



# St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

SEPTEMBER 22, 2024 † TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## From The Pastor

Occasionally, the second reading becomes the access point to the overall theme of the Sunday liturgy. The issue is a difficult one that regularly and undeniably surrounds us yet is rarely given appropriate attention. As Christians, we try to follow the light of goodness but consistently experience the tension of evil and the disorder of darkness.

In the second reading, St. James focuses our attention. 'Where do the wars and conflicts among you come from?' This is not an easy question nor one that can be sufficiently addressed in a Sunday homily. Given the context of our society today, we can nonetheless address the question in the mind and example of Christ.

Broadly speaking, there are three spirits in the world: the Holy Spirit, the human spirit, and the Evil spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Love in the Divine Essence. You have the Holy Spirit. God is in you and you are in God. The human spirit is expressed in your personality, temperament, ego, likes and dislikes, will and wants, your autonomy or lack thereof. The Evil Spirit is the absence of love expressed in darkness, lies, chaos, and confusion to defeat the light and the goodness of love, order, and virtue that seeks God.

What is the energy between good and evil? What does the work of evil gain or try to accomplish? What is all that? The Church teaches and believes there is personified Evil in the world in the total and active rejection of God and the good of God. This is a larger question beyond our reach today. Suffice it to say that many if not most of us have seen, heard, or experienced the wiles and hate of the presence of Evil. Its basic reality is sin and its temptation.

In the frame of today's readings, we can gain insight from St. James. He believes war and conflicts come from our passions, our inner emotions that lead us to unvirtuous thoughts or actions. More simply, James is referring to the unresolved hurts, losses, disappointments, or injustice done against us that trap or lead us to attitudes of negativity, fear, anger, resentment, or bitterness with the need for some payback or retribution that must be paid.

The first reading captures this in the thoughts and actions of the wicked. As if thinking out loud, the wicked plan to shame, conflict, and defeat the righteous by wearing them down away from their virtues. Why?

The virtues of the righteous often serve to agitate and expose the sin and rejection of God by the wicked ones. This is the tension between good and evil. Isn't this kind of behavior grounded in those who have suffered the absence of love in their lives? Those who have lived with torment, abuse, dysfunction, or abandonment can be filled with anger and self-hatred that can only be expressed in the manner that created the emotions in the first place. This is hard, right? I do not believe anyone wakes up one day and decides to be or to do evil. Those in the absence of love and stability of basic acceptance and belonging can lose the capacity to control their deep emotional pain.

Evil and good will always be in tension. In the gospel, Jesus predicts his suffering and death. The disciples do not understand. How or who would want to harm or kill Jesus in the power of all his light and goodness? We ourselves often have the same question. It is the evidence of sin and evil when the religious leaders and others were so threatened by Jesus and his power for good that they sought to kill him.

What to do? Do not miss the power and will of Divine love. God will not allow sin and evil to have victory over the goodness of creation and humanity. The Incarnation is radical. The Cross of Jesus is radical. The reality of Divine Mercy is radical. Resurrection is the new life of Radical Love.

Believe in Christ. Practice religion. Love God, love yourself, love others from your heart. Love your enemies. Love those who have hurt you. Forgive them. Pay attention to your emotional, relational, physical, and spiritual health, as well as those at home and around you at work and school.

Check yourself for the Holy Spirit. Are you living in the manner of love? Check your human spirit. Are you happy, largely at peace with yourself and others? Are you stuck in anger, unforgiveness, resentment, or other binding emotions?

Check yourself against the wiles of evil: self-judgement, shame, rejection, blame, bitterness with complaints and ingratitude swirling overhead.

Pray. Trust. Use the name of Jesus. Forgive yourself. Surrender your hurts and losses to Jesus and his Cross. He is near you and knows you, understanding all sin and evil. Jesus is the answer and the victory that is yours now and later.

Be at peace.

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 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 23, 2024

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

## TUESDAY, September 24, 2024

8:00am Mass: Dr. Gus Toma (Special Intention) req. by  
Mary Ann Przybysz

## WEDNESDAY, September 25, 2024

8:00am Mass: Joseph Kuzma† req. by Nancy  
Sadowski

## THURSDAY, September 26, 2024

8:00am Mass: Brandon France† req. by Tourville  
Family

## SATURDAY, September 28, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Donna Dietrich† req. by Family  
Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mon  
Jean Lebioda† (16th R.A.) req. by daughter, Jeanette 7  
Tony Szeliga

Kimberly (Strawska) Hackett† req. by Mary Jane Guc

## SUNDAY, September 29, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family  
Camille Keyest† req. by Corrine McCarthy

## NEXT SUNDAY



**PRIESTHOOD  
SUNDAY  
SEPTEMBER 29**



# Readings for the Week

## September 22, 2024

- Sunday: Wis 2:12, 17-20/Ps 54:3-4, 5, 6-8 (6b)/Jas 3:16—4:3/Mk 9:30-37
- Monday: Prv 3:27-34/Ps 15:2-3a, 3bc-4ab, 5/Lk 8:16-18
- Tuesday: Prv 21:1-6, 10-13/Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34, 35, 44/Lk 8:19-21
- Wednesday: Prv 30:5-9/Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163/Lk 9:1-6
- Thursday: Eccl 1:2-11/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a and 9b/Lk 9:7-9
- Friday: Eccl 3:1-11/Ps 144:1b and 2abc, 3-4/Lk 9:18-22
- Saturday: Eccl 11:9—12:8/Ps 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14 and 17/Lk 9:43b-45
- Next Sunday: Nm 11:25-29/Ps 19:8, 10, 12-13, 14 (9a)/Jas 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48





Anointing of the Sick

**HEALING MASS  
NEXT SATURDAY**

**SEPTEMBER 28, 2024 - 4:00pm**

Fr. John will administer the Sacrament of the Sick after Mass. Prayer teams will be available for individual prayer.



**EVANGELICAL CHARITY**

**CARDS FOR SHUT-INS MINISTRY  
Thursday, September 26th - 6-8pm  
Parish Hall**

All young and seasoned members of the parish desiring to brighten another persons day with your art work/ coloring are invited to join us in the cafeteria on Thursday, September 26 anytime between 6:00 and 8:00 pm. All supplies are provided.

**PRAYER BLANKET MINISTRY  
Thursday September 26th  
6-9pm in the Parish Hall**

Our Prayer Blanket Ministry will resume on Thursday, September 26, 2024 from 6-9 PM in the social hall. All are welcome; children as well as adults. If you can decorate squares, arrange squares, sew, or iron blankets we have a job for you. Please come and join us for all or part of the time. You will be glad you did.



**SNACK BAG COLLECTION  
Sept 28/29 & Oct 5/6**

On Saturday, October 19th our parish will be participating in an Archdiocesan outreach day which involves our hands-on efforts to serve the needs of local homeless, food deprived, and other unmet needs of our brothers and sisters whom Jesus identifies with: "When I was hungry." Our first collection request for this project will be items that will be placed in snack bags to be delivered to Franciscan Outreach at their Duns Scotus House in Berkley.

**Items needed:** individual serving sizes of cookies, crackers, gummy fruit snacks, granola bars and juice boxes. We'll be collecting these items on the weekends of Sept. 28/29 and Oct. 5/6, 2024. Your contributions can be placed on the tables in the back of church or at the parish office during the week. Thank you for your always generous response.

*Congratulations SVF Family*

Last week at the annual gala of Catholic Charities of Southeast Michigan (CCSEM), St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church was given The Outstanding Parish Winner Award. This award honors a parish in the Archdiocese of Detroit that is committed to charity in their community. "Whether it has been through a project, a hosted program, a collection, or their dedication to social service, this parish shares Christ's love to help better the lives of those around them."



**SEND A PHOTO OF YOUR PET**

With the annual Pet Blessing coming up on Oct 5th to honor St. Francis of Assisi, we thought it would be fun in the next couple of weeks to see the pets you share your home with and call "Family."

Send us a picture of your pet, either digitally (to [sheryl@stvincentferrer.net](mailto:sheryl@stvincentferrer.net)) or drop one off at the administration office this week and we'll feature them in the weekly video announcements.

**SAVE THE DATE**

*Praise & Worship*

**WEDNESDAY**

**October 16th - 7pm**

**Prayer / Song/ Fellowship  
light refreshments  
to follow**

**ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**St. Vincent Ferrer Church  
28353 Herbert St.  
Madison Heights, MI 48071**



**Priest Retirement Fund Collection -  
Next Weekend - Sept. 28/29**

Each year, the Archdiocese of Detroit assesses each parish an annual contribution to the Priest Retirement Fund. To help defray the cost of this assessment, we will take up a collection next weekend. Your generosity in supporting retired priests who have served in the Archdiocese of Detroit is greatly appreciated!

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



**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**



**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*

**ATTENTION**

**SVF LITURGICAL MINISTERS:  
Sacristans, Greeters, Readers, EMes**

**Please plan on attending an evening of renewal and reflection on Tuesday, October 8th at 6:30pm in the Administration Building.**

Fr. John will lead us in prayer, praise and thanksgiving for our ministries. The evening will also attend to tasks and format of the individual ministries.

This meeting will also meet the requirements of the Archdiocese to recertify ministers every 3 years. Those interested in joining a ministry are welcome to attend.

Note: This evening was originally scheduled last January but was canceled due to inclement weather.

**QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION**

**First Reading:** Wis 2:12, 17-20

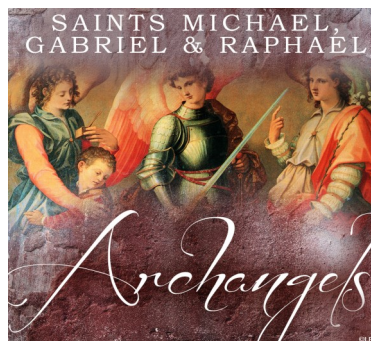
The Jewish wisdom writer teaches us that wicked people revile and test those who are just and upright. What might be an effective way to win over a wicked person?

**Second Reading:** Jas 3:16—4:3

James encourages us to be sincere and consistent in cultivating peace. Can you think of a situation this week at home or at work where you could seek peace?

**Gospel:** Mk 9:30-37

We hear today that the disciples did not always understand Jesus and were afraid sometimes to ask him questions. How would you suggest dealing with tensions that arise in close relationships? ©LPI



- St. Michael gives Protection.
- St. Gabriel relays messages.
- St. Raphael brings healing.
- Holy Archangels Pray For Us.





# CLASSES BEGIN THIS MONDAY

Faith Formation  
Classes for students in 1st through 8th  
grade take place in person on Monday  
evenings in the school building from  
6:15pm to 7:30pm.

Register online at [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)



*Dear God,  
You never stop drawing us  
closer to You. Pour Your  
grace upon these young  
disciples as they learn about  
You. Attract them. Challenge  
them. Love them. Guide them.  
Bless them. Amen.* ©LPi



*Thank you to all  
who have said  
yes to serving in  
our Children's  
Faith Formation  
Ministry.*

*The St. Vincent Ferrer Community prays that  
God will richly bless your lives for all you do  
in sharing Jesus with these young people.*

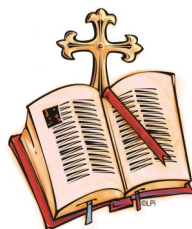
### Prayer for Catechists

*Dear Lord,  
Anoint those who serve as catechists, those who  
tell your story of determined love for your people.  
Be with our catechists in their classrooms, inspire  
the hearts of those in their care, ignite a new  
generation disciples for you! Amen.* ©LPi

### MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, September 28th 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.



## CALLED TO SERVE, NOT BE SERVED

If you have traveled on Southwest Airlines, you are aware of how they line people up prior to boarding. You receive a lettered group of A, B, or C and a number. You line up with your group and in sequence based on your numbers. This means that before every flight, you'll hear people ask over and over, "What number are you?" Some don't ask and simply place themselves in the line. I have been A-1 before and had someone stand in line in front of me. There is nothing before A-1 in the line! It is crazy the urgency of some to board the plane and get the perfect seat. For some, I think it has more to do with a sense of entitlement. No one is going to cheat me out of my place in line! I deserve it!

Of course, you can't deserve your place in the line more than another. We are all getting on the plane and going to the same place. In life, some of us act like people in a Southwest boarding line. We want our place in line, and we will sometimes put ourselves ahead of others without merit. Good stewardship allows us to see our actions in this regard as folly. Jesus said, "If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all." We are called to serve and not to be served. If we seek what we truly deserve in this life, we will find that we are not actually entitled to much. If we humble ourselves and seek to serve others, we will receive an abundance of good things, even though we still won't deserve it. For all we receive, whether we are A-1 or C-30, is a gift.

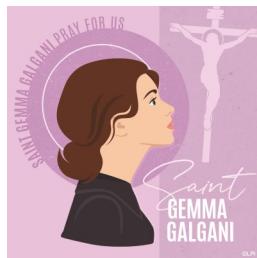
--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
©LPi

<b>Ministry Schedule</b>		
September 28/29, 2024		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	C McCarthy
Reader #1	D Tourville	R Grant
Reader #2	T Riley	A Goll
EME	J McCown	Goll
	M Kairis	Yolkiewicz
	D Tourville	Grant
Greeters	M Smith	S Bosetti
	J Ballantine	B Gutowski
	L Collins	D Vu
	R Bertolini	B Turchin
<b>Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of September 28/29</b>		
Robin Silverest		

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

## Bearing Witness

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman



**ST. GEMMA GALGANI**  
(1878-1903)  
APRIL 11

St. Gemma Galgani was born in Camigliano, Tuscany. Her mother, a devout woman, helped Gemma prepare for her Confirmation at 8 years old. Unfortunately, at the Mass celebrating her Confirmation, Gemma was called to give up her mother who died of tuberculosis not long after. The next year, Gemma wished to make her First Communion, because she was only 9, she was granted special permission to do so. After her mother's death, Gemma was educated by Sisters of St. Zita at a day school.

In 1897, Gemma's father died, leaving his children destitute. Taken in by relatives, the orphan fell seriously ill just one year later. She suffered a curvature of the spine, was paralyzed, and struck deaf. She had large abscesses on her head and her hair fell off. On her deathbed, she received a vision of St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Mother who promised to pray a novena to the Sacred Heart with her. Miraculously, when the novena ended, she was cured.

Despite her recovery, she was still unable to obtain permission to enter a Passionist order as she desired because of the fragility of her health. Gemma nonetheless continued to live an intense prayer life. She experienced ecstasies and was even reported to levitate. In 1899, at the age of 21, Gemma received the grace of the holy stigmata. Each Thursday evening, the marks of the wounds of Christ would appear, disappearing on Friday or Saturday. She is called the "Daughter of the Passion" because of her deep union with Christ's Passion.

In January 1903, Gemma contracted tuberculosis. She suffered greatly and eventually died in April of that year, on Holy Saturday. She was beatified in 1933 by Pope Pius XI and canonized in 1940 by Pope Pius XII. St. Gemma Galgani, pray for us! ©LPi

I am fascinated by minor Gospel characters. These people — the rich young man, the adulterous woman, the teachers at the temple — share the stage with Jesus only briefly. They bear passing but powerful witness to crucial moments of his earthly ministry. They breathe the air he breathes. They hear the sound of his voice. Some of them feel the touch of his skin.

And then they go on with their lives and disappear into obscurity. They become just another one of us.

I think of the child who sat in Jesus' lap while he said those famous words: *"Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me."*

What did the boy think? Did he understand the words, or did he only know that they were gently spoken? Did he only think to himself how kind was the face of this man, and how consoling and warm his embrace?

I picture this child growing up. Perhaps he married and loved his wife and children. Perhaps he was happy, or perhaps he was not. Perhaps he became wealthy or was even wealthy to begin with. Perhaps he, like so many other children of that era, had only a very short life, and returned quickly to the arms that enveloped him that day in Capernaum.

We don't know. But we know he was there: he saw Christ, he felt him, he heard him. We sigh to think of it. *How lucky. If only we could, too. Then it would be easier. Then we could be holy.*

But we are all this child in Capernaum. We are all the woman at the well. We are all the centurion at the cross. Every time we kneel before the Host and hear the words "This is my Body," we occupy the same earthly time and space as the Messiah, and he fixes upon us the same gaze he fixed upon them.

We all bear witness.

We receive him, and then we go back to our lives, our ordinary lives.

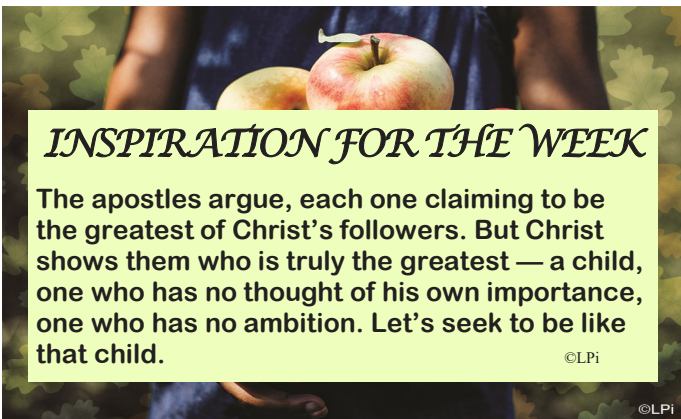
Do we carry him with us? Do we dare?

***I will praise your name,  
O Lord, for its goodness."***

-Psalm 54:6 ©LPi



Sunday: 25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Monday: St. Pius of Pietrelcina, Priest;  
National Migration Week  
Thursday: Ss. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs  
Friday: St. Vincent de Paul, Priest  
Saturday: St. Wenceslaus, Martyr; St.  
Lawrence Ruiz and Companions,  
Martyrs  
Next Sunday: 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
Priesthood Sunday ©LPi



### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The apostles argue, each one claiming to be the greatest of Christ's followers. But Christ shows them who is truly the greatest — a child, one who has no thought of his own importance, one who has no ambition. Let's seek to be like that child.

©LPi

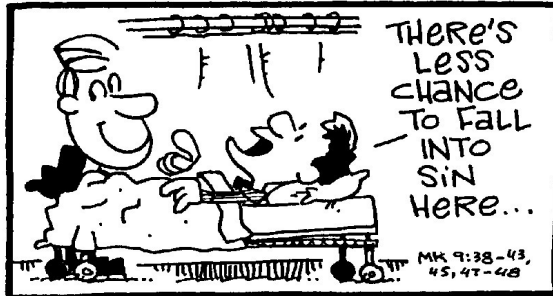
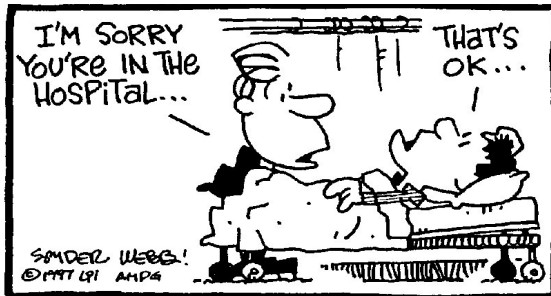
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**RETREAT FOR  
Singles Late 50s and Above:**

**Nov 8-10,  
St. Francis Retreat Center - Dewitt, MI**

Are you looking for a renewed sense of purpose & belonging? Register today for a life-changing RENEW weekend retreat at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing), on Nov 8-10, 2024. Take a chance and get involved... you won't regret it! Cost is \$235 for meals and a single room.

Visit [www.RenewRetreats.org](http://www.RenewRetreats.org), call 5270-449-4858 or email [renewretreat.mi@gmail.com](mailto:renewretreat.mi@gmail.com) for details.



**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.

**Classes on Catholic Social Teaching & Contemporary Issues**

**7 Saturdays at 1:00pm beginning Oct 12**

Catholic Social Teaching is a hidden treasure that can guide us in understanding contemporary issues and witnessing to Jesus' wisdom and love communicated through the Church.

Beginning Saturday, Oct. 12 and for 7 Saturdays, Fr. Alex Kratz, OFM, will offer a class at St. Joseph Chapel (400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48341 at 1:00pm. Classes cover Abortion (Oct. 12), Immigration (Oct. 19), Environment (Oct 26), LGBT+ (Nov. 9) Healthcare (Nov. 16), Critical Race Theory (Nov. 30) and Gender Equality (Dec. 14)

The textbook, Fr. Jeffrey Kirby's *Sanctify Them in Truth: How the Church's Social Doctrine Addresses the Issues of Our Time* is available for \$15.00.

For more info contact Fr. Alex at: [abunaalex@yahoo.com](mailto:abunaalex@yahoo.com) or call/text 313-727-9784

**SEPT 23-29**

The Universal Church is encouraged to pray for vulnerable people on the move, the many challenges that they face and the opportunities that migration offers.



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING SEPT 14/ 15, 2024**

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	111		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,485.74	300.74	3,043.40
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	341.00	(131.00)	(1,613.80)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	120.00	(1,553.00)	6,963.34
Bequests		100.00		210.00
AOD Collections: Missionary Cooperation Plan		1,765.00		1,765.00
Holy Days:				1,267.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 69,560.34				Paid 62,850.84



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