

St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

OCTOBER 5, 2025 † TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

From The Pastor

The readings today focus on faith as a gift from God. As a gift, faith needs mature and ongoing attention to remain strong that it may persevere in times of trial. The inclination in challenging times is to question the presence and action of God. We are tempted to question the fidelity of God's care and protection. We are inclined to say: where is God? Why is God not helping us in this time of uncertainty and disorder?

Faith must live in the reality of life as it is presented to us. To pretend what is happening right before our eyes is a denial of what is, in the presumption that God will take care of the problem. This is an immature and self-defeating response. Strong faith is a faith tested in challenging and uncertain times.

The readings today are quite applicable to our time. Political tensions, wars, human suffering, and oppression are evident in many places throughout the world. There is considerable political divide in our own country fueled by fear, anger, violence, and judgement cast on the 'other side.' As Jesus has made clear, 'a house divided cannot stand.' If our stance against those who disagree with us is one of judgement and hatred, we ourselves are part of the problem. As members in Christ, our call is to work for unity and peace within the context of our divisions and opposing views.

I approach this theme in the setting of our readings today. If I am correct, this same set of readings were read on the Sunday following the events of 9/11. Notice the cry and appeal of the Prophet Habakkuk. Habakkuk was a contemporary of Jeremiah. Decades earlier, the northern kingdom of Israel was conquered by Assyria. In the time of Habakkuk, Babylon was threatening the southern kingdom of Israel. Thus, the plea and cry of the weary prophet.

'How long, O Lord? I cry for help but you do not listen! I cry out to you, "Violence" but you do not intervene.' The plea goes on followed by God's response. It is a vision of hope and promise given by God that the day of fulfillment will come. It is a powerful and encouraging message even though it calls for patience in delay and secure faith along the way. Habakkuk is told to write down the vision for all to see and hear giving the people hope and courage in their time of trial.

God is holding up a mirror for us to see the reality of our times with the same call to mature faith with courage and hope in God's care. In such times we must depend on God, but not on God alone. As we trust in God's providence, don't you suppose God is waiting for us to act on the faith we profess?

The letter of St. Paul to Timothy hits the point. Paul reminds Timothy to 'stir into flame' the gift of God given you in Christ, calling him and us, to not give in to a spirit of cowardice, evident in words and actions of fear, judgement, and hatred for our enemies. Further, Paul insists that Timothy not be ashamed of his faith and witness of gospel life. Can we say the same? Does our profession of faith match the sentiment of our heart in the matters that disturb us? Is this not a time to strengthen our faith in the challenges the world presents to us? The cycle of evil and oppression has long been active in the world, which is why I point to similar tensions from biblical times. Ours is a time that calls for faith. I was struck recently by something I read in a devotional book I use. The point was that God can bring good and reveal his glory even out of evil. The disorder of evil binds all of us. By design, evil creates division, hatred, judgement, and violence among those who previously were friends.

If you think this makes no sense or is not possible, remember the Exaltation of the Cross we recently celebrated. The Crucifixion of Jesus is the pinnacle of all evil, yet that very act became the revelation of Divine glory. God turned that darkest hour into the light and glory of our redemption in the Lordship of Jesus over all heaven and earth.

The gospel is the same message. You have faith. You have enough faith. Build up your faith, stir it into flame, and act upon it. Pray with a heart of peace, justice, and compassion not just from your point of view, but that of Christ. Pray for the vision and completion of God's redemption for the world. We are not worthless servants when, in gratitude for the gift of faith, we do all that we can to align ourselves to the will of God and do our share in bringing it about. The world needs your goodness and faith. Do not be divided by the tensions of fear and hate created by the world. We are children of the light. Use your light to bring hope and courage into every place you find yourself.

Father John Esper

Liturgical Schedule

DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm
in Chapel

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

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

Livestream of Rosary on
Thursdays following Mass

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

LIVE
STREAMING

MONDAY, October 6, 2025

9:00am Mass: Hudy & Simmons
Families req. by Mary Ann Simmons

TUESDAY, October 7, 2025

8:00am Mass: Anna Czarnecki†
req. by Bernadette Gutowski

WEDNESDAY, October 8, 2025

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

THURSDAY, October 9, 2025

8:00am Mass: Mark Esper† req. by Family

SATURDAY, October 11, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Mary Lou Stema† req. by Mary Beth & Bill Hochstetler
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Family of Mark Esper req. by Mary Ann Przybysz
Tony Szeliga† req. by Mary Jane Guc
Mark Esper† req. by Miles Family
John Skorna† req. by daughter, Jennifer Lussier

SUNDAY, October 12, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Lorraine Kuczborski† req. by Stanley & Family
Hudy & Simmons Families req. by Mary Ann Simmons
Don Bessler† req. by Marie Bessler
Living & Deceased Members and Families of the Fr.
Heary Knights of Columbus Council
Nancy Sadowski (Birthday Blessings) req. by Bernadette Gutowski



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 - 9:00am 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
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

OCTOBER

MONTH
OF THE



Our Lady
of the
Rosary,
Pray for us!

Readings for the Week

October 5, 2025

Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 (8)/2
Tm 1:6-8, 13-14/Lk 17:5-10

Monday: Jon 1:1-2:2, 11/Jon 2:3, 4, 5, 8/Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4ab, 7-8/Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11/Ps 86:3-4, 5-6, 9-10/Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2/Ps 9:2-3, 6 and 16, 8-9/
Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Jl 4:12-21/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12/Lk 11:27-28

Next Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19

Mercy in Action - October 18

Sign up to Participate

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament followed by Adoration and Benediction at Noon	In church and online 9am to Noon
Rosary	Administration Bldg. Patio 10:30am
Snack Bag Decorating and Filling	Administration Building 9:30am to 11:30am
Prayer Blanket Decorating	Administration Building 9:30am to 11:30am
Sandwich Making	Administration Building 9:30am to 11:30am
Pet Food/Supplies Collection	Administration Bldg. 9:30 to 11:30am
Prescription eye glasses and hearing aid collection	Collection boxes located at entrance doors of church
St. Vincent de Paul Clothing ONLY Drive	SVDP Bin on site for clothing only October 18 & 19 Household items can be taken to SVDP store at Stephens and 12 Mile

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY COLLECTION

October 11/12

On Mercy in Action Day, for one of the projects volunteers will be making 200 PB & J sandwiches.

ITEMS NEEDED ARE:

- Jars of Creamy Peanut Butter
- Strawberry Jelly or Grape Jelly



CCSEM Senior FOOD COLLECTION

October 11/12

Items requested:

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

Canned Foods including: Soups, Stews, Chili, Ravioli, Spaghettios, Fruit, Vegetables

Gift cards, in any amount are especially appreciated and used to buy perishable food, from: Kroger, Meijer, Walmart or Target

BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 12

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



SHMS SEMINARIANS HALLOWEEN OUTREACH

Collection
October 6-19

It's that time of the year again! Halloween is just around the corner, and Sacred Heart Major Seminary needs your help. Each year the seminary community opens their doors and their hearts to over 2000 children from the surrounding Detroit neighborhood so that the kids can have a fun and safe place to play games and trick-or-treat. But they need your help to make this year a success!

They are asking for donations of Halloween candy that will then be passed out to many kids. If you are willing to participate in this important ministry by donating bags of candy put the donations in the labeled baskets in back of church or drop them off at the Parish Office before October 20th.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH COLLECTION - Oct. 11/12

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

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

Prayer REQUESTS

Pray for

...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: 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
Monday: St. Bruno, Priest; Bl. Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin
Tuesday: Our Lady of the Rosary
Thursday: St. Denis, Bishop, and Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest
Saturday: St. John XXIII, Pope
Next Sunday: 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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The theme for Respect Life Month 2025 is
Life: Our Sign of Hope



Respect Life Sunday - October 5th

As in previous years, there will be Life Chains throughout the Archdiocese from 2:00pm to 3:30pm.

To find a location visit:

<https://milifespan.org/events/2025-life-chain-std/>

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

A priest friend of mine received a call from a family whose elderly mother was dying. Within thirty minutes, he was at her bedside, offering the consolation of the sacraments, anointing her with the oil of the sick, and commending her soul to God. She passed not long after, and for months, her family spoke of their deep gratitude for his presence. When I phoned him to commend his faithful ministry, he simply said, "I was just doing my job."

His words brought to mind Jesus' teaching this week in Luke 17:10: **"So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, 'We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.'"** In a world that often seeks recognition and applause, the Lord invites us into a different mindset — one of humble service. The priest did not see his response as extraordinary; he saw it as a grace to fulfill his vocation.

How tempting it is to seek affirmation for doing what I ought to do! Yet Jesus reminds us that true discipleship is not about grandstanding but about quiet faithfulness. It is enough to have served. It is enough to have loved. It is enough to be grateful that we were given the chance to do our duty in the first place. Whether in priesthood, parenthood, or any vocation, what peace-soaked freedom there is in simply doing what is asked of us. No more, no less. Jesus, that is how you quietly love us.

— Father John Muir ©LPI

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Question: Who invented the Stations of the Cross?

Answer: The first Stations of the Cross were walked by Jesus himself on the way to Calvary. Known as the "Via Dolorosa" ("The Way of Suffering") or the "Via Crucis" ("The Way of the Cross"), it was marked out from the earliest times and was a traditional walk for pilgrims who came to Jerusalem. The early Christians in Jerusalem would walk the same pathway that Jesus walked, pausing for reflection and prayer. Later, when Christians could not travel to the Holy Land, artistic depictions of "The Way of the Cross" were set up in churches, or outside and Christians would walk from station to station, reading the Gospel account of the Passion, or simply praying and reflecting on each event. While the content or place of each station had changed, the intention was to make a mini-pilgrimage and follow--literally--in the footsteps of Jesus.

This devotion became better known in the Middle Ages, and the Franciscans are credited with its spread. Lent is a time when many people make the Stations and some churches present Passion plays or Living Stations. But anyone can pray the Stations at any time. It is a simple and personal reflection on the passion of Jesus and what it means to us.

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Local Pilgrimage Site

As we enter the last third of 2025 of this Jubilee Year of Hope (which ends on the Feast of the Holy Family, Dec. 28), you are invited to grow in hope and share hope with others by taking advantage of the many Jubilee Year opportunities the Church offers.

One way to grow in hope is through local pilgrimage to one of the 12 official Jubilee Year pilgrimage sites. One site is **St. Joseph Chapel & the Shrine of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** (400 South Blvd. West, Pontiac, MI 48341)—one of the six Marian Shrines of Michigan. WE INVITE YOU TO VISIT this little holy place. You can visit our miraculous statue of the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary in our Shrine-Grotto (look for the small building with the blue awning) and our signature statue, Our Lady of the Cape ("Notre Dame du Cap")—the Queen of Canada and Queen of the Most Holy Rosary—in the chapel. It was through one of her traveling statues that the Blessed Mother asked the pastor in 1947 at the Marian Congress in Ottawa, Canada, to start a shrine in Pontiac.

If you wish to visit with a group or to learn how to obtain a **Jubilee Year pilgrimage Plenary Indulgence** for yourself or a Poor Soul in Purgatory, just contact Fr. Alex Kratz, OFM: text/call: (313) 727-9784 or email: abunaalex@yahoo.com. We are open every Wednesday, Friday & Saturday with 11:00 am Confessions, Noon Mass followed by the Rosary.

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What sin does Baptism remove? ©LPi

Answer: Original Sin

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

NOVENA, Explained

The word *novena* comes from the Latin word, *novem*, for nine. A novena is a nine-day period of private or public prayer. There are four basic categories of novenas — novenas of preparation, of mourning, of prayer, and of indulgence.

The nine days of prayer format comes directly from scripture where we read in the book of Acts that it was nine days after the Ascension that the Holy Spirit descended onto the Apostles. During that time, the faithful men and women “devoted themselves to constant prayer,” (Acts 1:12-14) waiting for the Lord.

Today, Catholics can find hundreds of novenas to pray about a plethora of topics. Many Catholics pray novenas in times of need or in devotion to a specific saint. Although a saint’s novena may traditionally begin or end on the saint’s feast day, while others, like the “Novena for Adopted Children” or the “Novena for Vocations,” can be prayed any time of the year, there is flexibility here for those wanting to pray. The faithful may choose to pray a private novena on any topic at any time! Want to pray a novena to St. Francis but it’s not his feast day? Go ahead!

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Ministry Schedule

October 11/12, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	P Miles	C McCarthy
Reader #1	M Simmons	J Kosnak
Reader #2	P Miles	C McCarthy
EME	T Pasiak	N Virga
	L Collins	L Yolkiewicz
	M Simmons	T Karolski
Greeters	R Bertolini	M McLaughlin
	L Collins	D McLaughlin
	R Pasiak	N Oparka
	T Pasiak	T Oparka

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Oct 11/12, 2025
Kathy Bush

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, Oct. 11th 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.

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

SAINT BRUNO OF COLOGNE |
1030-1101
FEAST DAY - OCTOBER 6

Bruno, born in 1030, is also known as Saint Bruno the Carthusian for the monastic order he founded. He studied in Reims and was ordained in Cologne in 1055. In 1057 he went back to Reims to lead the school, a post he kept for almost 20 years. He was made chancellor of the church of Reims in 1075 but left soon after in protest of the behavior of new bishop Manasses de Gournai who was finally deposed in 1080. Bruno refused the nomination to replace de Gournai as it was his intention to retire to live in solitude and prayer. He had a vision in a dream to go with Bishop (later Saint) Hugh of Grenoble. Bruno, Hugh, and five other religious settled at Chartreuse and founded the Carthusian order in 1084.

This first period of monastic life was not to last long. Bruno was called to help Urban II, a former student of his, against the antipope Guibert of Ravenna and the hostile Holy Roman Emperor Henry IV. While working with Urban II, he rejected another offer to become bishop, this time of Calabria. Eventually Bruno was allowed to return to monastic life. Count Roger of Sicily and Calabria befriend Bruno and the monks of his order, granting them the land where they founded St. Mary's at La Torre. The order was known for its strict asceticism, poverty, and prayer and its unique organization combining the life of the hermit with that of the collective life of traditional monks.

Saint Bruno wrote several commentaries on the psalms and on St. Paul's epistles. He died on October 6, 1101, and was never formally canonized because his order renounces all public honors. However, Pope Leo X gave permission for Carthusians to celebrate his feast in 1514 and his name was added to the Roman calendar in 1623.

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St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community



extends its deepest sympathy and support to the family and friends of
Patricia D'Arca

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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!

The Father Who Knows What You Want

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

It's easy to give your kid what he's asking for. It's hard to give him what he wants.

If a kid asks to eat an ice cream cone, there's nothing wrong with giving him one. But if he's grumpily demanding an ice cream cone at 7:45 in the morning, what he wants — whether he realizes it or not — is some protein and whole grains and a little encouragement to get him going on his day.

So you give him eggs and toast, and you watch him struggle to accept it. Sometimes he does and sometimes he doesn't, but either way, you'll be here. You'll forgive him for whatever names he calls you and you'll put the healthy breakfast in the fridge, waiting for him when he's ready to eat it.

"Increase my faith." I've said it to God plenty of times, imagining a prayer life that is effortless and a sacramental life that is uncomplicated, an acceptance of truth that is unshakeable. Easy faith — that's what I'm asking for, and lots of it, please.

But easy faith isn't faith at all, and faith that you aren't strong enough to hold will break your arms. And what God will never do is say, "Sure, kiddo, here you go," and pass off a false gift as the real thing, just to make us both feel good. He won't hand me something I'm not strong enough to hold.

That would be a classic lazy-father move. That would be an ice-cream-cone-at-7:45 a.m. move.

Instead, He watches carefully while I navigate the bumpy terrain of the spiritual life, ready to whisper directions in my ear. He holds his breath while the challenges of this world create deep grooves in my soul — and then He irrigates those grooves with the life-giving waters of grace, transforming them into valleys of consolation and respite.

Sometimes I call Him names. Sometimes I refuse what He's offering. It's not what I asked for, after all.

But it's what I want. Luckily, He knows that better than me.

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INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

The Apostles beg Jesus for increased faith, but they don't really want faith. They want a magical feeling of certainty that requires no effort. Real faith must grow and sprout roots in fertile soil. Real faith requires attention and work. Are we willing to work?

©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

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030

SATURDAY - 4:00pm St. Mary Magdalen

SUNDAY - 10:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

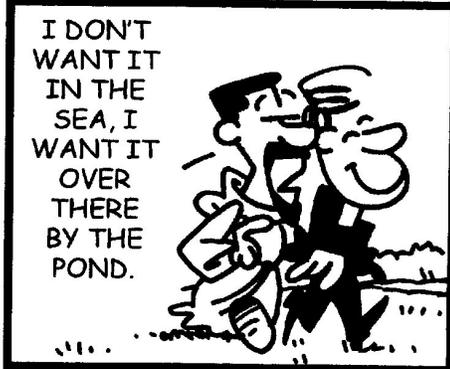
MON, TUES, THURS, FRI - 7:30am

WED - 12:10pm

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THAT'S "IN THE SEA," NOT "BY THE POND."



QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4

Question: The prophet Habakkuk is encouraged to be patient and trust in the Lord's timing. Is patience one of your virtues?

2nd Reading: 2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14

Question: Paul urges Timothy to live his life of faith with courage and self-control, especially in difficult situations. How might you support a family member or friend struggling this week?

Gospel: Lk 17:5-10

Question: Jesus taught the Apostles that one way to increase your faith is to have the attitude of a servant. How would you describe your attitude most days? ©LPI

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING SEPT. 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	240	87		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	4,717.20	(467.80)	5,051.66
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	192.00	(280.00)	(1,342.50)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	64.00	(1,609.00)	2,935.50
Bequests		88.00		863.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		1,100.00		1,295.00
Holy Days: All Souls				70.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,227.50				Paid 63,252.50

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