearsal thus we rehearse weekly at 7pm to hone our skills, develop new ones and praise the Lord with our commitment to singing in his name. Its understood that life happens and making rehearsal every week may not always be possible; however, if you do the best you can you'll be so pleased with the experience and how it effects your prayer life.

We need singers for both the Saturday and Sunday Masses as well as those interested in participating in a Resurrection Choir to sing at funerals during the week.

So, if you feel inclined, join us for an open house rehearsal on September 4th in the Administration Bldg. at 7pm; truly one of the most gratifying ministries for the musically inclined.

Peace.

Jim Jim@StVincentFerrer.net



**SIGN UP TO HOST THE
 TRAVELING VOCATIONS
 CHALICE & PRAY FOR
 VOCATIONS**

Please commit to hosting the Traveling Vocations Chalice for one week.

Prayers come with the chalice.
 Sign up sheets are at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert door entrance.

The Word

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

On November 28, 1981, Alphonsine Mumureke was in the dining room at her high school in Kibeho, a small village in southwestern Rwanda. She heard a voice. It was a woman, veiled and beautiful. Alphonsine asked her who she was. "I am the Mother of the Word," answered the woman.

It was the first appearance of Our Lady of Kibeho, who would return to visit Alphonsine and two of her schoolmates over the course of the next eight years. She left with them an urgent call for repentance, along with a prophecy of the Rwandan genocide that would come to fruition in the next decade.

I have always found it compelling that Our Lady chose to identify herself in this way at Kibeho. *The Mother of the Word*. A title so simple and so concise, but so heavy with meaning.

"In the beginning was the Word..." says the Gospel of John in its opening lines.

But what is the Word? Is it spoken, or is it felt? Is it seen, written, heard? Is it shouted or whispered? Is it scribbled across pages that will one day dry and disappear? Is it carved into stone tablets, or on the nameplate above a cross? Is it poured over our foreheads? Is it set ablaze in a bush? Is it etched into our hearts?

It is all of these things, yes, but it is more, still. The Word is not something that is merely spoken. It is not merely written. The Word is something that is done. It is something that we must choose to do.

Our Lady of Kibeho lamented that this world "has neither love nor peace." "If you do not convert and heal your hearts, you will all fall into an abyss," she warned.

But how do we convert our hearts? What snatches us back from the brink?

It is the Word, spoken. It is the Word, carried out. Not just one, and not just the other, but both.

"Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls." -James 1:21 ©LPI



NO BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS THIS MONTH

CCSEM SENIOR MONTHLY FOOD COLLECTION

September 7/8

Items requested:

Individual lunchbox sized and packaged snacks like: Crackers, Granola bars, Cereal bars and Fruit snacks

Canned Foods including:

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable foods from:

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY DECORATED SQUARES NEEDED

Calling all artists, crafters, and creative people. The Prayer Blanket Ministry will resume again the 4th Thursday of September. We are in need of decorated squares for the blankets. Please find the precut fabric squares in a basket under the crucifix on the Herbert side entrance of the church. There are instructions in the basket as well. You can use markers made for fabric, embroidery, or iron on decorations. The decorated squares can be placed in the basket marked "Decorated Squares."

May God bless you for your service.



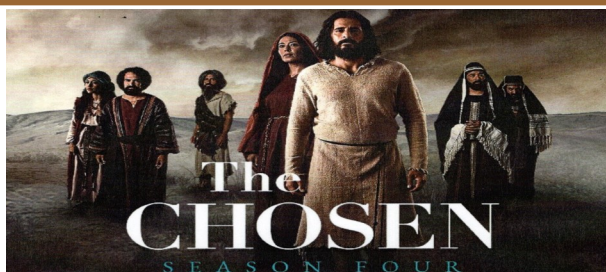
PRAY FOR...

- ...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

UPCOMING



Experience the Life of Jesus Wednesdays

**Sept. 25 & Oct. 2, 9, 16
11:30am to 2:00pm**

SVF Administration Bldg.

Season 4 of the TV Series will be shown, followed by discussion

Lunch will be served

RSVP at the Parish Office 248-542-8720



Parents requesting the Sacrament of Baptism for their infant or toddler must attend a class on the sacrament. **The next class will be Saturday, September 21st at 1:30pm.** Call the Parish Office to register.

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

CATHOLIC TEACHING ON LABOR

Question: As we celebrate Labor Day, can you tell me about Catholic teaching regarding labor?


Answer: One of the most important principles of Catholic social teaching is the dignity of work and the rights of workers. Four encyclicals address this foundational social teaching: *Rerum Novarum* (1891) by Leo XIII, *Quadragesimo Anno* (1931) by Pius XI, *Laborem Exercens* (1981), and *Centesimus Annus* (1991) by John Paul II. They address both the theology and dignity of work. In Genesis, God takes the initiative in creating the world, calling forth human beings to be faithful stewards of creation. We are thus formed to share in God’s continuing creative activity by partnering with God in finishing the world and helping bring it to completion and fulfillment. From this perspective, work can be spiritually understood in terms of sharing in God’s ongoing activity to build, create, and transform the world. Human beings are co-creators with God. This vocation demands self-discipline.

Besides an exercise in self-discipline, work is also the means by which we develop and fulfill ourselves. In work, we shape the world and our environment. Through work, we also shape ourselves. Pope John Paul II summarized this point in *Laborem Exercens* #6, “the value of work is not primarily the kind of work being done, but the fact that the one who is doing it is a person.”

Labor Day offers an excellent opportunity to reflect on how we view work in light of our Catholic social teaching.

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Women’s Sacred Journey
SATURDAY, SEPT. 7TH - 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.



Children’s Faith Formation Begins September 23rd

Dear Parishioners,

We are preparing to begin our Religious Education classes here at St. Vincent Ferrer on Monday, September 23rd. Like last year, classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We are in need of catechists, catechist assistants, and hall monitors this year. If you are interested in volunteering to help us in any of these capacities, please call/text me at 646-369-8619, or email me at matthew@stvincentferrer.net.

Also, please pray for our program, the children and their families who are enrolled, and that more families send their children to our program. If you need to enroll your children for classes, please sign up online at stvincentferrer.net/ministries/youth-faith-formation-2/. Forms are also available in the Parish Office.

Ministry Schedule		
September 7/8, 2024		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	T Riley	J Kosnak
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	T Riley	P Allen
	M Simmons	N Virga
	P Miles	T Karolski
Greeters	J Ballantine	T Oparka
	L Collins	N Oparka
	P Miles	M McLaughlin
	M Smith	D McLaughlin
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of September 7/8		
Terri Riley		

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



ST. BASIL THE GREAT JANUARY 2ND 329 – 379

St. Basil the Great shares his feast day with his lifelong friend St. Gregory of Nazianzen. These accomplished men fought against heresies that threatened the foundations of the early Church, shaping

doctrines around Christ's divinity and the nature of the Holy Trinity.

St. Basil was born at Caesarea of Cappadocia, to a family already deeply rooted in Christianity, going back to the time of widespread persecution in the 1st and 2nd centuries. Following in the footsteps of his father, Basil studied in Caesarea as well as Constantinople and Athens, training in the law and rhetoric. He became a popular teacher. However, his sister persuaded him to give up academia for monastic life. Before inviting St. Gregory to start an order with him, St. Basil traveled through Egypt, Palestine and Syria visiting monasteries, learning everything he could and formulating his own ideas about monastic rule. His rule is still followed today, and he is known as the Father of Eastern Monasticism.

His time in the monastery was relatively short, it was only five years before he was called to play a greater role in the Church. Ordained as a priest, by around 370 he was made bishop of Caesaria. It was in this role that he fought against the heresy of Arianism which denied the divinity of Christ, even defying an emperor! He also fought against other early Trinitarian heresies. But these important doctrinal stands were not what defined Basil. He was passionate about caring for the poor and sick, pastoral care, and fighting against institutionalized prostitution. He would preach twice a day to large crowds, and opened a complex with a hospital, orphanage, and shelter for the poor. In addition to influential monastic rules, sermons, and doctrinal treatises, more than 300 of his letters still exist. St. Basil the Great, pray for us!

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22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Purity isn't popular at the moment. Or is it? Look at a rack of health magazines or at popular podcasts. You'll see an infinite ocean of regulations and rituals of diets, intermittent fasting, morning sun rituals, intense juice detox practices, lists of dangerous foods, mental practices, as well as long lists of dos and don'ts for the proper cleaning of clothes, dishes, cars, houses, pets, and children. Like it or not, we long to be pure, clean, and without blemish.

This question of purity haunted people in Jesus' day, too. The Pharisees and scribes (the leading purity authorities of the day) criticize Jesus, asking, "**Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?**" (Mark 7:5). Jesus responds by saying, "**There is nothing outside the person that can defile him if it goes into him; but the things that come out of the person are what defile the person**" (Mark 7:15). What does he mean, and how can it help us be pure?

We've probably all heard the somewhat shopworn interpretation that Jesus replaces the ritual, exterior notion of purity with a moral, interior one. Christianity is thus seen as a kind of moral re-tooling, as if religion doesn't make us pure. Good moral intentions do. But this doesn't take the rest of Jesus' ministry seriously enough, nor our obsession with purity. The better reading is that Jesus audaciously offers himself as the ultimate source of human purity — from *within* each human heart. Both our religious ritual practices and our moral actions are meant to flow from this encounter with Jesus the Lord. When we are in friendship with him, everything becomes pure for us.

— Father John Muir

©LPi

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The Pharisees did not understand that the law is more than an action to be carried out. We are called to be doers of the word and not hearers only. Let the law take root in your heart, and it will bear fruit in your works.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Dt 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses urged Israel to follow God's commandments, in order to become a "great nation," filled with "wise and intelligent people." Where do you see our nation following God's commandments?

Second Reading: Jas 2:1-5/Jas 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27/
James sees religion at its best when it cares for those on the margins of society and resists the false trappings of the world. How might you help someone less fortunate than you this week?

Gospel: Mk 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Jesus challenged the Pharisees and scribes of Jerusalem on how they interpreted traditional Jewish purity laws. What do you think helps someone have a "clean heart?"

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

Already pledged 68,560.34

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.**

Observances for the Week

Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: Labor Day
 Tuesday: St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
 Next Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day ©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

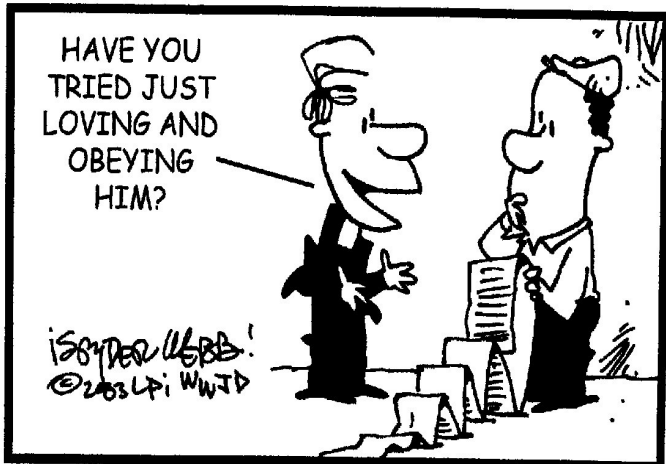
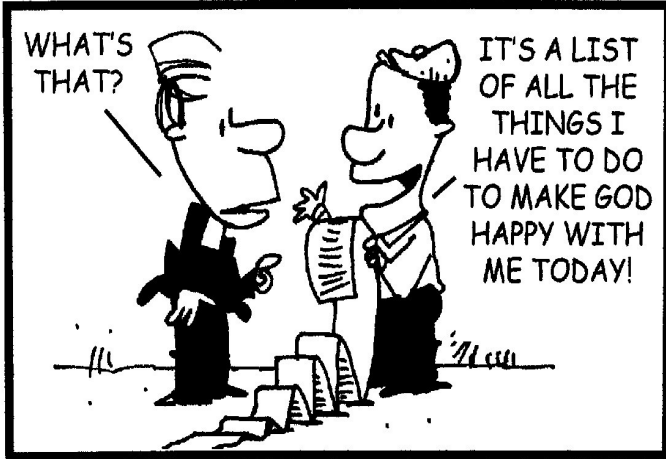
SATURDAY - 4:30pm
 SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am
 MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am
 WED - 12:10pm

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Saint Mother Teresa primarily worked in which country?

©LPi

Answer: India



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 24/25, 2024

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	101		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,633.02	(551.98)	1,742.56
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	222.00	(250.00)	(1245.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	138.00	(1,535.00)	1,690.34
Bequests				110.00
Holy Days: Assumption		*(20.00)		1,092.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 68,560.34				Paid 60,050.34
*Fund Correction				

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