



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

NOVEMBER 24, 2024 † OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE

From The Pastor

“You have heard it said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father...” Matthew 5:43-45.

This is a familiar and widely known saying, and the way of life for Jesus. I was confused and perplexed to read that a widely traveled Catholic writer, teacher, and homilist has heard from pastors of all denominations that they are afraid to preach on this passage fearing a backlash from their congregations. Given the heightened political and social tensions in recent years, strengthened by fears the pandemic created, it is not hard to understand this hesitation. We are all aware of the increase in harsh judgements, fear, and hate of one side against the other, each claiming the other side is wrong.

The social impact on Church and society is undeniable. People are less at peace, more anxious about the future, and fearful to socially engage outside their personal circle of friends. We have become a we-against-them culture. In the way of Jesus, a house divided cannot stand.

This kind of society is not healthy. Minds and hearts are stressed. People look for places of respite and find trouble finding them. Many begin to wonder about the evidence and the reality of God. Where is God? Why is God not adding his voice and direction? The evidence of these dispositions are not hard to see. Our souls tell us they are present and bearing their effect.

A proven source of human decline in the quality of life is seen in the loss of hope. Without hope life becomes dull without imagination or motivation. A loss of hope can come through boredom, monotony, drudgery, or the weight of never getting ahead. Hope is also lost against the weight of fear, hate, and a steady rhythm of social and political divisions. Relationships weaken, people are more inclined to disengage; to become more defensive against those we perceive as taking away what I value, believe in, or have worked hard for. People can begin to cling to gospel values in rigidly, holding defensive moral rightness that creates another layer of me against those who do not think like me. To consider loving one's enemy in this scenario feels heretical.

Today is the Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe. Jesus is our hope and promise in uncertain times of social and spiritual confusion. This feast was initiated by Pope Pius XI in 1925 at the end of World War I. The purpose was to push back the

forces of hate, fear, and suspicion caused by the trauma of war, communism, and wavering faith. At the end of the liturgical year, this feast reminds and restores us in the promise and truth of Jesus as Lord and Christ. Hate and fear are defeated in the truth of Christ's love.

With bold and lively faith in the conviction of Divine Love given to us in the Lord Jesus, we can rebuild hope and goodness through mature expressions of love. God is real. God is present, and God is active within and among us. We must allow these truths to become more than words. If we hold these only as comforting spiritual words, Jesus will never be real enough. Jesus will never feel like the truth and life he professes to be. It begins with our faith in God as the essence of love, trusting in the mystery of the Incarnation of God in the person of Jesus revealed through his death and Resurrection.

To embrace Jesus as God, fully human and fully Divine holds that in perfect love Jesus surrendered to his death on the Cross to defeat the lies, deception, and chaos of evil. The Christian truth is either all true or none of it is true. Who could make this story up? Jesus is real. We are forgiven. We are redeemed in the power of love expressed and poured out by Jesus to set us free. To live this truth is to love our enemies and pray for those who are against us. It means we forgive others as we are forgiven, even as we persist in the works of justice. To ignore love of neighbor makes the Christian name impotent and meaningless.

The challenge and the call is not only to admire Jesus, but to imitate him. When Jesus called us to love our enemies, he was not kidding. He did this very thing for each of us when we were dead in sin. Jesus forgave those who hated him and put him on that Cross. “Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.” That includes you and me. To not forgive binds love. It binds the unforgiver and the unforgiven. Love comes to a halt. Peace is lost.

In the Sovereignty and authority of Christ we are saved. Grasp hope. Put hope into action with gratitude in the promise of your salvation. Work to bring peace to the world. Pray for your enemies. Do not bind yourself in judgment and anger. God's love for you is personal and alive. Do not waste that love. Share it. Give it away with love, mercy, and forgiveness, tolerance, and acceptance. You will become a light in the darkness bringing hope to others. Thank you for allowing me to preach the love and mercy of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father John Esper



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



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, November 25, 2024

8:00am Mass: Judy McCown & Mike Kairis (2nd Wedding Anniv.) req. by Tom Karolski

TUESDAY, November 26, 2024

8:00am Mass: Cathy McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy

WEDNESDAY, November 27, 2024

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

THURSDAY, November 28, 2024 THANKSGIVING

8:00am Mass: St. Vincent de Paul Ministry

SATURDAY, November 30, 2024

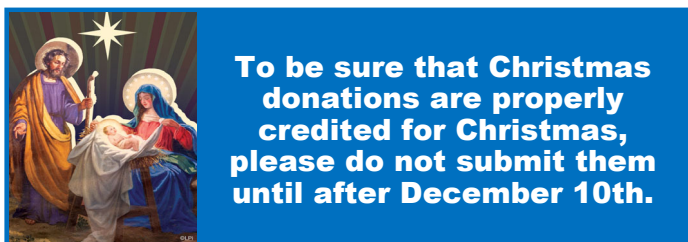
4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Gigi Cooper† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler
Drita & Family req. by File & Gierogi Deoda Vuktilaj
Rushja & Family req. by File & Gierogi Deoda Vuktilaj
Filore & Family req. by File & Gierogi Deoda Vuktilaj
Shpresa & Family req. by File & Gierogi Deoda Vuktilaj
Dod Maroski & Lul Zefja Hysoj req. by File & Gierogi Deoda Vuktilaj

Vitore Dodja Vushaj req. by File & Gierogi Deoda Vuktilaj

5 deceased babies req. by File & Gierogi Deoda Vuktilaj

SUNDAY, December 1, 2024

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Mary Ann Machota† req. by Trish Gadowski
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



November 24, 2024

- Sunday: Dn 7:13-14/Ps 91:1, 1-2, 5 (1a)/Rv 1:5-8/Jn 18:33b-37
- Monday: Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5/Ps 24:1bc-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk 21:1-4
- Tuesday: Rv 14:14-19/Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13/Lk 21:5-11
- Wednesday: Rv 15:1-4/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 7-8, 9/Lk 21:12-19
- Thursday: Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a/Ps 100:1b-2, 3, 4, 5/Lk 21:20-28
- Friday: Rv 20:1-4, 11—21:2/Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a/Lk 21:29-33
- Saturday: Rom 10:9-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11/Mt 4:18-22
- Next Sunday: Jer 33:14-16/Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 (1b)/1 Thes 3:12-4:2/Lk 21:25-28, 34-36



THANKSGIVING DAY MASS
THURSDAY, Nov. 28th
9:00am

The Parish Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 28/29

A collection Thanksgiving Day will go to support the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO St. Vincent de Paul NOT SVF.



Anointing of the Sick

HEALING MASS
NEXT SATURDAY

NOVEMBER 30, 2024 - 4:00pm

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

EXTENDED ADORATION HOURS DURING ADVENT



During Advent, hours of Adoration will extend until Noon on Tuesdays. We need people to sign up spend some time with Jesus from 8:45am to noon.

The sign-up sheets are located on the table outside the chapel.



Christmas will be here soon and our Giving Tree is up and filled with tags for the charities below that we are supporting this year.



Support Mary's Children Family Center in Clawson which provides a day program with academic, social and recreational activities to persons with brain injuries and intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Requests: gift cards: Kroger, Meijer, Costco, and Gordon Food Service



Support St. Aloysius Neighborhood Services whose missionary work goes into the streets of downtown Detroit to serve the homeless, working poor and seniors with love, compassion and necessary resources.

Requests: men's & women's knit pullover hats, gloves, & thick white socks, hoodies in men's and women's sizes L thru 4X, gift cards to Gordon Food Service, Meijer or Walmart



Support St. Veronica Giving Tree/Food Party in Eastpointe which seeks to provide for the needs of 25 seniors and also for the Christmas wants/needs of their 80 children for clothes, shoes, or a toy

Requests: gift cards to Meijer, Aldi, Kroger and Walmart

Please put unwrapped clothing items and gift cards in the marked boxes near the Giving Tree or drop them off at the Parish Office during business hours.

Pope Francis dedicates this Sunday as a "Global Celebration of Young People"

"Pope Francis declared that the Feast of Christ the King (this year, November 23-24, 2024) would be dedicated as a "Global Celebration of Young People". This year, Pope Francis asks that we take inspiration from the prophet Isaiah, who says: "Those who hope in the Lord... will run and not be weary" (Is 40:31)." from the AOD

A Prayer for Youth and Young Adults

*Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, to you we turn in humble prayer.
 Look with favor upon all young people, bearers of hope for the Church and the world.
 Jesus Christ, companion of youth and young adults, bless the paths of discovery and discernment, through times of joy and experiences of hardship, with the constant love and support of your Church.
 Jesus Christ, alive in the hearts of all your people, grant that we may "journey together, young and old... to nourish our enthusiasm, cause dreams to emerge, awaken prophesies and enable hope to blossom." *
 Jesus Christ, Redeemer of all humankind, open our hearts to encounter all young people, to accompany and be in community together, and as one Church, embark upon our holy mission.
 Jesus Christ, in the company of the Father and the Holy Spirit, graciously hear our prayer and be with us forevermore. Amen.
 * Pope Francis, Christus Vivit, 199*



RTL Christmas Cards

← \$16.00 for 20
 \$8.00 for 10 →

Available in back of church this and next weekend.



Fr. John's Ordination Celebration Mass & Vocations Dinner

In support of Vocations to the Priesthood, join us in celebrating Fr. John's 41st Ordination Anniversary

**Mass: 4pm Dinner: 5:30pm-Parish Hall
Saturday, December 7th**

MENU

Appetizers, London Broil, Chicken Marsala,
Meatless Mostaccioli, Mashed Potatoes, Vegies,
Relish Tray, Salad, Rolls/Butter
Dessert & Beverages

Raffles

Tickets: \$25 per person

No tickets available at the door.
Purchase tickets after Mass in back of church
or at the Parish Office during the week.

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

MASS INTENTIONS

If you will be requesting a Mass Intention on the weekends of December 21/22, December 28/29 or any of the three Christmas Masses and would like it to appear in the bulletin, please call the Parish Office with your request by December 9th.

FLOWER ENVELOPES

To have names of deceased loved ones included in the December 22/23 bulletin, which is our Christmas bulletin, memorial flower envelopes must be returned by Monday, December 9th.



*...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.
...the respect for life from conception to natural death
...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

RAFFLE BASKET DONATIONS NEEDED!!!

JOIN US AT FR. JOHN'S ORDINATION AND VOCATIONS DINNER ON DECEMBER 7th

This year the raffle basket's theme will be "gratitude".

We have so much to be grateful for here at SVE. Primarily, we are grateful to have Fr. John as our pastor. Since this is a special event, the value of each basket created should be around \$50.

You can create your own basket, or donate the items and we will create the basket for you, or donate money and we will shop and create a basket for you. Have fun with the theme.

I am going to create a wine basket and call it "Grateful for Grapes."

For completed baskets, or money/items donated for creating baskets

contact Linda 248-721-2109

lcoll03@yahoo.com or

Bernadette 248-224-8771

Bernadette42@comcast.net



First Sunday of Advent Lighting the Candle of Hope

Saturday, November 30, 2024

4:00pm Mass: Linda Collins & Ron Bertolini

Sunday, December 1, 2024

9:00am Mass: Robin Silverst

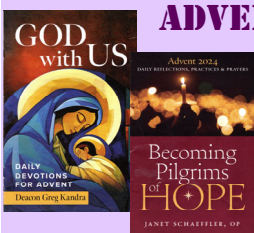
WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

SACRAMENTAL SEAL

Question: What is a sacramental seal and where did it come from?

Answer: Leaving more than just a memory, there are some events in our life that are truly transforming, making us different people. The same thing can be said of spiritual things, especially sacraments. A sacramental seal or character is a theological concept to describe the life-changing and permanent effect of three sacraments on the person: baptism, confirmation, and holy orders. The Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches that these sacraments confer a seal "by which the Christian shares in Christ's priesthood and is made a member of the Church according to different states and functions. This configuration to Christ and the Church, brought about by the Spirit, is indelible" (#1121).

Once we receive these sacraments, we are forever changed. It's a spiritual "point of no return" whereby we take a step forward in our faith journey. We are marked as people of faith, as those who have received the Spirit and as those called to serve in ordained ministry. That is why these sacraments are received only once. The direction is set, the choice is made, and we are called by God to be his people. Nothing can change that, not even our own sinfulness. ©LPi



ADVENT REFLECTION BOOKS

Advent reflection booklets are available in back of church after Mass. A donation of \$2.00 is asked to help cover the costs.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question Grapes and wheat are a symbol of what Sacrament? ©LPi

Answer: Holy Eucharist



INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK


There is only one king whose subjects can choose whether or not they will serve him. We choose Christ when we choose the truth. When we serve the truth, we serve Christ the King.

©LPi

Women's Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, NOV. 30TH - 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.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

First Reading: Dn 7:13-14

Daniel had visions of Jesus ("Son of man") receiving everlasting dominion, glory, and kingship from God ("the Ancient One"). Why do you think some people receive visions?

Second Reading: Rv 1:5-8

Revelation teaches that Jesus loves us and has made us into a kingdom of priests for God. What do you think Jesus expects from us in return?

Gospel: Jn 18:33b-37

In his trial Jesus tells Pilate he was born to testify to the truth. Can you think of a time in your life when you had to tell a difficult truth to someone?

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Ministry Schedule		
November 30/December 1, 2024		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	C McCarthy
Reader #1	D Tourville	P Allen
Reader #2	T Riley	C McCarthy
EME	D Tourville	P Allen
	J McCown	D Gray
	M Kairis	M Waskowski
Greeters	M Smith	M McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	N Oparka
	P Miles	T Oparka
	R Pasiak	D McLaughlin
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Nov 30/Dec 1 Jeanette Szeliga		

EUCCHARISTIC SAINTS SERIES

**BLESSED PIER GIORGIO FRASSATI
1901-1925**



Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati (1901-1925) was born in Turin, Italy to a prominent and wealthy family. He attended a state school until he was 14 when he was sent to a private run by the Jesuits. While at school he became a member of the Marian Sodality and the Apostleship of Prayer. He also obtained permission to receive daily Communion which was rare at that time. At 17, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society. He demonstrated his commitment to care for the poor and sick, helping demobilized servicemen returning from World War I, and giving his bus fare to those in need. Pier Giorgio had an intense prayer life, spending hours in Eucharistic adoration and daily praying a rosary on his knees by his bedside.

This vibrant young man was also an avid outdoorsman. He loved mountain-climbing, hiking, riding horses, skiing, and sharing jokes and pranks with his friends. He used these activities to share his Faith, an apostolate of persuasion. He always carried a rosary and was known to give them away to his friends. He was an active member in many Catholic student groups. He opposed fascism at a dangerous time in Italy's history. He was arrested during a demonstration at Young Catholic Workers Congress in Rome. In 1922, he joined the Third Order of St. Dominic. Unfortunately, he contracted polio, likely from the poor he served so diligently, at the age of 24 and died just six days later.

This handsome young man has become a global patron for youth and young adults. Like many young people he had difficulties with exams and problems with his parents, but he formed his life around Jesus. St. John Paul II declared him a patron for World Youth Days. He was beatified in 1990. Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us!

©LPi

Citizens of Another Country

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I read an article, years ago, about an American filmmaker who decided to step away from a wildly successful film franchise that had been requiring him and his family to live abroad.

It stuck in my mind because of the tongue-in-cheek reasoning he gave for the surprising decision, "My kids were starting to speak in British accents."

Sometimes, we just want to go home, don't we?

Returning from a recent family vacation, I burst into tears at the airport, overcome with relief when I saw my sister's van pulling into the pickup lane. It didn't matter that I had had fun on this trip and that I was even looking forward to taking another one. In that moment, I was so tired, and all I wanted was my own bed. The smell of my own house. The feeling of not being "away."

If Jesus is our king, and his kingdom is not of this world, then we live our lives as perpetual aliens. This should reassure us in some ways. The world so often feels cold and cruel and strange to us because it *is*. We were not made for this world. We were made for heaven. We were made to yearn for the face, the presence, the protection of our King.

But this understanding of ourselves as strangers in a foreign land should also be a caution to us.

We can't get too comfortable here. We cannot become too wrapped up in the world and its temptations, its rewards, its comforts. We cannot start speaking in the language, the accent of our adopted homeland. Not if we ever want to return home and belong there.

Our King looks for our return.

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- Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
- Monday: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
- Thursday: Thanksgiving Day
- Saturday: St. Andrew, Apostle
- Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

©LPi

You are invited to
Advent Tea
 "The Incarnation: Making Room for Jesus"

Presentation:
 "The Incarnation from a Practical and Lived Manner" by Br. Bob Malloy, OFM Cap.

Date: Sunday, December 1
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 pm
Location: St. Vincent Ferrer Administration Bldg.

It will be a prayerful, peaceful, relaxing atmosphere in which you can escape the hustle and bustle of the holiday season for a few hours. Join with friends to reflect upon the Incarnation and to invite Jesus into our hearts as we begin this advent season.

If you would like to host a table, or be a guest at someone's table, please sign up at the back of church after Masses or call the parish office at (248) 542-8720 to RSVP by Monday, November 25. More information will be provided to you.

A free will offering of a baby gift will be donated to Women's Pregnancy Aid Center in Madison Heights.

Sign up sheets in will be available in church the weekend of Nov 23/24.



THE KING IS ALIVE

When I was growing up, my parents told me about Elvis Presley, the King of Rock 'n' Roll. He received that title from fans due to the huge effect he had on rock music. When I was a teenager, people called Michael Jackson the King of Pop. The designation was based on the fact that he had so many hits for so many years and because of his power as a live performer. The title of king carries with it a lot of weight and communicates to people that the one bearing the title is at the pinnacle of something, some people, or some reality. I sometimes even like to say that I am King of the House, but my wife can easily remind me that a true king would have servants and would not have to take out the trash by themselves. Touché!

There are many kings of many things, but only one King of the Universe. If you were the king of a kingdom, all would be your subjects. In the universe, all creation bows down to this king. No other king stands above him. All belongs to Him, although much is given to each of us as gift. He gives out of love and our love for Him should cause us to use those gifts for His glory, for we are more than simple subjects. We are sons and daughters of the King. We are royalty due to the mark of Baptism.

Elvis and Michael are gone. Monarchs from different eras and places have vanished. However, our King is alive and well, calling us to have full membership in His Kingdom. His name is Jesus. His Kingdom is at hand.

--Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
©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 - 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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING NOV 16/17, 2024

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	245	106		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$5,874.49	689.49	5,444.64
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	602.00	130.00	(1,993.55)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	*1,172.50	(500.50)	(3,573.16)
Bequests Evangelical Charity: Thanksgiving donations		510.00		1,521.00
Bequests:		74.00		733.50
Holy Days: All Saints/Immaculate Conception		68.00		2,989.00
CSA 2024 Pledged \$ 74,810.34 *includes 811.50 CSA return				Paid 71,677.84

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