

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

FEBRUARY 9, 2025 + FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

Every vocation is personal, unique, and particular to each individual. The examples in today's readings are quite different, but also reflect a consistent movement of resistance, unworthiness, and finally acceptance. The calls of Isaiah and Peter are quite different but still reflect the same spiritual dynamic.

In the Old Testament, a call from God more commonly came through a profound religious experience. Isaiah is living in Jerusalem involved in the political scene with a highly sensitive heart for the plight of the oppressed. He is a young man with a heart for God and the social justice that reflects the divine way. In a time of social transition after the death of King Uzziah, Isaiah has a vision. He sees himself in the throne room of God. He hears the angels singing the praises of God, 'Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord of hosts,' as the earth shakes at the glory of God most high. Isaiah is terrified, fearing for his life for having seen God. He immediately cries out his fear and unworthiness before the Lord. The tension is resolved when the seraphim angel touches his mouth with a burning ember as a sign that he has been cleansed from his sin. The Lord's voice calls, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" Secure in worthiness, Isaiah quickly responds, "Hear I am. Send me!"

Not your typical call sequence in the vivid starkness of such a mystical heavenly vision. Nonetheless, those who feel called by the Lord do have some kind of encounter, experience, or deep inner movement of knowing the Lord's presence. Such an encounter evokes a response.

The call of Peter is more typical of the call that would be recognized even in our day. Notice that St. Luke delays the call of the first disciples until after Jesus begins his public ministry. After Jesus has shown his power to heal through words of forgiveness and mercy followed by physical healings or miraculous deeds, does he call the first disciples to follow him.

Peter and his fishing companions are going about their daily business. They are devout men seeking the ways of God and longing for the coming of the Messiah. They are righteous men, not holy joes, or any more religious than their contemporaries. Jesus sees an opportunity. Apparently without asking, Jesus hops into Peter's boat as a kind of stage for his teaching. This is evidence that Peter and the others

have encountered Jesus on previous occasions. After speaking, Jesus directs Peter to cast into deep water. Notice the dynamic of Peter's first round of resistance. "We have worked hard all night long and caught nothing." Still, he does what Jesus' asks. Another sign they have met before.

A great number of fish are caught stirring the hearts and conscience of those in the boat. They are frightened by the power of Jesus and fearful of their unworthiness. Peter, feeling exposed before the Lord, pleads that Jesus leave him for he is a sinful man. Overpowering grace will do that to a person, and it remains a common dynamic today in those who hear God's call.

Again, as in the experience of Isaiah, Jesus calms their fears and calls them to follow him. With their hearts stirred, they leave everything and follow him.

A call to serve the Lord is like a conversion. A call to serve the Lord is always grounded in love. A call stirs and awakens a movement of love in the heart that motivates a person to respond in a committed way. A new part of the self is awakened in the person in a way they know it is a truth about them self, and saying no would mean an essential loss to the meaning of that person's life. A call grounded in love stirs a deep inner knowing that evokes a response.

Every Christian has a vocation. The root of any vocation is love. Beyond a specific way of life, marriage, priesthood, religious life, or the single life, every vocation is built on love. Isaiah had a love for God expressed through compassion and justice for the oppressed. Peter fell in love with Jesus and gave himself to preach about his life, love, death, and Resurrection. St. Mother Theresa gave her life to the poor and dying. St. Vincent Ferrer spent his life revealing the power of God in miracles in the desire to bring more souls to Christ in mature and living faith.

At any age or stage of life, each of us has a vocation to love. Pay attention to your experience, any stirring encounter, or deep inner movements. What stirs your heart in love that you want to put into action? That is your vocation. Start with those in your family, those for whom you have responsibility. Listen to your heart. Act on the love you feel, seek, and desire there. You are in Christ, already worthy to serve the Lord in love. In loving service, what would make you most happy? Do it out of love for God and others. Do it with joyful hope.

Father John Esper



LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATIONSaturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Chapel


LIVE
STREAMING

Live Streaming of Mass
Monday thru Thursday 8:00am
and Sunday 9:00am

Adoration on Tuesdays
8:45am to 10:00am

Livestream of Rosary on
Thursdays following Mass

Search for St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Church (in
Madison Heights) on youtube to find our channel or
connect via our APP or website



CONTACT INFORMATION

ST VINCENT FERRER PARISH OFFICE

28353 Herbert St., Madison Heights, MI 48071
248-542-8720 Fax 248-542-8721
Website: www.stvincentferrer.net

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm,
Friday 9am to Noon, Closed Saturday & Sunday

Parish Office Staff

Reverend John C. Esper, Priest in Solidum
Deborah Tourville, Bus. Mgr/Adult Faith Formation
Sheryl Brown, Parish Secretary/Bulletin
Jim Balistreri, Music Coordinator
Mary Ann Przybysz, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE**248-398-1743 – call for appointment**

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

For information on Baptisms, OCIA and
Funerals contact the Parish Office 248-542-8720

**MONDAY, February 10, 2025**

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

TUESDAY, February 11, 2025

8:00am Mass: Sr. Dorothy Balabuch (9th R.A.) req. by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, February 12, 2025

8:00am Mass: Angeline Lopez† req. by Family

THURSDAY, February 13, 2025

8:00am Mass: John Skorna† req. by Jean Vidosh

SATURDAY, February 15, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Gigi Cooper† req. by LeRoy & Linda Proszkowski
Kathy Ann Campbell req. by Dolores S. Noring

SUNDAY, February 16, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Jessie Giszczak (for health) req. by Family

**FEBRUARY**

Month of The
Holy Family



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

February 9, 2025

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
Monday: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c/Mk 6:53-56
Tuesday: Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/Mk 7:1-13
Wednesday: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30/Mk 7:14-23
Thursday: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mk 7:24-30
Friday: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 7:31-37
Saturday: Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13/Mk 8:1-10
Next Sunday: Jer 17:5-8/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6, (40:5a)/1 Cor 15:12, 16-20/Lk 6:17, 20-26

Save THE Date!

Dementia Communication & Caregiving

Tuesday
March 4th
10am to Noon
Admin Bldg.

Communicating with a person having dementia can be stressful, but it doesn't have to be.

Marie Sankuer, Parishioner & Certified Dementia Practitioner will offer the following information in a two hour workshop

Easy to follow handout to the 3 E's of dementia care:

- ◆ **Environment** *Those with dementia deserve a quality of life & so do you!*
- ◆ **Emotions**
- ◆ **Energy**

Techniques in speaking with persons with dementia.
Practical solutions to enrich everyday communication & better relationships.
Tips for a calmer caregiving experience & a happier loved one.
Coping with memory losses & decline.

Registration fee of \$10
 Register by Monday, Feb 24th at parish office 248.542.8720.

Helping...Coping...Communicating

NEXT WEEKEND

Annual Baby Shower

February 15/16



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 Cate and Madison Family Planning

Be Your Own Heart Hero

February is heart health month. The theme of this year is "Be Your Own Heart Hero". There is already much heart health information on various news and talk shows. They are giving many heart health and prevention tips. I want to emphasize that you should be evaluated by your health care provider so you know your numbers and heart risk factors. Knowing your risks and numbers can help you start prevention measures tailored to you. Heart disease is the number one cause of death in America.

There are tools online that you can use to evaluate your risk as well. You will need to know your age, total cholesterol, HDL cholesterol, the first number of your blood pressure, body mass index(BMI), and eGFR(renal function blood test). When I plugged in my numbers, I found I was at 5.8% borderline risk for heart disease in the next 10 years. This tells me I need to work on my diet, exercise, and control my blood sugar. The tool can be found at <https://professional.heart.org/en/guidelines-and-statements/prevent-calculator>.

The calculator does not replace your health care provider as other diseases put you at risk. Plaque in the arteries, inflammation, high blood pressure, diabetes, obesity, smoking, family history, previous heart attack or stroke, older age, or pregnancy complications are additional considerations.

The big question is what if you think you are having a stroke or heart attack? Early treatment is key to increasing your chance of survival and reducing damage to your heart or brain. The National Institute of Health recommends you recognize the symptoms: pain, heaviness or pain or numbness in arms, rapid and irregular heart rate, elevated blood pressure, pain in back/shoulder, neck, jaw, or above belly button, short of breathe, sweating, nausea and vomiting, extreme fatigue, or dizziness. For a stroke look for facial droop, arm weakness, trouble speaking, loss of balance/coordination or vision changes. Call 911 immediately. Do not drive them as they can start treatment in the ambulance.

Be your hero, prevent heart disease.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse



How can I obtain an indulgence during the Jubilee Year 2025?

“During the Jubilee Year 2025, the faithful can obtain a plenary indulgence—that is, complete remission

of the temporal punishment due to sin—by making SPACE for God in your day:

- S Avoid Sin (have complete detachment from all sin, even venial ones)
- P Offer Prayers for the Pope (Our Father & Hail Mary)
- A Perform the Action (see below)
- C Go to Confession (within about 20 days of performing the action)
- E Receive the Eucharist within about 20 days of performing the action)

Acceptable Actions to obtain an indulgence in the Jubilee Year 2025

Works of Devotion

- * Participating in a parish mission
- * Studying the documents of Vatican II or *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

Works of Mercy

- * Visiting those in need or in difficulty, e.g.:
 - the sick or prisoners
 - those who are lonely, elderly, or disabled

Works of Penance

- * Abstaining from distractions (e.g., the use of smartphone apps or social media) at least one day a week
- * Abstaining from certain food and drink (fasting) at least one day a week
- * Abstaining from meat (abstinence) at least one day a week
- * Donating money to the poor
- * Supporting the work of those who defend and protect life in all its phases
- * Supporting the ministry of those who work with abandoned children, young people in difficulty, the needy or lonely elderly people, or migrants
- * Dedicating one’s free time to community service or parish ministry”

From aod publication *The Jubilee of Hope*

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

Doris Kline

Barbara E. Morissette

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



EVANGELICAL CHARITY



**ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11 - 6:00PM**

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30pm in church. Those interested in joining this ministry are welcome.

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!



- ...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

PRIEST SHORTAGE

Question: Would optional celibacy help the priest shortage?

Answer: This is a hotly debated topic. There are good arguments on both sides, and there is no clear answer that emerges. However, the shortage of clergy in denominations that do allow marriage would seem to indicate that optional celibacy is not the quick answer that some might think. No one solution is perfect. Each one has its flaws and problems that are not easily solved. While optional celibacy would open ordination to some great men who are married, it also brings the problems of family, financial support, marital problems, and issues — good and bad — of childrearing. So it would not seem that optional celibacy is a realistic solution to the shortage of clergy.

With all of the varied challenges and problems facing the Church, it is easy to forget that the Holy Spirit leads us. Openness, dialogue, and education are second to our prayers and petitions to the Holy Spirit to make clear the path the Church should follow. A response that is rooted in a culture of political correctness is almost certainly doomed; a response that is rooted in prayer and in God cannot fail.

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

THE ROSARY

Christians have used beads to mark the recitation of prayers since ancient times. In the 12th century, the Rosary emerged as a meditative devotion centering on significant moments in the lives of Jesus and Mary. In the words of St. Leo XIII, “there is no more excellent way of praying.”

The Rosary is traditionally attributed to a Marian vision received by St. Dominic de Guzman (1170-1221). Though scholarship on this point is uncertain, the Dominican Order was undoubtedly crucial in establishing and evangelizing the Rosary as a devotional prayer.

Over the centuries, the formula of the devotion eventually took the shape of 50 Hail Marys divided into five “decades,” with each decade focused on a different mystery. The Church has defined the Joyful Mysteries (to be recited on Saturdays and Mondays), the Glorious Mysteries (Sundays and Wednesdays), the Sorrowful Mysteries (Tuesdays and Fridays), and most recently the Luminous Mysteries (to be recited on Thursdays).

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MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION



Saturday, February 15th at 9am
Faith Formation Office in School

The men's fellowship group gathers for a scripture reflection/sharing every other Saturday. All men are welcome. No fees or registration are required.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading Is 6:1-2a, 3-8

Question: Isaiah eagerly accepted God’s call to serve once his sin was removed. What helps you be open to serve others?

2nd Reading 1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11

Question: Paul reminds the Corinthians of the Gospel message he proclaimed to them about Jesus’s death and resurrection appearances. What do you think makes preaching successful?

Gospel Lk 5:1-11

Question: In Jesus’ call of the first disciples, we see Peter’s obedience and humility. How might you put these virtues into practice this week?

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Ministry Schedule

February 15/16, 2025

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|
| Mass | 4:00pm | 9:00am |
| | | |
| Sacristan | R Pasiak | D Tourville |
| | | |
| Reader #1 | D Tourville | D Gray |
| Reader #2 | R Pasiak | D Tourville |
| | | |
| EME | D Tourville | D Gray |
| | P Miles | T Karolski |
| | T Riley | C McCarthy |
| | | |
| Greeters | J Ballantine | B Turchin |
| | T Pasiak | N Oparka |
| | R Juska-Svoba | T Oparka |
| | R Bertolini | R Juska-Svoba |

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of February 15/16
Kathy Menard

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS**SERVANT OF GOD WALTER CISZEK
1904-1984**

Servant of God Walter Ciszek was born on November 4, 1904, in Shenandoah, Pennsylvania, to parents who were Polish immigrants and devout Catholics. Ciszek attended Jesuit-run schools throughout his childhood and decided to enter the Society of Jesus in 1928. He went on to earn a doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and was ordained a priest in 1937 in the Byzantine Rite, taking on the name of Vladimir. In Rome he was trained to become a missionary in the Soviet Union but started his missionary work in Poland right before the outbreak of WWII.

In 1940, Ciszek entered the Soviet Union along with other Jesuit missionaries disguised as an unskilled logger. Working among the people there, he began his missionary work in Soviet Russia by discreetly performing his priestly duties and engaging in ministry.

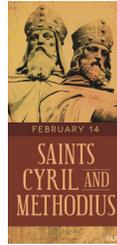
In 1941, he was captured by the Soviet Army and accused of being a spy. Father Ciszek was then tortured into a false confession and imprisoned for the next 23 years. He was sent to a series of labor camps and prisons, where he endured harsh living conditions and brutal treatment from his captors. Despite the awful circumstances, Father Ciszek maintained his faith and worked to bring hope and comfort to his fellow prisoners. He would celebrate Mass for them in secret and provided spiritual guidance to those in need.

In 1963, as part of a prisoner exchange between the United States and the Soviet Union, Father Ciszek was finally released from captivity. He returned to the United States and wrote a memoir about his experiences, entitled *With God in Russia*, which became a bestseller and inspired Catholics around the globe. Father Ciszek's experiences also highlighted the importance of religious freedom and the need to protect it in all parts of the world.

Following his return to the USA, Fr. Ciszek worked at the John XXIII Center at Fordham University. He gave lectures and provided spiritual counseling to those who visited him.

After years of declining health, he passed away at the age of 80 in 1984. His legacy has continued to inspire Catholics around the world. In 1990, the cause for his beatification and canonization was opened and he was declared a Servant of God. Many Catholics view Ciszek as a model of holiness and courage, and his life serves as a testament to the power of faith and the resilience of the human spirit.

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**Ss. CYRIL & METHODIUS
FEBRUARY 14**

These brothers by birth became brothers in mission. Cyril and Methodius were born to a Greek diplomat in the 800s. The two brothers served in local governmental posts before each withdrew to a monastery. Their lives changed when the political leadership in Eastern Europe — what is now Ukraine — requested priests who spoke the native Slavic languages. Cyril and Methodius had proven themselves as able administrators and holy men, so they were sent as missionaries. First, Cyril invented an alphabet. This became the foundation for what is now used today and is still called the Cyrillic alphabet! Next, the brothers translated the Gospels, the Psalms, and other liturgical books into the native language of the people. Their work spread across Eastern Europe. God indeed raises up saints for their times!

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The Catch

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I love today's Gospel passage, and not just because I love a good fish fry.

I love it because I am Peter. Over and over again, I am Peter, standing here exhausted because I relied on my own abilities, and it got me nowhere. I'm ready to call it quits. I'm ready to say it's too hard. And here comes Jesus, asking me to lower my net. To keep trying.

And I try to talk sense into him. "It's not going to work, God," I insist. "I've been trying."

"You've been trying," Jesus agrees. "But you haven't asked for my help yet."

What does it mean to lower your net? It sounds so simple and so easy, but it takes a great deal of humility and trust. I think I'm the expert on my own life, the captain of my own ship. Peter probably thought so, too — he was the fisherman, after all. Why would a fisherman listen to a carpenter on matters of fishing?

Lowering your net means giving God control and letting yourself be changed by what He chooses to show you.

It means to listen to God's instructions, even when you don't understand them, even when you find them frustrating. It means to keep trying the hard thing that you know is the right thing, even when it hasn't born much fruit. It means to keep loving the person who is making life hard on you, even when all you want to do is give into feelings of bitterness and distrust.

If we would only lower our nets, the catch would astound us.

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**Tuesday, February 11th
Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**

Remember in prayer those who are suffering physically, mentally, and/or emotionally.

**World Day
of the Sick**

FEBRUARY 11

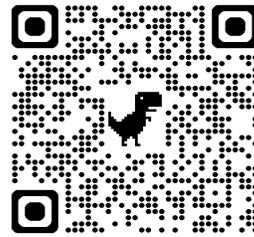
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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

"I am a sinful man," says Simon Peter as he falls to his knees before Jesus. He had doubted the Lord, had hesitated to follow his instructions. How often can the same be said of us? Remember that God knows the outcome. He knows our nets will be filled. Do not be afraid.

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



Sunday February 9th

World Marriage Day

Celebrate your Journey together



CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Where did three children witness six apparitions of Mary, Mother of God in 1917?

Answer: Fatima, Portugal.



- Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day
- Monday: St. Scholastica, Virgin
- Tuesday: Our Lady of Lourdes
- Friday: Sts. Cyril, Monk, and Methodius, Bishop; Valentine's Day
- Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi

He Won't Let You Fall

Having you ever participated in various trust exercises, where you have to place your faith in others around you? Maybe it was falling backwards with your eyes closed while the person's voice speaking to you seemed to drift further away. Maybe it was jumping from a height into people's arms that didn't seem strong enough to catch you. These activities were supposed to show you the meaning of trust and help grow that trust in you for your comrades. Sometimes it worked. Other times, some prankster would actually let you fall, and then you learned to trust no one. So much for building up our ability to trust.

Trust is important, especially in our relationship with Jesus. He calls us all the time and asks for us to trust. However, because of doubt or a desire to follow our own will, we choose to disregard his request. After objecting to Jesus' request to lower his net into the water, Peter was humbled when he caught so much fish that the net began to tear. Peter was a fisherman by trade. Surely he knew what the catch was probably going to be that day. But Jesus asked him to follow his will. Peter wanted to follow his own. Peter realized that his trust from then on should be in the Lord.

Do you sometimes think your generosity will bear little fruit? Do you wonder if your surrender to God in stewardship living really amounts to much at all? Trust in Jesus, the one who calls you to this life. His word is truth, and he would never let you fall. --Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING FEB 1/2, 2025

| <i>Fiscal Year 7-1-24 to 6-30-25</i> | Budgeted | Actual | Over/Under | YTD |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants | 243 | 27 | | |
| Offertory | \$ 5,185.00 | \$ 6,212.18 | 1,027.18 | 10,826.51 |
| Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions | 472.00 | 625.00 | 153.00 | 433.75 |
| Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned | 1,673.00 | 1,086.50 | (739.50) | (9,378.71) |
| Bequests | | 169.00 | | 2,396.00 |
| AOD Collections: Retirement Fund for Religious | | 10.00 | | n/a |
| Holy Days: Mary Mother of God | | 10.00 | | 5,590.00 |
| CSA 2024 Pledged 76,160.34 | | | | Paid 74,292.84 |

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