



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024 † TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

‘Be Still and Know that I am God.’

Be still and know that I am

Be still and know that

Be still and know

Be still and

Be

Psalm 46:11

Silence is a bit of a taboo in our culture. Some people swear by it as a source of peace and awareness of their soul. Others cannot tolerate silence and go to great lengths to avoid any form of quiet.

Many people today, more often the young it seems, are comfortable saying ‘I’m not religious, but I am spiritual.’ In many ways this could be a true and life-giving statement. Those seeking the spiritual way who make any progress in spiritual maturity know the value of silence and the graces it offers. Not just the young, but across our culture, it is difficult to not notice the number of people with a phone glued to their ear listening to something or to their face watching countless videos. This is not a complaint or a judgement. I could just as easily be counted among this crowd.

When we are so occupied with the noise and stimulation that surround us, what is it that we fail to see and hear? These preoccupations are either idle or intentional. Many do not want to see what is before them or hear what is within them. This will not lead to a healthy spiritual life. We are familiar with the fear and anxiety of Elijah as he fled to Mount Horeb away from Queen Jezebel who sought to kill him. Hiding in a cave, he sought the consolation of the Lord’s presence. First there was a wind, then an earthquake, then a mighty storm. These were more symbolic of the inner storm within the anxious Prophet. Finally, there was a still small voice. Elijah came to the mouth of the cave to seek its meaning and experienced the presence of the Lord. Silence is the seedbed of revelation.

In the first reading, Isaiah hears a word from the Lord to share with the people whose hearts are frightened. “Be strong. Fear not!” The Lord is inviting the people to be calm and quiet so that they may realize the presence of the Lord. The Lord further offers, ‘the eyes of the blind will be opened and the ears of the deaf will be cleared.’ This is a call from God to trust in the fidelity and providence of God to fulfill all he promises. The inner quiet and

calm of faith will open the eyes and clear the ears to perceive the presence and action of the Lord.

Can God make the Divine presence felt in active and loud ways? Yes, of course. Music is a powerful source of perceiving God. Nature, inspiring videos, movies, or countless other tangible realities that alert the heart, mind, or soul to God’s presence. Yet, silence remains a privileged time to perceive the Lord.

The gospel is a functional example of this. One could rightly say that the healing of the deaf mute is one expression of the prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled in the words and deeds of Jesus. First, notice that ‘people’ brought the deaf-mute man to Jesus. You could say they saw with compassion the need of their friend or relative. They heard and listened to their hearts and brought the man to Jesus with faith and trust for a good outcome. Their seeing, hearing, and acting is rewarded in the restoration of the man’s hearing and speech.

This personal healing was such that Jesus felt it necessary to afford the man the privacy of going away from the crowd. Speech and hearing are very personal gifts that allow us to engage life, persons, and relationships with all that surrounds us. Imagine the man’s loneliness and isolation. This is an intimate act not only of the Lord’s touching and spitting, but also giving the gift of a new life of personal engagement and participation in society and relationships. The man’s capacity to see is now enriched by his ability to hear and speak. The willingness of his friends gave him the gift of a fuller life.

It creates a strange contradiction. After a life of imposed silence how did the man manage all the noise that now surrounded him? I can only imagine that he would need times alone in the silence of his own thoughts pondering his life, and the action of God that restored him. How about you?

We are all aware of selective hearing as well as choosing to blindly not see what is right in front of us. Part of this is resistance to not be bothered, part of it is psychological, sometimes it is fear. Sometimes it can simply be an emotional habit formed by personal or social behavior. There is a difference between being lonely and being alone. Those who learn the wisdom of silence to simply be, will then realize how spiritual they are. God is in you and wants to be seen and heard. Try it. You may like it.

Father John Esper



Liturgical Schedule

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Chapel



**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
Thursdays 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 9, 2024

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

TUESDAY, September 10, 2024

8:00am Mass: Phyllis Becker† req. by Helen & Tom
Szczerba

7:00pm Mass: Healing of Generations

WEDNESDAY, September 11, 2024

8:00am Mass: Jennifer Brown (1st R.A.) req. by Stan &
Linda Yolkiewicz

THURSDAY, September 12, 2024

8:00am Mass: Geri Michelle Froehlich† req. by Julie
Kumm

SATURDAY, September 14, 2024

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

SUNDAY, September 15, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Diane LePage† req. by Martha Eggert
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Dolores Eslava Bince† (Memorial Birthday) req. by
Benedicta Anderson



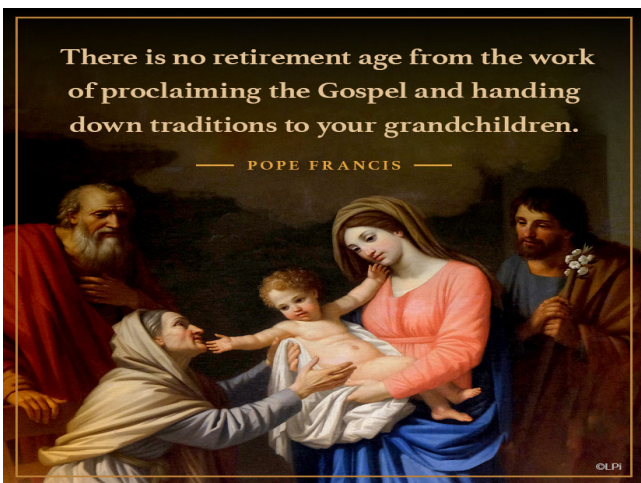

Readings for the Week

September 8, 2024

Sunday: Is 35:4-7a/Ps 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 (1B)/
Jas 2:1-5/Mk 7:31-37
Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8/Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12/Lk 6:6-11
Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a
and 9b/Lk 6:12-19
Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31/Ps 45:11-12, 14-15, 16
-17/Lk 6:20-26
Thursday: 1 Cor 8:1b-7, 11-13/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-
14ab, 23-24/Lk 6:27-38
Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-
6, 12/Lk 6:39-42
Saturday: Nm 21:4b-9/Ps 78:1bc-2, 34-35, 36-
37, 38/Phil 2:6-11/Jn 3:13-17
Next Sunday: Is 50:4c-9a/Ps 116:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 /
Jas 2:14-18/Mk 8:27-35



National Grandparent's Day is a national observance, not a holiday, that was signed into law by President Jimmy Carter in 1978. It encourages recognition of the important contributions senior citizens continue to make in their families and communities. In 1979, it was officially designated to be observed the first Sunday after Labor Day, and the day receives a special proclamation from the President of the United States each year.



Grandparents Day Blessing

God of our ancestors,
we thank you for our children and our children's
children.
They are reminders from you about how precious
life can be.
We humbly ask for wisdom and patience as we
take pride and wonder in our grandchildren.
Those of us who now pray to you also seek your
blessing upon these men and women who are our
grandparents or who act in place of grandparents.
Bless all the children and their parents and
grandparents with your abundant grace.
We ask all this through the intercession of
Saints Joachim and Anne, parents of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, patron saints of grandparents,
in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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THIS TUESDAY

INTERGENERATIONAL HEALING MASS September 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



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.**

ANNUAL MISSION APPEAL NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, Fr. Fred Agyeman, who was originally from the Catholic Archdiocese of Accra (Ghana), but is currently working in the Archdiocese of New York at St Luke Church in the Bronx will be here to ask for our prayers and financial support of his missionary work.

Accra is the capital of Ghana, and it shares its border with Togo, Burkina, Faso and Cote D'ivoire. It is densely populated because people from all walks of life come there to do business and make a living. Support for this appeal will go to the many people in the rural areas in Accra who lack basic necessities and amenities like food, shelter, water and a clinic.

He plans to speak about the need for a children's hospital, a borehole to help provide clean water, and training for seminarians.

Envelopes for this collection are located at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

SIGN UP TO HOST THE TRAVELING VOCATIONS CHALICE

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.



ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING

Tuesday, September 10th 6:30pm –FF Office

This month, the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry meeting will be in the Faith Formation Office of the School

DECORATING PRAYER BLANKET SQUARES

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,

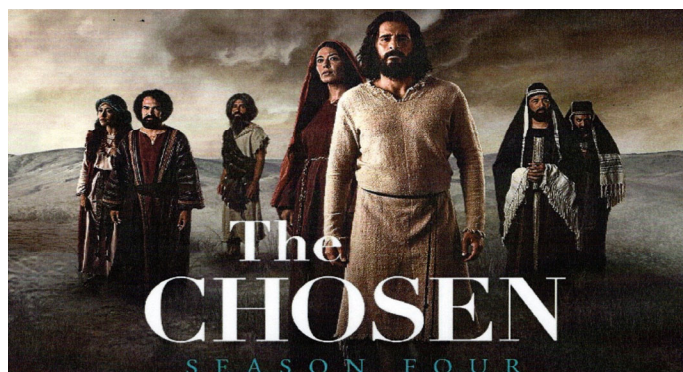
You are the Divine Physician and Healer. To You, we lift up in prayer all who are lonely, homeless, sick or addicted; all who are unemployed or underemployed; all who are anxious or depressed and all who are suffering in any way spiritually, physically or emotionally. In their pain and brokenness, we 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

MUSIC MINISTRY

Choir rehearsals began last Wednesday, but there is still time to find out whether this ministry is a good fit for you.

Choir meets on Wednesday evenings at 7:00pm in the Choir Room of the Administration Building.

If you have questions, contact Jim at jim@stvincentferrer.net



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 in the Parish Office or call 248-542-8720

Observances for the Week

Sunday: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; Grandparents' Day
 Monday: St. Peter Claver, Priest
 Wednesday: Patriot Day
 Thursday: The Most Holy Name of Mary
 Friday: St. John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
 Saturday: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross
 Next Sunday: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catechetical Sunday



Dear Parishioners,

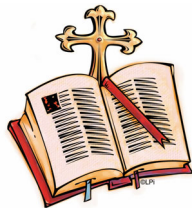
We are preparing to begin our Religious Education classes here at St. Vincent Ferrer on Monday, September 23rd. Like last year, classes will be held on Monday evenings from 6:15 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. We are in need of catechists, catechist assistants, and hall monitors this year. If you are interested in 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/ or pick up forms at the Parish Office.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, September 14th 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. No fees or registration are required.



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Is 35:4-7a

The prophet Isaiah encouraged the Israelites to be strong in their conviction that God was coming to heal them and renew creation itself. Who could you encourage to be firm in their faith this week?

Second Reading: Jas 2:1-5

James taught believers to make no distinctions between the rich and the poor in their community gatherings. How do you think showing no partiality helps a community grow in faith?

Gospel: Mk 7:31-37

We hear today how the people of the Decapolis were astonished at Jesus's healing of the deaf and mute. What parts of your life need healing?

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

EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Question: What is the history behind feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross?

Answer: Emperor Constantine's mother, Helena, is credited with having discovered the true cross around 330. She traveled to the Holy Land and uncovered the places associated with Jesus' life. Legend has it that Helena uncovered three crosses but was not able to detect the true cross until each of them was laid on a leper. Only one of them cured the leper, proving it to be the true cross. A great church was built at the site, and soon various portions of the cross were sent to other churches as relics to be venerated.

The day after the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, September 14, 335, the actual cross was displayed for veneration. Egeria, a women traveler to Jerusalem around the year 386, kept a diary that has survived. She tells of the unique veneration of the wood of the cross that took place on Good Friday, something maintained ritually to this very day.

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross focuses on the gift of love that Jesus manifested by his total gift of self, offered for all. The cross, the ultimate form of capital punishment in its day, has become for us the ultimate symbol of love and triumph over evil and death.

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Ministry Schedule		
September 14/15, 2024		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	T Karolski
Reader #1	P Miles	D Gray
Reader #2	T Riley	T Karolski
EME	D Tourville	M Waskowski
	T Riley	M Black
	P Miles	D Gray
Greeters	J Ballantine	T Lane
	L Collins	D Vu
	M Smith	B Gutowski
	R Bertolini	S Bosetti
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of September 14/15		
Gene & Sally Bosetti		

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

VENERABLE SAMUEL CHARLES MAZZUCHELLI

Venerable Samuel Charles Mazzuchelli O.P. was one of the very first Catholic missionary priests in the Midwestern United States. Reverend John Ireland, Archbishop of St. Paul, called Mazzuchelli “the pathfinder in the wilderness.” Mazzuchelli’s work establishing relationships with the native peoples and new settlers as well as his continuous efforts to build church buildings and pastor the growing Catholic communities in the USA blazed a path for his peers.

Born Carlo Gaetano Samuel Mazzuchelli on November 4, 1806, in Milan, Italy, he was the 16th of 17 children in his family! When he was only 17 years old, he entered the Dominican order and changed his name to Friar Samuel. Answering a recruitment call by his order to serve in the new, missionary Diocese of Cincinnati in America, he was ordained a priest by Bishop Edward Fenwick, first Bishop of Cincinnati, in 1830.

After his first five years as a priest was spent at Sainte Anne Church on Mackinac Island in Lake Huron, Michigan, Bishop Fenwick assigned him to be the missionary priest of the whole of the Northwest Territory.

Father Mazzuchelli spent the rest of his years traveling this vast area on horseback, in native canoes, and on foot. He traveled and served communities from the Great Lakes region to the Mississippi and beyond. He encountered and worked alongside new immigrant settlers, miners, and farmers, as well as native tribes, political leaders, and other Christian denominations. He designed and built over 24 churches and other buildings, many local parishes remaining to this day! He started the Dominican Sisters of Sinsinawa and was described by those that knew him as a sensitive warm man full of mercy, truth and virtue, boldness and zeal. On July 6, 1993, Pope John Paul II allowed Fr. Mazzuchelli’s Cause for sainthood. His path toward Beatification and Canonization continues.

Prayer for the Beatification of Father Samuel Mazzuchelli

Lord Jesus, you called your servant, Samuel, even in early youth, to leave home and all for a Dominican life of charity in preaching your holy gospel. You gave him abundant graces of Eucharistic love, devotion to your holy Mother of Sorrows, and a consuming zeal for souls. Grant, we beseech you, that his fervent love and labors for you may become more widely known, to a fruitful increase of your Mystical Body, to his exaltation and to our own constant growth in devoted love of you who with the Father and the Holy Spirit live and reign one God, world without end. Amen.

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Be Opened

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

There are several moments throughout the calendar year when we are tricked into thinking we can reinvent ourselves.

One of them is New Year’s Day. The barista at my coffee shop told me that they sell more decaf coffee in January than in the entirety of the remaining year, because everyone is swearing off caffeine. By February, she said, the trend subsides: folks have realized they’re not actually superheroes just because the last digit of the year has increased by one.

The beginning of a new school year is another of those moments. Every pencil is freshly sharpened, and every lesson plan is painstakingly plotted. Our heads are full of what we plan to do this year, how we plan to do it, who we plan to become.

But by May, the wind is out of our sails. We’ve learned the concepts, we’ve used up the pencils, yes — but we’ve remembered that underneath it all we’re basically the same people, with the same shortcomings and the same obstacles as we always were. The only difference in September was we had new planners.

The truth is that we cannot reinvent ourselves. We can’t change ourselves at all, not on New Year’s Day or the first day of school or on our 40th birthday or after quitting a bad habit. We are what we are: blind in some ways, deaf in others, crippled in still more, moving through life with uncertainty, stumbling in the dark.

People don’t change. Not without miracles.

But being a Christian means believing in miracles and being ready for them at any moment — in January or in September, in the middle of a hopeless week or at the end of a bad day, when you feel strong and when you don’t, when you want to be better and when you feel too tired to try.

No, we can’t change ourselves, but we can *be* changed. There is one who can change us if we will let him. He is waiting — now, tomorrow, yesterday, next week. The time is always right for a miracle.

“He put his finger into the man’s ears ... and said to him, ‘Ephphatha!’— that is, ‘Be opened!’—And immediately the man’s ears were opened ...”

—Mark 7:34-35 ©LPi



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“Be opened!” said Christ two thousand years ago, as he placed his finger in the ear of the deaf man. “Be opened!” he says to us today, laying his hand upon our hearts. May we always accept Christ’s invitation to become a new creation.

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PRIESTLY DISCERNMENT GROUP MEETING

Wednesday, September 18th - 7-8:30pm

The Office of Priestly Vocations’ discernment group for men (18-55) considering the priesthood is having its next meeting on Wednesday, September 18, 2024 from 7:00-8:30pm. New members can join at any time, as there is no requirement to have been at the last meeting.

Meetings are led by Fr. Craig Giera, Director of Priestly Vocations, and will include prayer, group discussion on discernment, light refreshments, and fellowship with other-like-minded men.

Please contact the vocation office for more info: detroitpriestlyvocations.com/discernment-groups/.



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 - 10:00am - 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



Life-Giving Wounds Weekend Retreat

A HEALING RETREAT FOR ADULT CHILDREN OF DIVORCE OR SEPARATION

September 13 to 15

Life-Giving Wounds is a three-day retreat that invites participants to move through the broken image of love that appeared to them in their parents’ relationship to their deepest origin and identity as God’s beloved, capable of great love. It will be led by the Life-Giving Wounds traveling retreat team.

The retreat begins on Friday September 13 at 7:00 pm and ends on Sunday September 15 at 3:30 pm. Cost per individual is \$100/person.

Registration includes the Life-Giving Wounds Retreat Guide and Journal Combo. Must be 18 or older to attend. Learn more and Register at www.aod.org/lgw-retreat.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name of the patron saint of grandfathers? ©LPi

Answer: St. Joachim, father of Mary.

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING AUG 31 / SEPT 1, 2024

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	114		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 6,704.60	1,519.60	3,262.16
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	462.00	(10.00)	(1,255.00)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	124.00	(1,549.00)	141.34
Bequests				110.00
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days: Assumption & All Saints		175.00		1,267.00
CSA 2024 Pledged \$69,560.34				Paid 62,230.34

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