

## *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community*

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

**FEBRUARY 2, 2025 + PRESENTATION OF THE LORD**

### **From The Pastor**

Today celebrates the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. What is this feast and why is it important? Forty days after Christmas, this feast continues to reveal and unfold the impact and significance of the Child Jesus. The impact of Jesus is universal as it expresses the inclusive nature of redemption. As Savior and long-awaited Messiah for the people of Israel, the gift of our redemption is intended for all nations and peoples.

Presenting Jesus in the Temple is significant. It is the first time he has been in the Temple. As the first-born Son, by Jewish Law Jesus must be consecrated to God. Through his dying on the Cross and rising from the dead, he will come to be known as the Son of God. His consecration to God as an infant anticipates and prepares believers for the magnitude of the fulfillment of this promise.

The central movement of this feast is one of hope in the fulfillment of the promises and prophecies of the Old Testament. This hope is both individual and personal, as well as universal for all who have longed for the coming of the Messiah. Consider the roles of Simeon and Anna. As ardent believers, both serve the role of Prophet. By the plan of God, they are blest in the Spirit to give witness to the identity and nature of the Child Jesus who would become a light to all nations, and the rise and the fall of many. Simeon is promised that he would not see death until his eyes have seen the salvation of the Lord. As an agent of God, Simeon gives witness to the nature and role the child Jesus will play. Consider his joy that the promise God made to him has been fulfilled. His life is now satisfied and he is ready for death.

Similarly, Anna, a woman of devout faith comes on the scene. She too plays the role of Prophetess and witness to the promised Messiah. She tells what she has seen in the Child to all who longed for the promise of redemption. Her long years of prayer and fasting are rewarded in meeting the child who would fulfil the promise of her deepest longing.

More immediately, what can this feast say to us in our time? The work and action of our redemption has been realized in the dying and rising of Jesus. The promises and prophecies of the Old Testament have been fulfilled. How can we make this feast pertinent to our faith today? What hope can we realize in the words and actions of the story we are being told?

The work of God in the ongoing movements of human redemption are generational. Broadly, it begins

with the story of Adam and Eve, the fall into sin, and the long revelation of many Divine actions preparing humanity and creation for God's redemptive work. Beginning with Abraham, our ancestor in faith, through his sons, the tribes of Israel, Moses, King David, Elijah and Elisha, the Major Prophets, and all the miraculous works of God have prepared a people of faith to recognize and embrace the coming Messiah. John the Baptist was the final and greatest Prophet who prepared the way for the coming Christ. For generations, stories, experiences, and encounters of faith have been handed down to this very day, sustaining and nourishing the faith by the grace of God and the Spirit of Jesus given us.

Consider the scene in the Temple. Mary and Joseph are a young couple with an infant child. They are devout Jews fulfilling the dictates of the Law concerning their Son. They are greeted by a faith-filled man of many years. Animated in the Spirit, Simeon approaches with excited anticipation. The Spirit has revealed to him the identity and mission of Jesus. Anna does the same.

How can we mirror these images today? Considering the years and devotion of your faith, how can you and I pass on the faith we so dearly hold to the younger generation? Mary and Joseph were clearly mystified by the words spoken about their Son. How can the senior generation give witness to our youth the promises we hope for in the truth and life of the Lord Jesus.

Though they may never say it, or ask, how many of our youth would benefit from the wisdom, commitment, and witness of our experience of God, faith, hope, trust, in the fulfillment of all we long for? How might the young animate or energize our faith with their curiosity and desire to understand the ways of God and the person of Jesus? A lively interchange could be mutually beneficial.

So many seniors are a gold mine of wisdom, insight, fidelity, and persevering faith that could transform the lives of those who would listen to their story. Mary and Joseph were not lost, seeking their purpose, or meaning, but God used the wisdom and animated faith of those long in years to advance the mystery of the Child born to the Virgin Mary. Confident in the Spirit, what wisdom can you share that might inspire or awaken the faith of those seeking and searching. Do what you can to be a voice of hope to those who need 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  
Chapel

in



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, February 3, 2025

8:00am Mass: Abbey Phillips req. by Debbie Tourville

## TUESDAY, February 4, 2025

8:00am Mass: Kevin & Tommy Brown† req. by Family

## WEDNESDAY, February 5, 2025

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

## THURSDAY, February 6, 2025

8:00am Mass: Carol Bueset† req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

## SATURDAY, February 8, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer

Bob Abratowski† (2nd R.A.) req. by Barb Shaner

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

David Phillips req. by Sophie Woznicki

## SUNDAY, February 9, 2025

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

Living & Deceased Members and Families of the Fr.

Hearly K of C Council




# READINGS FOR THE WEEK

## February 2, 2025

- Sunday: Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
- Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 22, 23, 24/Mk 5:1-20
- Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32/Mk 5:21-43
- Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a/Mk 6:1-6
- Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11/Mk 6:7-13
- Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc/Mk 6:14-29
- Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Mk 6:30-34
- Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 (1c)/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11



**ITEMS REQUESTED**

- diapers (all sizes)
- diaper bags
- burp pads
- quilts/blankets
- receiving blankets
- outfits
- brush/comb sets
- rattles
- light-weight sleepers
- nail clipper sets
- booties
- baby wipes
- wash cloths
- layettes
- pacifiers
- bottles
- shampoo
- body wash
- socks
- bibs
- onesies

Please return unwrapped gifts to the tables in back of church the weekend of February 15/16 or drop them off at the Parish office before noon on Friday February 14.

Your gifts will be appreciated by moms and babies supported by Wee Care and Madison Family Planning

**SOUP ANYONE?**

Hard as it is to believe, we are already planning for our virtual Soup Supper recipes to accompany our parish Lenten Series. So our Evangelistic Charitable Outreach Committee, (aka Christian Service Committee) is reaching out to any parishioner who can provide a soup recipe from your favorite recipe book for this year's series. The recipe needs to be as original as possible (to avoid violating copyright laws). If you can share a recipe with us, that would be great. Please contact Mary Ann Przybysz at the parish office with your favorite. Thank you!



To support St. Vincent Ferrer with a financial contribution scan the code below to connect to our tithe.ly giving site.



The purpose of this day is to celebrate and pray for those who have consecrated their lives to God and those discerning a consecrated life. Imitating Christ through chastity, poverty and obedience, these dedicated individuals may belong to religious orders or other forms of consecrated living.

Prayer, patience and poverty are the pillars that help these individuals live out the elements of a consecrated life: purity, work, respect for one's physical body, service and integrity.

**Prayer for World Day for Consecrated Life**

*God of all goodness,  
 you have called people to follow you faithfully.  
 Humans have heard that call and many choose to follow your call in varied and faith-filled lives.  
 Some follow your call in private, silent lives as hermits;  
 some choose to follow you with lives lived as virgins and widows;  
 while others choose public lives of vowed men and women as religious brothers and sisters.  
 Abundantly give to these men and women the courage to follow their call as witnesses to your gifts and faith and service to the world.*

*We ask this in faith through the name of Jesus our Savior.*

*Amen.*



**DEMENTIA COMMUNICATION & CAREGIVING**

**Tuesday, March 4th  
 10am to Noon**

**Presenter: Marie Sankuer, Certified Dementia Practitioner & Parish Member**

**More details to come...**



## EVANGELICAL CHARITY



### FOOD COLLECTION February 8/9

#### Items requested:

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

#### **Canned Foods including:**

Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghetios, Fruit, Vegetables

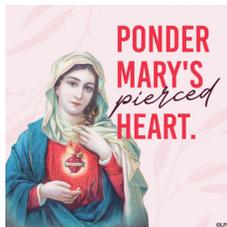
**Gift cards, in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable food, from:**

Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

### BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

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

## Presentation of the Lord



What is the secret to sharing in God's power to overcome our difficulties? Mary teaches us this in the prophecy of her pierced heart. This Sunday, the old man Simeon prophesies that when her son faces opposition, Mary's soul will be pierced by a sword. The seemingly pointless agony of a mother helplessly watching her son be mocked, tortured, killed and then cruelly desecrated in death by a spear — somehow this piercing of her heart releases a power by which **“the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed”** (Luke 2:35). What to make of this?

Whatever problems we currently face, the deepest threat is finally that evil thoughts are hidden in the human heart: hatred, envy, pride, lust, greed and so on. Behind every tyrant's injustice, for example, is a heart unpierced by love. Evil hides in our hearts. Mary's pierced heart, and its suffering love for her son, reveals and scatters these evil thoughts, and replaces them with love, forgiveness, generosity and peace.

This week, I invite us to ponder Mary's pierced heart. Her heart is quietly at work for us in the Church and world, exposing our evil thoughts and making a path for her son's divine love. This is how she gently cooperates in our salvation. Closed hearts are our biggest problem; love-pierced hearts are the ultimate power to overcome every difficulty.

— Father John Muir  
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## What is an Indulgence?

“The doctrine and practice of indulgences in the Church are closely linked to the effects of the sacrament of Penance {Reconciliation}.

An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of the satisfactions of Christ and the saints.

An indulgence is partial or plenary according as it removes either part of all of the temporal punishment due to sin. The faithful can gain indulgences for themselves or apply them to the dead.”  
CCC 1471

An indulgence is obtained through the Church who, by virtue of the power of binding and loosing granted her by Christ Jesus, intervenes in favor of individual Christians...  
CCC 1478

*More on indulgences in the Jubilee Year in future bulletins.*



...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*

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

**Question:** Luke's Gospel is the only one to mention the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple. What is Luke trying to communicate here and what connection does it have with Mary?

**Answer:** February 2 is exactly forty days after December 25, the nativity of Jesus. Jewish law (Ex 13:2, 12) dictated that Jesus, as the firstborn, be consecrated to God. This was done by the parents as they presented their Son in the Temple.

Jewish law further specified (Lv 12:2-8) that a mother was ritually impure after giving birth, and that she had to wait a set period of time (forty days for a boy) before she was to offer a sacrifice to the Lord for purification.

The convergence of these two Jewish regulations occasions Luke's account of both the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of Mary. These days the liturgical emphasis is more on the Presentation of Jesus. Luke highlights the role of Simeon and Anna, two righteous Jews who recognized Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah and praised God for being able to see and experience such a marvel in their lifetimes.

Simeon's prayer concerning the special role of Jesus states that Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles." This phrase eventually originated the custom of blessing candles on this day which were to be used in the ceremonies, rituals, and processions throughout the church year. Thus February 2 is also known as Candlemas Day. This day is indeed a rich feast to be savored.

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## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reading Mal 3:1-4

**Question:** Malachi prophesied a coming messenger who will purify those making offerings to the Lord. How do you prepare for Sunday worship?

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading Heb 2:14-18

**Question:** Hebrews teaches that Jesus was tested and suffered so that he could be merciful and understanding with our struggles and challenges. What are you facing this week that Jesus could help you with?

### Gospel Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

**Question:** Mary and Joseph received incredible news from Simeon and Anna about the infant Jesus at his presentation in the Temple. Who helps you process startling or unsettling information?

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## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What country do the majority of Coptic Catholics live in?

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Answer: Egypt

## DEVOTIONS, *EXPLAINED!* – CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND GROW YOUR FAITH

### ST. BLAISE BLESSING OF THE THROAT

Perhaps it's an example of divine providence that the feast of St. Blaise falls on Feb. 3 — right in the middle of cold and flu season! This fourth-century Armenian saint was a bishop and martyr and is venerated as the patron of those who suffer from illnesses of the throat.

On his feast day, Catholics traditionally receive a blessing of the throat. This blessing is administered by a priest, deacon or a lay minister who follows the rites and prayers designated for a layperson. During the blessing, the minister takes two candles that were blessed on the feast of the Presentation and makes a cross in front of the throat, saying "Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness." A priest or deacon will then make the sign of the cross.

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## Ministry Schedule

February 8/9, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	C McCarthy
Reader #1	J McCown	P Allen
Reader #2	D Tourville	C McCarthy
EME	J McCown	N Virga
	M Kairis	M Black
	T Riley	P Allen
Greeters	R Bertolini	B Gutowski
	L Collins	T Lane
	R Pasiak	P Rarus
	T Pasiak	D Vu

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of February 8/9  
Kathy Bush

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

**VENERABLE MARY ANGELINE TERESA  
McCRORY  
(1893-1984)**



Venerable Mother Mary Angeline was born Brigid Teresa McCrory in Ulster, Northern Ireland. Her family moved to Scotland beside Holy Family Church in Mossend when she was seven years old and, due to her exposure to the sisters who frequently begged for alms for the aged and the infirm in their care, she became interested in the religious life. A couple years later she changed the spelling of her name from Brigid to Bridget due to her love of the French language. She helped in the church next to her home by arranging flowers and received the pastor's blessing to pursue her vocation.

When Bridget was 19 years old, she made her Novitiate in La Tour, France with the Little Sisters of the Poor, and took the name Sister Angeline de St. Agatha. She was sent to the United States after her final vows in 1915.

For the first 10 years of her time in the United States, Sister Angeline served her congregation. In 1926 she was appointed as Mother Angeline, Superior of a Home of the Little Sisters of the Poor in the Bronx in New York. During this time, she felt a call to expand the ministry of the Little Sisters of the Poor to also serve the elderly throughout New York City and to incorporate new methods to minister to the unique needs of those living in the United States. With the blessing of Cardinal Patrick Hayes, the Archbishop of New York, she and six other sisters were granted permission by the Vatican to start a new congregation to accomplish these goals.

The Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and the Infirm was established in 1929 and was the first American Community of religious sisters founded specifically to care for the aged. The congregation, with the enthusiastic support of the Carmelite friars of New York, became formally affiliated with the Carmelite order in 1931. Mother Angeline served as superior general for nearly 50 years until 1978. The order created homes for the elderly where people could be cared for and live both assisted and independently in community instead of aging alone, assured of care for their health and care for their spirits.

Mother Angeline was known for her loving kindness and service to the elderly. She never missed an opportunity to clasp the hand of an aged person stressing how important human touch and kindness was. A warm person, she would say, "If you have to fail, let it be on the side of kindness. Be kinder than kindness itself to the elderly." She died on her 91<sup>st</sup> birthday in January of 1984.

Her cause for sainthood was introduced in the Diocese of Albany in 1989 and Pope Benedict XVI formally acknowledged that she lead a life of heroic virtue, declaring her Venerable. Her Carmelite Sisters for the Aged and the Infirm still engage the elderly in ministry today. They continue to run 18 elder-care facilities, provide long term housing and healthcare, as well as assisted and independent living in both the United States and in Ireland. The Vatican is currently investigating the validity of miracles reported to have happened through Mother Angeline's intercessory prayer which, if validated, would move her cause for sainthood forward.

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## The Thoughts of Many Hearts

by Colleen  
Jurkiewicz Dorman



When Simeon cradles the infant Messiah in his arms, he speaks of salvation and glory and revelation. He speaks of his own death. He speaks of the fulfillment of God's promise to all people.

But most memorable, in my opinion, are his words about the hearts of men. This Child, he says, will be the way "the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

Perhaps you're like me. Perhaps you don't enjoy scrutinizing yourself, your actions, your intentions. You don't like reflecting on why you feel or react the way you do, and you really don't enjoy measuring those feelings and reactions against what you know they could be.

It's exhausting to sit with God, your heart in your hands, both of us looking at it, talking about it. So far too often, I opt out.

The oldest trick of the devil, you see, is to distract us from thinking about our hearts. It's not hard for him to do. There are so many other things I could be doing, after all. Answering emails. Catching up on laundry. Scrolling Facebook. Worrying about inflation and the election. Stressing about my kid's dance recital and next week's busy schedule.

But where is God truly at work? Where is the place God will point to, when my life on Earth has come to its close?

It is the very depths of my heart. The place where I am my most authentic self, for better or worse. The place where all my pretensions crumble away, and I am alone with the truth of who I am and what I choose to do.

Am I brave enough to look into the depths of my own heart?

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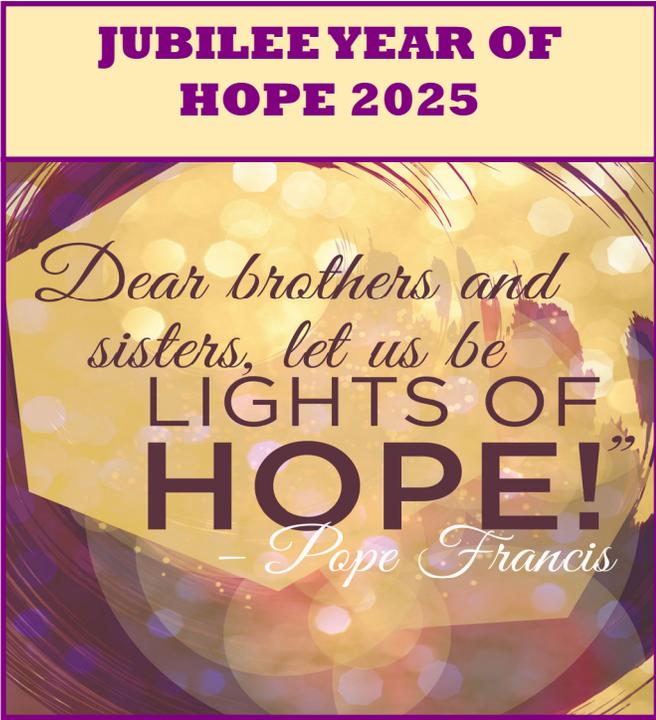
## Women's Sacred Journey

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8TH  
9:00AM**

**FAITH FORMATION OFFICE  
SVF SCHOOL BLDG.**



All women in our neighboring and/or 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.



## 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

### 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

## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

*Anna and Simeon saw greatness and glory in the face of a tiny babe. Jesus was insignificant in the eyes of others who looked for the Messiah in the gilded halls of kings. But Anna and Simeon recognized God when they saw him. Do we?*

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## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK

- Sunday: The Presentation of the Lord, World Day for Consecrated Life
- Monday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop
- Wednesday: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr
- Thursday: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs
- Saturday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin; BVM
- Next Sunday: 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day

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## FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JAN. 25/26, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	243	105		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,890.74	(294.26)	9,799.33
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	181.00	(291.00)	280.75
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	220.00	(1,453.00)	(8,639.21)
Bequests		1,190.00		2,227.00
AOD Collections:				
Holy Days: Mary Mother of God		10.00		5,580.00
CSA 2024 Pledged 76,160.34				Paid 74,262.34

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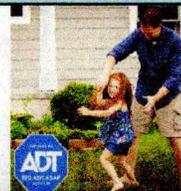
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