



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

AUGUST 10, 2025 + NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

In today's world, faith has countless faces. Faith is a basic stance in life that builds a foundation of meaning, trust, and purposeful human development. Faith has a strong emotional and psychological component that begins with the physical world. A basic trust in the consistency of scientific facts allows for the development of meaningful and intentional advancement of human society. The rising and the setting of the sun has a consistent rhythm. Water freezes and thaws at a constant temperature. Sun, water, and soil are unchanging elements for planting and growing seeds for a steady food source. Faith in the created world is an essential building block for religious and spiritual faith. Considering the intricacies of the created world, it is not difficult to see the hand of God in the rhythm and movements of all that is.

A common expression of St. Paul leads us to this awareness. Faith is the realization of what is hoped for, giving evidence of things not yet seen. Experience is an essential building block of faith. The confirmed facts of science are one kind of faith that leads to the realization of the God who created all things. Religious-spiritual faith holds the conviction of the eternal goodness of the Divine Creator who created and sustains all living things.

Today we are invited to ponder the faith we hold that will lead to an active participation of fruitful action. Faith demands courage and trust in what we professed in the name of God. In the Old Testament, faith was expressed through Divine Promise. God offered covenants to his people with the promise of land, descendants, freedom from slavery, and redemption from human oppression. God's covenant culminated in the promise of the Messiah who would save his people from their sin and from every evil. The Divine promise gave expression to the mercy and compassion of God that all persons and things would share union with God through the redemption of Christ.

Given the trials and tragedies of life, faith is often resisted by those who are fearful and worn-down by such hurts and losses. It takes courage and conviction to face the suffering caused by the disorder of human sin which persists and secure faith. God is perfectly aware of the tensions and contradictions of sin and grace. God knows the inclinations of human doubt, loss of hope, and skepticism. This is the nature of faith. If faith were science and all of it could be proven, then there would be no need to believe. We would be left with knowledge alone. If so, something of our human nature would be lost. Faith is part of the

fabric that makes us human.

The gospel begins with Jesus encouraging the disciples as he prepares them for the difficulties of ministry. "Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father is pleased to give you the Kingdom." This theme of courageous faith against the woe of sin makes me think of Julian of Norwich.

Julian lived from 1342-1416. It was a time of the Black Plague and the Peasant revolt across Europe. It was a dark time of the Middle Ages. At the age of thirty, Julian was gravely ill, thought to be on her death bed. In a period of days, Julian was given several visions that began with the face of the Crucified Christ. In her sixteen 'Showings' as they are called, Julian was given revelations of God's compassion and mercy for all humanity in both our suffering and the virtues of our longing faith.

In a dark time of history, Julian was a sought-after voice for the compassion and presence of God even in the darkest realities of human existence. Julian relays God's delight and pure joy to be our Father, Beloved Creator, and Divine Spouse. Jesus holds immense joy in being our brother, savoring with delight the glory of our Father given through his redemptive Cross. Julian was very clear, despite the wretchedness of human sin, that the gift and promise of God's redemption is already ours in Christ. Julian worried why God allowed sin if God were so Divinely good. God consoles Julian in the awareness of the necessity of sin in the human-Divine encounter. Redemption is a pure, freely given gift that delights God to offer and accomplish.

Faith is a living relationship tested by our persistence through times of sin and difficulty. Sin is always discouraging, but with a trustful eye on Jesus it can become a source of self-understanding that leads to the joy of conversion. In times of grace, we feel the consolation of God's presence and peace. This is the message of today's gospel. Jesus is preparing the disciples, and us, to have a faith we actively put into practice in good times and in bad. We are called to be faithful and steadfast in the trustful promise of God's salvation already accomplished in the Lord Jesus. Staring at sin and human disorder is a study in futility. Let us keep our eyes on the Lord Jesus. The will and purpose of God cannot and will not be thwarted. As Jesus tells Julian, "All will be well, and all will be well, all manner of things will be well." That includes you. Feel the joy and hope of heavenly glory promised us in Christ.

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

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 SUMMER HOURS

Monday through Thursday
9am to Noon - 1:00pm to 4:30pm,
Closed Friday, 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
Matthew Zinser, Evangelical Charity Coordinator/
Order of Christian Initiation of Adults(OCIA) Coordinator
Carl Copen, Facilities Supervisor
Alex Mototolea, Maintenance

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

248-542-8720 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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



MONDAY, August 11, 2025

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

TUESDAY, August 12, 2025

8:00am Mass: Dennis Tye† req. by Mary Jane Guc

WEDNESDAY, August 13, 2025

8:00am Mass: Don Bessler† req. by Marie Bessler

THURSDAY, August 14, 2025

8:00am Mass: Bob & Rose Kaye† req. by Sheryl Brown

SATURDAY, August 16, 2025

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

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

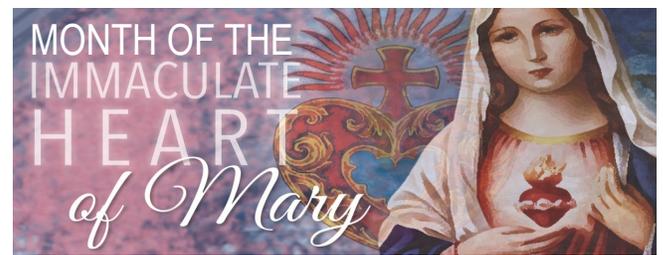
Intentions of Debbie req. by Bernadette Gutowski

SUNDAY, August 17, 2025

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

Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

August 10, 2025

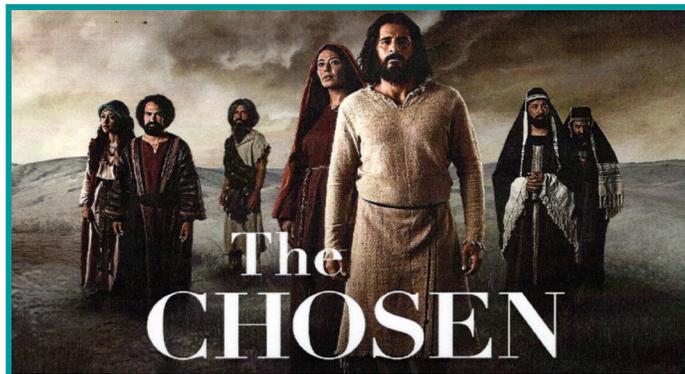
- Sunday: Wis 18:6-9/Ps 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 (12b)/Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12/Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40
- Monday: Dt 10:12-22/Ps 148:1-2, 11-12, 13, 14/Mt 17:22-27
- Tuesday: Dt 31:1-8/Dt 32:3-4ab, 7, 8, 9 and 12/Mt 18:1-5, 10, 12-14
- Wednesday: Dt 34:1-12/Ps 66:1-3a, 5 and 8, 16-17/Mt 18:15-20
- Thursday: Jos 3:7-10a, 11, 13-17/Ps 114:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt 18:21—19:1
- Friday: *Vigil:* 1 Chr 15:3-4, 15-16; 16:1-2/Ps 132:6-7, 9-10, 13-14/1 Cor 15:54b-57/Lk 11:27-28 *Day:* Rv 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab/Ps 45:10, 11, 12, 16/1 Cor 15:20-27/Lk 1:39-56
- Saturday: Jos 24:14-29/Ps 16:1-2a and 5, 7-8, 11/Mt 19:13-15
- Next Sunday: Jer 38:4-6, 8-10/Ps 40:2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/Heb 12:1-4/Lk 12:49-53

**THIS MONDAY
COME PRAY THE ROSARY**



Administration Bldg. Patio
August 11, 2025 - 7pm

The Immaculata prayer group invites all to join them on the Administration Building Patio to pray the Holy Rosary this Monday. The Immaculata group prayers will be prayed at 6:30pm and the rosary will begin at 7:00 pm. Please bring your own lawn chair, a rosary, your prayer intentions, and, if needed, a bottle of water. No rosary? We will provide one. Don't know the prayers? Come and learn. If you have any questions please contact Jane McKay at 248-548-2765.



Experience the Life of Jesus

**Wednesdays
August 13 & 20**

1:00pm to 3:00pm

SVF Administration Bldg.

Season 5 of the TV Series will be shown followed by discussion

All are welcome.



Thank you to all who have made pledges and one time contributions to Catholic Services Appeal 2025.

We continue to accept donations. To donate, visit our website or contact the Parish Office. Excess funds are being returned to St. Vincent Ferrer Church and are being used toward our budget deficit.

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, August 15

**Holy Day Mass
8:00am only**



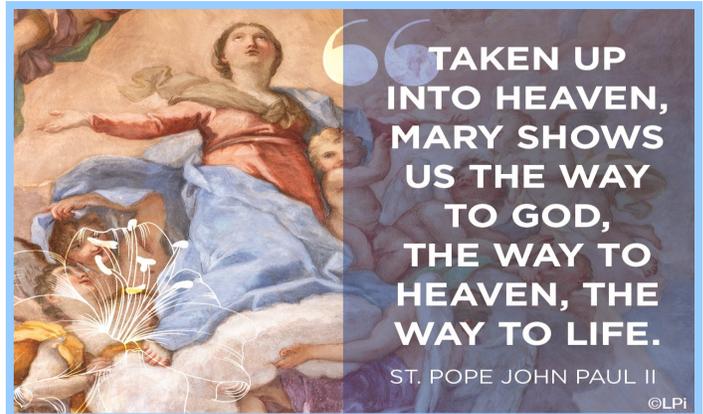
In August, we celebrate two Marian feast days.
August 15 &



AUGUST 15
The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
This feast day commemorates Mary's body and soul taken directly to heaven.



AUGUST 22
The Queenship of Mary
This feast day recognizes Mary as the "Queen of Heaven and Earth" and celebrates her special role in salvation.



TAKEN UP INTO HEAVEN, MARY SHOWS US THE WAY TO GOD, THE WAY TO HEAVEN, THE WAY TO LIFE.

ST. POPE JOHN PAUL II

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

HOUSE BLESSING, Explained!

Catholics who move to a new place of residence often wish to have their dwelling blessed, to call the favor and help of God upon all those who live in the house and all those who will enter it.

The Roman Ritual (Book of Blessings) provides two formats for house blessings: one during the Easter or Christmas season (specifically for the Epiphany) and one for Ordinary Time. Those who live in the home must be present for a house to be blessed. A priest, deacon or lay person can administer the blessing, although if a lay person does so they must use the rites accorded to lay ministers in the Roman Ritual.

A house blessing includes Scripture readings, intercessions and a prayer of blessing.

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Evangelical Service Corner

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING - AUG 12
The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this
Tuesday at 6:00pm in the church



...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

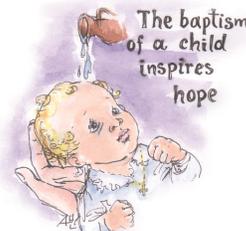
OBSERVANCES OF THE WEEK

Sunday: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Monday: St. Clare, Virgin
 Tuesday: St. Jane Frances de Chantal, Religious
 Wednesday: Sts. Pontian, Pope, and Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs
 Thursday: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest and Martyr
 Friday: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
 Saturday: St. Stephen of Hungary
 Next Sunday: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What is the name for the short stories Jesus would tell to teach a spiritual lesson based on familiar life experiences?
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Answer: Parables.



On Saturday,
 July 26, 2025,
 Reverend John Esper
 administered the
 Sacrament of Baptism to
Leonardo James Balistreri

We welcome him into Christ's family.
 May he grow strong in his faith.

On Sunday, July 27, 2025
 Reverend John Esper administered
 the Sacrament of Baptism to

Sophia Daisy Biecker

We welcome her into Christ's family.
 May she grow strong in her faith.

May God bless our newly baptized
 and their families.

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

There was a young mother in my parish community who was depressed due to financial strain. She prayed for help. One morning before Mass, she placed on the counter a zip-lock bag filled with jewelry and old coins. Smiling, she explained she had been fixing an old cabinet and found the items hidden deep within the walls of her home. One particular coin could be worth as much as \$900,000. The contents of the bag—previously unknown to them—were now their prized possession. Their plans changed that week. They had to learn how much it was worth.

This week, the Lord tells us, **“For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be” (Luke 12:34)**. Our lives revolve around what we treasure. When we discover the treasure the Father gives us—the kingdom of God—everything changes. We might not know its precise value, but we rearrange our lives around it. The joy of this discovery should never be far from our minds.

Sometimes we go through times when we can't find this treasure. It seems hidden. Or it appears like dirty old coins and worthless jewelry in a Ziploc bag. But how crazy would my parishioners be if they tossed it away without knowing the cash value? How much crazier are we if we center our hearts on any treasure except that of Jesus and his kingdom? Remember, the Father is pleased to give it to us. That's why we put our hearts there, even when it is hidden.

— *Father John Muir*
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WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

PARISH REGISTRATION

Question:

Why is it so important that we register in a parish? Isn't it good enough that we go to Mass?

Answer:

Registration is the official way we join a parish community. Many people think that because they attend a particular parish they automatically belong. At times, young adults who have moved away for years think they are still signed up under their parents. But membership requires signing up, formally enrolling yourself in a parish. Registration is a commitment to a community, a way to be included in the religious, social, and ministerial activities of your parish. Your registration affects the parish in many ways. Census numbers can determine how many priests are assigned to a church, what benefits and obligations the community has to the diocese, and how Masses, Confessions, and devotions are planned and scheduled.

Registration shows you belong. It is also necessary for certain benefits, like scheduling sacraments, obtaining sponsor certificates, and getting donation statements for taxes. Most importantly, it lets the parish count on you, to call on you to assist in its mission. Registering in your parish is a statement of faith and confidence in the life and work of your parish.

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NOTE: Children who were registered under their parents need to register on their own at age 18 and older in order to continue active registration status in our parish.

Traveling Vocations Chalice



Families and individuals are needed to host the Traveling Vocations Chalice for a one week commitment. Prayers come with the chalice. Please sign up at the table outside the chapel wall near the Herbert St. entrance.

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

We are the servants and God is our master. He has told us His will, and given us all that we need to carry out His directions. Do we have the courage to act as our master desires? Do we have what it takes to be stewards of God's grace?

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MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, August 16th at 9:00am
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: Wis 18:6-9

Question: The Book of Wisdom speaks of having faith and courage in the knowledge of God's providence. What do you pray for God to provide for you and your family?

2nd Reading; Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 or 11:1-2, 8-12

Question: Hebrews cites Abraham as the model of faith and trust in the Lord. Who would you hold up today as a role model for our faith?

Gospel: Lk 12:32-48 or 12:35-40

Question:

Jesus teaches the disciples to be vigilant and prudent with the gifts God has given to each of us. What are some of your gifts that you share with others?

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Ministry Schedule

August 16/17, 2025

| | | |
|-----------|---------------|--------------|
| Mass | 4:00pm | 9:00am |
| | | |
| Sacristan | D Tourville | T Karolski |
| | | |
| Reader #1 | M Simmons | L Yolkiewicz |
| Reader #2 | D Tourville | T Karolski |
| | | |
| EME | L Collins | C McCarthy |
| | R Pasiak | P Allen |
| | M Simmons | M Black |
| | | |
| Greeters | R Juska-Svoba | T Oparka |
| | P Miles | N Oparka |
| | L Collins | T Lane |
| | J Ballantine | D Vu |

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Aug 16/17, 2025
Rorie Grant

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS



ST. MAXIMILIAN KOLBE 1894-1941

Courage and sacrificial love mark the life of St. Maximilian Kolbe. He became a priest of the Franciscan order. Dedicated with evangelization, he published a magazine to teach the Catholic faith and encourage devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. During the Nazi occupation of Poland, Fr. Kolbe was arrested and sent to Auschwitz. One day a prisoner escaped from the camp. The Nazi punishment was harsh. For one escapee, 10 must die in his place. The guards picked 10 men at random. One began to beg for his life on behalf of his family, and another man stepped forward and offered to take his place. Fr. Kolbe was sentenced, along with the other nine men, to death by starvation. For this "martyr of Auschwitz," a life of devotion culminated in one heroic, Christlike act.

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ST. CLARE OF ASSISI 1194-1253

As a girl in 12th century Italy, Clare heard the legendary St. Francis preaching in the square below her family home. Inspired, Clare snuck away in the middle of the night to join Francis and his followers. Francis cut her hair like the men and gave her a rough tunic and veil to wear. For the sake of propriety, Clare was placed in a Benedictine nun monastery for several years. As more women were drawn to the simple spirituality, a new order was founded, now known as the Poor Clares. Despite requests from the pope himself to relax their vow of poverty, Clare stood firm in following the spirit of St. Francis. Clare's reputation for virtue spread and attracted women -- rich and poor alike -- to the new order that still exists today.

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Are You Talking to Me?

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Last summer I was at the National Eucharistic Congress when Fr. Mike Schmitz delivered an impassioned call to repentance in his keynote address during an evening revival session. The crowd received his message with great enthusiasm. Their applause and the cheers shook the Lucas Oil Stadium.

The next night, Sr. Josephine Garrett took the stage and, in her address, got into the nitty-gritty of what it means to be a disciple, what it means to live repentance — or, as she so beautifully put it, to *embrace the hunger*.

And in doing so, she called back to the previous night's thunderous approval of Fr. Mike's message.

"When I heard you clapping when Father said we need repentance, I was worried you thought he was talking about your neighbor's repentance," she said. "He is not."

In other words: he's talking about your repentance.

We all love a message about The Right Thing To Do. We all love when a priest or a nun or any Catholic with a microphone gets up and talks about the truth. We rise to our feet and applaud.

And then, too often, we take a deep breath and walk to our car and forget all about it — because we think they were talking to someone else. You know...the *others*. The ones who need to hear it. The ones who aren't being vigilant.

In today's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus, "Is this parable [of the absent master] meant for us, or for everyone?" (Luke 12:41). And Jesus answers him with a question. In so many words, he says this: "Do you want it to be for you? Are you ready to hear it?"

Whoever we are. Wherever we're from. Whatever our life looks like. However we pray. He's talking to us.

Are we ready to hear him?

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St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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



George Giannetti

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!



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The Millionaire

At a church meeting a very wealthy man rose to tell the rest of those present about his faith.

"I'm a millionaire," he said, "and I attribute it all to the rich blessings of God in my life. I remember that turning point in my faith. I had just earned my first dollar and I went to a church meeting that night. The speaker was a missionary who told about his work. I knew that I only had a dollar bill and had to either give it all to God's work or nothing at all. So, at that moment I decided to give my whole dollar to God. I believe that God blessed that decision, and that is why I am a rich man today."

He finished and there was an awed silence at his testimony as he moved toward his seat. As he sat down a little old lady sitting in the same pew leaned over and said to him: "I dare you to do it again."

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

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING JULY 27/28, 2025

| <i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i> | Budgeted | Actual | Over/Under | YTD |
|--|-------------|------------|------------|----------------|
| Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants | 241 | 73 | | |
| Offertory | \$ 5,185.00 | \$4,646.71 | (889.29) | 1,498.24 |
| Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions | 472.00 | 121.00 | (351.00) | (487.00) |
| Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned | 1,673.00 | 1,030.00 | (643.00) | (5,230.00) |
| Bequests | | | | |
| AOD Collections: Missionary Cooperation Plan | | 164.00 | | 1,924.00 |
| AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund | | 3.00 | | 3.00 |
| Holy Days: Assumption | | 9.00 | | 29.00 |
| CSA 2025 Pledged 67,353.00 | | | | Paid 58,942.00 |

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 2/3, 2025

| <i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i> | Budgeted | Actual | Over/Under | YTD |
|--|-------------|-------------|------------|----------------|
| Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants | 241 | 102 | | |
| Offertory | \$ 5,185.00 | \$ 6,374.31 | 1,189.31 | 2,687.55 |
| Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions | 472.00 | 410.00 | (62.00) | (549.00) |
| Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned | 1,673.00 | 104.00 | (1,569.00) | (7,348.00) |
| Bequests | | | | |
| AOD Collections: Missionary Cooperation Plan | | 110.00 | | 2,034.00 |
| Holy Days: Assumption | | 85.00 | | 114.00 |
| CSA 2025 Pledged 68,978.50 | | | | Paid 60,757.50 |

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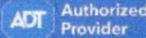
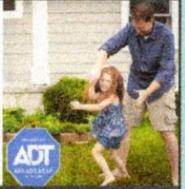
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