



Respect All Life

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

OCTOBER 6, 2024 † TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

God is what God does. God is love. God loves. God is a relationship of persons in perfect communion, unity, undivided in identity, purpose, and intention. God is the purity of love in the Divine essence. The reading from the Book of Genesis today is a perfect example of the Divine identity and expression.

God gives and expresses who God is in the work of creation and the formation of the human person. As a Trinity of persons, God is not and cannot be alone. God is the essence of what it means to be in relationship expressed in the perfect flow of mutual love with a singular intention; the union of all that is.

Consider the wisdom of the inspired insight of the biblical author who writes: ‘The Lord God said: “It is not good for the man (human person) to be alone. I will make a suitable partner for him.”’ Human beings are made in the image and likeness of God. God made us male and female in the physical bodily forms that most pleased God. God made us in the image of his own liking. More deeply, God made us in the image of the Divine Self. God made us out of love, for the sake of love, to be loving of ourselves, others, and God.

In the Divine essence of pure love in the union of perfect relationship, God created human beings to be an image of the Divine nature. Human beings share the DNA of the Divine nature in our endless longing for love, wholeness, and union with another. This is most richly expressed in the union of Christian marriage. It is the deepest longing of all human beings to know and to be known deeply by another. It is deep in our bones to be in relationships through which we come to know ourselves more deeply in the freedom of knowing and loving another. Love by nature is not singular. Love by nature is known and realized in free, mutual, self-giving love for another. This does not invalidate the single lifestyle for those persons committed to self-giving love in religious life, priesthood, or other expressions of committed love that nourish and enrich life for and with others.

Spiritually, marriage is a mirror of Divine love. In the reality of human love, this ideal does not mean perfection. Divine perfection will not be realized this side of heaven. In the Divine wisdom, marriage serves the dynamic of our inner longing for bonds of love that awaken the soul to the presence of God. Isn’t this why people marry? Because they see and know themselves more clearly through the love of the other. Mutual love freely shared with another

gives new life to each person. A new energy, creativity, commitment, and contentment is found. The soul is awakened to the inner nature of love within. A larger love is realized that reveals the Divine love in each of us.

This is the mirror. This is why marriage is a sacrament. This kind of love reveals and awakens the presence of God not only in the self but is also seen and experienced in the other. This is one expression of the phrase ‘holy longing.’ This is not just a Christian phrase. All world religions, poets, authors, and lovers use this expression. From beginning to end, this holy longing is our longing for God, for wholeness, for oneness with the love from which we came and long to return. Ponder this. What is your deepest longing? If you are honest, it is for love, to be known, to be valued, a part of, and meaningful to another and others.

This may sound a million miles from where you are in life or marriage, but it is not. The ideal of God must be worked out and realized in the messiness and heartache of daily living. Life and relationships are hard. They demand struggle, commitment, compromise, and ready forgiveness. The ideal will only be realized in the struggle to persevere in the daily mess in the hope of loves promise.

I am an imperfect man with my share of faults and weaknesses, but I know God has called me to be a priest; to commit the love that lives in me to the service of faith to sharing the gospel to the best of my ability. Is it perfect? No. Do I fail? Yes. Do I fall, get frustrated, or selfish? Yes. But the love in me persists, knowing the presence and action of God remains active in me.

No marriage is perfect. I have known people with great marriages filled with grace and fruitful love, and there are still struggles. I have known people in hard, wounded, and messy marriages. Somehow, they persevere. Sometimes not. Even in the trials, the grace of God is present. Love conveys grace even in the hardest of times. Remember your love for your spouse is a mirror or an image of your longing for God.

No one is expected to stay in an unresolvable situation of abuse, violence, persistent infidelity, or endless disdain. You are an image of God made for love. Marriage, friendship, or any bonds of human love are a mirror that reflects the life of God in you. Sit with your holy longing knowing it is the presence of the Lord. Exercise love whenever you can. God is near.

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



MONDAY, October 7, 2024

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

TUESDAY, October 8, 2024

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

WEDNESDAY, October 9, 2024

8:00am Mass: Jacquelyn Pantano† req. by Family

THURSDAY, October 10, 2024

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

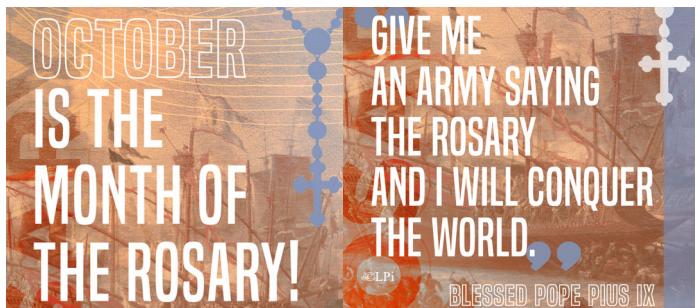
SATURDAY, October 12, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Peter Conway (Special Intention) req. by Mom Greg & Debbie Tourville (50th Wedding Anniv. Blessings) req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

SUNDAY, October 13, 2024

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

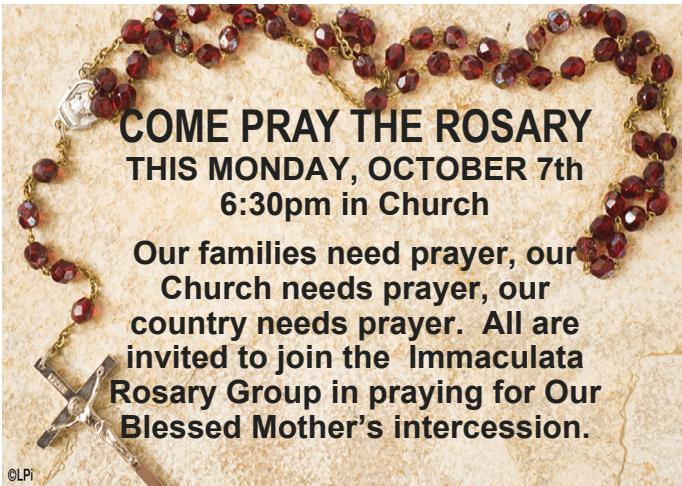
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family Camille Keyes† req. by Paula Moran



Readings for the Week

October 6, 2024

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| Sunday: | Gn 2:18-24/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (see 5)/Heb 2:9-11/Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12 |
| Monday: | Gal 1:6-12/Ps 111:1b-2, 7-8, 9 and 10c/Lk 10:25-37 |
| Tuesday: | Gal 1:13-24/Ps 139:1b-3, 13-14ab, 14c-15/Lk 10:38-42 |
| Wednesday: | Gal 2:1-2, 7-14/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Lk 11:1-4 |
| Thursday: | Gal 3:1-5/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/Lk 11:5-13 |
| Friday: | Gal 3:7-14/Ps 111:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 11:15-26 |
| Saturday: | Gal 3:22-29/Ps 105:2-3, 4-5, 6-7/Lk 11:27-28 |
| Next Sunday: | Wis 7:7-11/Ps 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 (14)/Heb 4:12-13/Mk 10:17-30 or 10:17-27 |



**COME PRAY THE ROSARY
THIS MONDAY, OCTOBER 7th
6:30pm in Church**

**Our families need prayer, our
Church needs prayer, our
country needs prayer. All are
invited to join the Immaculata
Rosary Group in praying for Our
Blessed Mother's intercession.**

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SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH COLLECTION October 12/13

This annual collection is an effort of the entire Church to help over 1,100 dioceses that cannot sustain themselves because they are too poor, young or actively persecuted. As Catholics, we are called not only to pray for and fund missions, but also to become missionaries, evangelizing others in our daily lives.

Society for the Propagation of the Faith envelopes can be found at the church entrances. Please make checks payable to St. Vincent Ferrer Church.

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

ALL SVF LITURGICAL MINISTERS: Sacristans, Greeters, Readers, EMEs MEETING: This Tuesday, October 8th 6:30pm in Admin Bldg.

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 liturgical ministry are also welcome to attend.

HEALTH LITERACY

October is here already. I want to take the time to remind you to get updated covid and flu vaccines. It is also breast cancer awareness month, if you have not discussed screening with your primary physician, it is time to do so. These are examples of being health aware or literate.

Health Literacy represents personal knowledge of what you need to do and understand to keep healthy. It is important to know your health care knowledge and beliefs as this can impact your health decisions. Health Literacy also includes reading and understanding health information you are given, communicating with health care professionals, and accessing health care services appropriate for you so you can make correct health care decisions.

Health care literacy will make you a healthier person, improve your communication with your provider and make you more comfortable and confident in participating in health care decisions. Your goal is a healthier you.

*Angela Maynard
Parish Nurse*



CCSEM SENIOR MONTHLY Food Collection October 12/13

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

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

Next Sunday, Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality.



MERCY IN ACTION
DAY OF SERVICE

OCT.
19

MERCY IN ACTION VOLUNTEER SIGN-UP Oct. 5/6 & 12/13

Volunteers are needed on October 19th to make The Mercy in Action Service Day a success. Sign up sheets for the various activities will be available in back of church this and next weekend.

SNACK BAG COLLECTION Ends Oct. 6

Items needed:

individual serving sizes of cookies, crackers, gummy fruit snacks, granola bars and juice boxes. We'll be collecting these items ending on the weekend of October 5/6. Please place donations on the tables in the back of church.

CREAMY PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY COLLECTION Oct. 12/13

As we continue to prepare for our Mercy in Action Day, our next need is peanut butter and jelly that will be used in preparing sandwiches that will be taken to MATTS shelter for the homeless in Warren. The dates for the PB&J collection are Oct. 12/13. Thank you, again!

SEMINARIANS CANDY COLLECTION Oct. 7-20



Sacred Heart Seminarians are collecting bags of wrapped candy to be given out to the 2000+ children in their neighborhood that will come trick or treating. They need your help to make this year a success!

Place candy donations in the marked basket in back of church or drop off at Parish Office during week.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Adoration and Benediction at Noon

**In church and online
9am to Noon**

Rosary

**Administration Bldg. Patio
10:30am**

Snack Bag Decorating and Filling

**Administration Building
9:30am to 11:30am**

Prayer Blanket Decorating

**Administration Building
9:30am to 11:30am**

Sandwich Making

**Administration Building
9:30am to 11:30am**

Pet Food/Supplies Collection

**Administration Bldg.
9:30 to 11:30am
3:15 to 3:45pm at Herbert St.
church doors**

Prescription eye glasses and hearing aid collection

Collection boxes located at entrance doors of church

St. Vincent de Paul Clothing ONLY Drive

**SVDP Bin on site for clothing only
October 19 & 20
Household items can be taken to SVDP store
at Stephens and 12 Mile**



SVF WILL HOST A BLOOD DRIVE ON THURSDAY, OCT 24TH - 1PM TO 7PM

You can sign up to donate blood or volunteer to help at the Blood Drive on Oct 5/6 after Mass or you can sign up to donate blood online. Go to:

redcrossblood.org In the upper right corner click the red Find a Blood Drive button. On the next screen click Find A Drive in the upper right corner of the screen. On the left side of the next screen enter Sponsor Code: SVFCC or just call 1-800-733-2767.

MERCY IN ACTION

What You Need to Know About Blood Donation for the Blood Drive October 24, 2024

1. Our Parish gets credit for everyone who tries to donate. Do not assume you cannot donate; more people can donate now than before.
2. You can not donate if you are under 17. You can donate at 16 with parental consent.
3. You cannot donate if you weigh less than 110lbs.
4. You cannot donate if you are pregnant, have a cold or flu.
5. You cannot donate if your iron level is low.
6. You cannot donate if you traveled outside the US where you can be exposed to malaria.
7. You can donate blood every 56 days.
8. If you cannot donate you can help as a volunteer at registration and/or the snack area for an hour or two.



...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.

...respect for life from conception to natural death

...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.

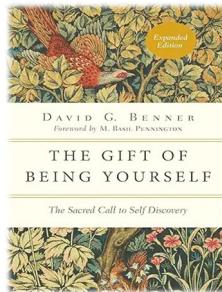
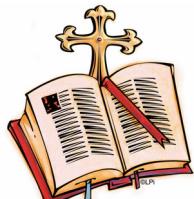
Lord Jesus,

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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, October 12th 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.



**BREAKFAST
BOOK STUDY
WEDNESDAYS
9:00am
Beginning Oct. 30th**

"Grant, Lord, that I may know myself that I may know thee." —Augustine

Much is said in Christian circles about knowing God. But Christians throughout the ages have agreed that there cannot be deep knowledge of God without deep knowledge of the self. Discerning your true self is inextricably related to discerning God's purposes for you. Paradoxically, the more you become like Christ, the more you become authentically yourself. In this profound exploration of Christian identity, psychologist and spiritual director David G. Benner illuminates the spirituality of self-discovery. He exposes the false selves that you may hide behind and calls you to discover the true self that emerges from your uniqueness in Christ. Freeing you from illusions about yourself, Benner shows that self-understanding leads to the fulfillment of your God-given destiny and vocation. Rest assured, you need not try to be someone you are not. But you will deepen your experience of God through discovering the gift of being yourself.

**Sign up in back of church or
call the Parish office to register.**

Ministry Schedule

October 12/13, 2024

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Kairis	J Kosnak
Reader #2	J McCown	C McCarthy
EME	M Kairis	L Yolkiewicz
	J McCown	M Black
	T Riley	T Karolski
Greeters	R Bertolini	T Oparka
	L Collins	N Oparka
	R Pasiak	M McLaughlin
	M Smith	D McLaughlin

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of October 12/13
Mary Ann Simmons



GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. MARGARET CLITHEROW

1556-1586

MARCH 26

St. Margaret Clitherow, the pearl of York, was born Margaret Middleton in York, England. Her father, the sheriff of York, and her mother were protestants. England was a kingdom of shifting sands when it came to religion at this time. Margaret was born during the reign of Mary I who had made the Catholic religion the law of the land. However, prior to Mary's reign, England had been a protestant state following the reformation in about 1534. Just two years after Margaret's birth Elizabeth I was on the throne and England had returned to a protestant state.

Margaret married John Clitherow in 1571. John followed the protestant religion, but his brother was a Catholic priest. In 1574, Margaret converted to Roman Catholicism. She refused to go to Anglican services, for which her husband paid fines. In 1577 she was imprisoned for almost a year. She would be imprisoned twice more, her final imprisonment lasting almost two years. She used the time to live like a monk, in fasting and prayer, even learning to read. When she was released, she went on a night-time pilgrimage to the Tyburn gallows where five Catholic priests had been hung.

Margaret, following the example of Catholic noble, hid priests and allowed Mass to be celebrated in her home, a criminal offence made punishable by death by an Act of Parliament in 1581. Her home was raided on March 10, 1586, and a frightened boy gave up the location of the items for Mass. She refused to enter a plea for a trial by jury, so she was automatically sentenced to be pressed to death. Her children followed in her footsteps as Catholics. Margaret was canonized by Pope Paul VI in 1970 as one of 40 martyrs of England and Wales. St. Margaret Clitherow, pray for us!

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St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of

Michael Starosta

Please remember him and the souls of all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

The Hardness of Your Hearts

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

As far as I know, no one has ever woken up in the morning, looked out the window, and thought, "This is a beautiful sunrise. I'll have to be very careful not to let it make me happy."

But I'm certain that every day, lots of people — including, on not-infrequent occasions, myself — have woken up and remembered something that happened the day before. Something that made us feel upset or frustrated or insulted. And we thought to ourselves, "That makes me so, so angry." And we've pictured the face of the person who made us feel that way, and we have scoffed with disgust.

And we hold onto that anger because anger feels so much better than sadness. And deep within ourselves, in the place where we feel all the love and pain and confusion that is inherent in human existence, we harden.

Nobody ever intends to be hard-hearted. That's just the stuff of Bond villains and horror flicks. No, in real life a hardened heart isn't a conscious choice. It's a reflex. It's just us trying to protect ourselves, to be strong — or, at least, to embody the version of strength offered by a fallen world.

A heart of stone is not so easily scratched, you see. But it's also not so easily warmed or touched or moved.

A heart hardened by resentment and pain and anger is not just protected from injury. It is protected from the impact of the whole spectrum of tender feelings. It is not open to forgiveness, so it cannot feel the rush of life-giving mercy. It is closed off to new ideas, so it can never feel the awe of discovery.

There is a reason we are called to guard ourselves against hard-heartedness. God gave us hearts of flesh and blood. They are hearts that can be broken, yes — but also, they are hearts that can be made new.

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

To follow Jesus, we must cast off all illusions of importance and wisdom. We must embrace our own smallness, rejoice in our own weakness. In doing that, we become like true children and discover the saving strength of our God.

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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Gn 2:18-24

Today's reading from Genesis provides the foundation for our Christian understanding of marriage. Who in your life has a happy and successful marriage?

Second Reading: Heb 2:9-11

The author of Hebrews teaches us we are united with Jesus as one family in our suffering and death. Are there any family members who need your support and comfort this week?

Gospel: Mk 10:2-16 or 10:2-12

The Pharisees learned that Jesus holds a higher standard on marriage than even Moses. Does Jesus's position on marriage surprise you? ©LPI

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 or call/text 313-727-9784

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

ANNULMENTS

Question: I read in the catechism that marriage is indissoluble. Why then does the Church issue annulments?

Answer: Sacramental marriage is indeed indissoluble. You can find this in several places in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Indissolubility is foundational to the union of marriage (CCC 1646) and required by spousal love (CCC 1644). This quality of marriage draws its meaning from the fidelity of Jesus to his Bride, the Church (CCC 1647). Spouses give themselves forever to each other. Through the vows and their consummation, the spouses form a covenantal bond that binds them as one. Indissolubility presumes and depends on this sacramental bond between the spouses.

Sometimes, however, there are impediments to marriage that are overlooked, poorly understood, or unknown. It is possible that at the time of the vows, something was either present or absent that made the consent invalid. The ceremony itself does not bring about the sacrament. The priest is the official witness of the Church, but he is not the minister of the sacrament. The husband and wife are the ministers of the sacrament to each other. Without the full, free, and able consent of the man and the woman, no sacrament takes place. An annulment does not destroy the marriage bond. It is an acknowledgement that the sacramental bond did not form in the first place.

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Observances for the Week

Sunday:	27 th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
Monday:	Our Lady of the Rosary
Wednesday:	St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest
Friday:	St. John XXIII, Pope
Next Sunday:	28 th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING SEPT 28/29, 2024

Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	95		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,542.46	357.46	4,008.98
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	400.00	(72.00)	(1,780.80)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	225.00	(1,448.00)	3,962.34
Bequests				210.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		883.63		883.63
AOD Collections: Missionary Cooperation Plan		1,125.00		4,232.00
All Holy Days: All Saints/All Souls		58.00		1,325.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 69,560.34				Paid 63,012.84



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