



## *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community*

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

**OCTOBER 12, 2025 † TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

### **From The Pastor**

What are you grateful for that inspires you to love, honor, and worship the Lord? What stirs your soul that makes you know that God is present and active in your life? Grace and inspiration are an essential, yet often an underplayed part of our faith. I am not sure we pay enough attention or give enough credit to those moments or seasons of grace in our lives that secure a lively and mature trust in the goodness of God.

One of the challenges of faith is to realize and accept the grace and favors, even the miracles, that God showers upon us. In today's culture of over-stimulation through media, advertising, and entertainment, how deeply must the grace of God compete to impress and gain a response from those who profess faith in Jesus? The stimulations, enticements, and animations of our culture may please our senses or inspire our interests, but they do not invite or support personal relationships that build faith, secure hope, or inspire love.

The stories in today's readings are good examples that speak to this point. Naaman is a Gentile Army Commander who suffers the pain and shame of leprosy. As you might notice, we are reading only the second half of his story. Initially, Naaman is resistant and resentful that Elisha has him wash in the Jordan river. Like most of us who seek various kinds of healing, we want a quick and easy prayer said with timely and effective results. Only through the encouragement of his friends does Naaman accept the word of the Prophet. Through humble obedience, he washes in the Jordan river and is fully cured. It is a miracle, an immediate action of Divine intervention.

Notice the effect it has on this strong and powerful man who leads an army. He realized that his healing is an action of God. At first, he attempts to pay or offer gifts to Elisha. Elisha refuses any payment or gift. The Prophet knows the credit is not his but goes to God alone. His refusal of payment deepens the realization of Naaman that his healing was an action of God. It was not the Prophet, it was not the water in the river, it was a personal action of God on his behalf.

Naaman's soul is stirred. More than a feeling of religious devotion, this strong man realizes a power well beyond his own. He is drawn to the God of Israel, the God of Elisha, and our God. As an expression of this faith, Naaman asks for two mule-loads of earth that he may honor and worship the God of Israel in his own country. He is stirred with gratitude to worshipful praise in a newfound faith in the living God.

The ten lepers in the gospel convey the same message, but in a different way. One way or another,

most people believe in God even if they cannot put a name or a face on God. Human beings have an inescapable need for religion, and religion has countless expressions beyond the rubrics of church. True and healthy religion leads to inspired faith, hope, and maturing love. It stirs and awakens the soul. Increasing numbers of people are leaving formal religious practice, yet at the same time there is a swell in those seeking mature spiritual expression in their life.

Ten lepers are healed. Nine go back to church (the Temple), as directed by Jesus, and one returns to the source of his healing to give worshipful thanks and praise with soulful gratitude. What is the difference? Two things. The Samaritan did not belong to the Temple and would not be allowed to enter. More importantly, the Samaritan realized and accepted the power of Divine action through the word of Jesus. He allowed this power to transform his life. He knew it was an act of love that gave him personal healing as well as restoration to his family and community. He realized a power and a truth infinitely beyond himself. He realized his soul, and a oneness with God was awakened in him. Humbled and grateful he falls on his face before Jesus and thanks him from the depths of his being.

Good religion should do the same thing. But it is a two-way street. God cannot do all the heavy lifting. Faith as a gift must be realized, accepted, and acted upon in response to a Divine action. It must be more than an intellectual assent, righteous moral behavior to a set of rules, or a profession of faith in a creed. By itself this will never stir the soul. The believer must realize and accept the action and presence of God in a personal way in their lives. God loves you. But you must allow God to love you. You must be willing to see the grace, favor, or even the miracles God has done for you. Many do not feel this, but it is there. If we only expect the favors of religion by following rules and 'staying on God's good side,' how will we ever know the power of God's personal love? If sin is always the focus with its pain of guilt and unworthiness, how is the goodness and mercy of God ever going to be realized? Each of us has been freely given the miracle and grace of Divine power in the gift of redemption through the dying and rising of Jesus. We are all swimming in grace. Let your soul be stirred. Give your sin to God and accept the freedom of his healing love.

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 the Following:

Daily & Weekend Masses

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

Rosary on Thursdays  
following 8:00am Mass

LIVE  
STREAMING

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 - 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

## MONDAY, October 13, 2025

9:00am Mass: Elsie Velez† req.  
by Family

## TUESDAY, October 14, 2025

8:00am Mass: Deanna (for  
health) req. by Family

## WEDNESDAY, October 15, 2025

8:00am Mass: Kenny Jr. (for  
health) req. by Family

## THURSDAY, October 16, 2025

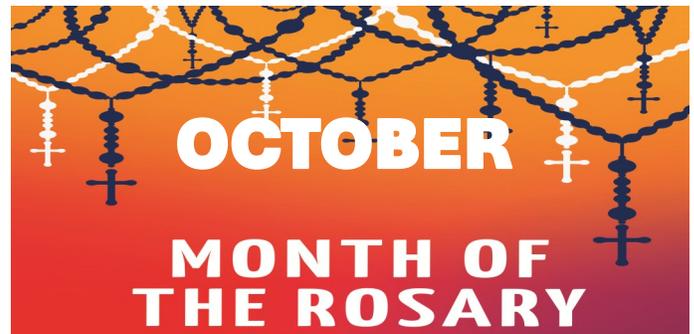
8:00am Mass: Elena Maulding (40th R.A.) req. by  
Regina Juska-Svoba

## SATURDAY, October 18, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Ann Brunk† req. by Mary Beth & Bill Hochstetler  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family  
Tony Szeliga† req. by Mary Ann Przybysz

## SUNDAY, October 19, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Pina Tosto† req. by Virga Family  
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req by Family  
Thomas Lewandowski† req. by Nancy & Tim Oparka



# Readings for the Week

## October 12, 2025

Sunday: 2 Kgs 5:14-17/Ps 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 (see 2b)/2 Tm 2:8-13/Lk 17:11-19  
Monday: Rom 1:1-7/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk 11:29-32  
Tuesday: Rom 1:16-25/Ps 19:2-3, 4-5/Lk 11:37-41  
Wednesday: Rom 2:1-11/Ps 62:2-3, 6-7, 9/Lk 11:42-46  
Thursday: Rom 3:21-30/Ps 130:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6ab/Lk 11:47-54  
Friday: Rom 4:1-8/Ps 32:1b-2, 5, 11/Lk 12:1-7  
Saturday: 2 Tm 4:10-17b/Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18/Lk 10:1-9  
Next Sunday: Ex 17:8-13/Ps 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (see 2)/2 Tm 3:14-4:2/Lk 18:1-8

# Mercy in Action - October 18 Sign up to Participate

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

## Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Dorothy Day, the great Catholic activist, doubted God's existence. At least in her early adult years. But something changed when after giving birth to her daughter, she experienced an overwhelming gratitude. She later described how, as she held her daughter, the only appropriate response was a kind of unlimited gratitude. She had done nothing to deserve such a gift -this tiny, miraculous life but there she was, flooded with gratitude, completely undone by the love of such a Giver.

Something similar occurs in Luke 17:19 when Jesus tells a healed leper, **“Stand up and go; your faith has saved you.”** This man had already received physical healing through his faith. But the moment of an even deeper transformation came when he turned back, fell at Jesus' feet, and gave thanks. Like Dorothy, this man's gratitude led him to encounter the Giver.

Isn't that what we want, too? Gratitude to God has the power to break our chains of sadness, bitterness, and disenchantment. It empowers us to step out of the prison of self-pity and into the reality of God's abundant love. It shifts our focus from what we lack to what we have received, from what wounds us to what heals us.

Where do we learn this? The Mass. The priest prays: **“It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks.”** Always. Everywhere. Not just when life is easy. Not just when prayers are answered as we expect. Gratitude is not a passive feeling; it is an act of faith. In the eucharist, we remember that Christ himself has given everything for us. And in this act of gratitude, we are healed.

— Father John Muir ©LPI



**SHMS SEMINARIANS HALLOWEEN OUTREACH Candy 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 the many kids. If you are willing to participate in this important ministry by donating bags of candy please put the donations in the labeled baskets in back of church or drop them off at the Parish Office before October 20th.

**SIGN UP THIS WEEKEND  
IN BACK OF CHURCH**

**Evangelical Service**  
**ST VINCENT DE PAUL MEETING**  
**Tuesday, October 14**

The St. Vincent de Paul Ministry will meet this Tuesday at 6:00pm in church. If you are interested in becoming a part of this ministry, you are welcome to attend the meeting.

# Prayer REQUESTS

## Please 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: 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
 Monday: Columbus Day; Indigenous Peoples' Day  
 Tuesday: St. Callistus I, Pope and Martyr  
 Wednesday: St. Teresa of Jesus, Virgin and Doctor of the Church  
 Thursday: St. Hedwig, Religious; St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, Virgin  
 Friday: St. Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop and Martyr  
 Saturday: St. Luke, Evangelist  
 Next Sunday: 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time;  
 World Mission Sunday

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## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

**If we have faith, we call out to God and we beg him for healing. But when our faith is rewarded, what then? Do we take our miracle and run? No, we must return to the source of our healing to say, "You have changed me, Lord. Now help me change others."**

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## Healthy Habits to Prevent Flu for Everyone

October is the official start of the flu season. This makes this a good time to share practical, preventive advice to keep your immune system healthy.

1. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. When you are sick keep your distance between yourself and others.
2. Stay home when you're sick. You can go back to normal activities when your symptoms are better, and you have not had a fever.
3. Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing.
4. Wear a mask to reduce the spread of virus to others.
5. Wash your hands or use alcohol-based sanitizer.
6. Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
7. Improve air quality by bringing fresh air inside, use an air purifier, or gather outdoors.
8. Clean frequently touched surfaces such as in the bathroom, countersurfaces, or doorknobs.
9. Practice good hygiene. Get plenty of sleep. Be physically active. Manage your stress. Drink plenty of water. Eat a well-balanced diet.
10. Get vaccinated per your physicians' instructions.

May you have a blessed and safe flu season.

Angela Maynard, Parish Nurse

## TO GIVE OF ONESELF

In the South, the use of "Yes, Sir," "Yes, Ma'am," and "Thank you," have been drilled into many a little person's brain. Unfortunately, as time goes by, those social conventions seem to be in danger, even in the very places that have held them sacred for so long. In fact, I have found that I sometimes will even get a strange look when I utter similar words to a stranger or passer-by. It seems manners are being traded for acceptance of ill-conceived tolerance, even tolerance of the ill-mannered.

We know this is nothing new when we look at the story of Jesus' healing of the ten lepers. After healing ten, only one comes back to show gratitude to the healer. Why did 90% of those healed not offer thanks?

We all find our lives filled with blessings. We may sometimes think we deserve the good things we receive. We may also believe because everyone receives the same gifts — things like life, air, and the planet — that God didn't single us out, and our obligation to offer thanks is diminished. However, gratitude is never obligated. The other 9 did not get their leprosy back due to ungrateful hearts. Gratitude is simply the gift we give to the one who was generous to us in the first place. A gift for a gift. Generosity gives birth to more generosity. Without as much gratitude in the world, there is less chance for an increase of love and generosity. So, who do you need to thank today?

— Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### VICAR GENERAL AND CHANCELLOR

**Question:** I have seen the title of Vicar General and Chancellor used in our Catholic newspaper. Who are they and what do they do?

**Answer:** A bishop is in charge of a diocese and appoints people to help with its administration. Two of those positions are the Vicar General and the Chancellor. Both play a role in the life of a diocese, despite the many jokes priests may tell at their expense! A chancellor is the archivist of a diocese, charged with task of keeping the records of the diocese. Often a bishop may add other responsibilities and the chancellor may end up being like the executive director of the diocesan office. The chancellor does not need to be a priest.

The vicar general is a priest, appointed by the bishop and acts in the name of the bishop in administering the diocese. He has an advanced degree in canon law or theology. He also has executive authority within the diocese. This means that he is involved in the day-to-day pastoral and temporal administration of the diocese. Canon law does not allow a bishop to appoint a relative to the position, nor the priest in charge of the sacrament of penance. In both cases, the purpose of the law is to avoid conflicts of interest.

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## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** 2 Kgs 5:14-17

**Question:** Naaman was cleansed of leprosy and committed to worshipping no other god except the Lord. What might be one commitment you could make to the Lord in the coming days?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** 2 Tm 2:8-13

**Question:** Paul teaches Timothy the importance of perseverance in faith. What are some obstacles you have had to overcome in life?

**Gospel** Lk 17:11-19

**Question:** Jesus praises the cleansed leper who returned to thank him personally. Is there someone in your life that you should be thanking?

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**WOMEN'S SACRED JOURNEY  
WILL NOT meet next  
Saturday, October 18th due  
to many volunteering at  
Mercy in Action Day  
activities.**



## CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

**Question:** What is the very first of the Stations of the Cross?

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**Answer:** Jesus is condemned to death.



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

### St. GERTRUDE'S PRAYER, Explained!

St. Gertrude's Prayer is a petition said on behalf of the Holy Souls of Purgatory, offering the Blood of Christ in reparation for the sins of the departed.

St. Gertrude, often called "St. Gertrude the Great," was a Benedictine nun who lived in 13th-century Saxony, present-day Germany. A mystic, she received visions of Christ beginning at the age of 25. She was also a prolific writer and devotee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and is often invoked as an intercessor for the Holy Souls of Purgatory. Her feast day is celebrated on November 16.

The St. Gertrude Prayer reads: "Eternal Father, I offer You the most precious blood of thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal Church, for those in my own home, and in my family. Amen."

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## Ministry Schedule

October 18/19, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	D Tourville	T Karolski
Reader #1	M Kairis	D Gray
Reader #2	J McCown	T Karolski
EME	T Riley	A Goll
	M Kairis	R Grant
	R Pasiak	D Gray
Greeters	N Oparka	B Turchin
	P Miles	P Rarus
	T Oparka	B Gutowski
	M Smith	D Vu

**Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Oct 18/19, 2025**  
Rorie Grant

## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

SERVANT OF GOD LEONARD LARUE  
1914-2001

Leonard LaRue, or, Benedictine Brother Marinus LaRue O.S.B., had his cause officially opened for sainthood in June 2021. This incredible man was born in Philadelphia on January 14, 1914, and died on October 14, 2001, at the age of 87.

While captaining the 7,600-ton U.S. Merchant Marine ship, the *SS Meredith Victory*, during the Korean war, Leonard led the largest humanitarian rescue operation by a single vessel in history, whether during war or civilian conditions. Under his leadership, his crew and he evacuated 14,000 Korean refugees, including women and children, to safety. To accomplish this, he swiftly unloaded all cargo from the freighter and allowed as many refugees as could possibly fit into the five empty cargo spaces and onto the deck. Despite the extreme cold, lack of adequate food and water, the fact that the crew didn't know Korean, and the refugees didn't know English, communist submarines hunting for them, and constant shelling and fighting nearby, he managed to transport all 14,000 refugees 490 miles southeast to safety. They arrived at Geoje Island on Christmas day with no injuries along with 5 additional people added to their numbers as 5 women gave birth during the treacherous two-day ordeal.

LaRue's successful deliverance of those under his protection spoke volumes of his bravery and love of those who were victims of war and violence. According to the U.S. Department of Transportation Maritime Administration, his mission is remembered as a Christmas miracle and "One of the greatest marine rescues in the history of the world." Captain LaRue remained in command of the *Meredith Victory* until it was decommissioned in 1952.

Inspired by the Benedictine monks, Leonard entered St. Paul Benedictine Abbey in New Jersey as a monk in 1954 shortly after the decommissioning of his ship. There, he lived out the rest of his life as Brother Marinus LaRue in prayer among the brothers of his religious community. He was the Abbey's dishwasher, bell ringer, and gift shop attendant.

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**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.



## YOUR FAITH HAS SAVED YOU

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

*Your faith has saved you.* These are the words I pray I will hear when my heart stops beating, when the last breath has left my lungs.

We hear Jesus say these words, or words like them, several times in the Gospels: to the woman bold enough to grasp for his cloak in a crowd, to the men who testify to their belief that he can restore their sight, to the leper kneeling before him in thanks.

These are some of my favorite passages in all of Scripture, because they illustrate so beautifully what salvific faith is — and what it is not.

It's so easy to think that I have done all the necessary work by simply *believing*. Yes, Christ is my Savior. Yes, the Church is his bride. Yes, this doctrine is true, that dogma is infallible, so on and so forth.

I believe!

Well, so what? Satan believes, too. It doesn't do him any good.

The lepers had faith — so they begged Jesus to heal them. They had faith — so they followed his instructions and went to the priests. Their faith was sufficient to motivate these actions, which led to their physical healing. But only one had faith strong enough to understand that physical healing doesn't mean anything without spiritual results. Only one had enough faith to go back to the source of his healing and say, "Thank you. Now what?"

I have enough faith to know that God can heal me. But do I have enough faith to embrace the purpose for which He heals me?

If Jesus tells you that your faith has saved you, he isn't talking about faith as merely an internally held belief. In each of these Gospel passages, he's talking about faith as a conviction that is making itself seen. Heard. Felt. He's talking about an arm that is reaching for the hem of a garment, a voice that says "I believe" or a knee that is bent in gratitude.

He's talking about faith that is so strong it becomes action. This is the faith I hope I can have.

©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

**RENEW RETREAT FOR SINGLES LATE 50S & ABOVE**

Looking for a deeper relationship with God and a renewed sense of purpose for your journey through life's transitions? Connect with others and recharge your spiritual batteries on a RENEW retreat! The next weekend is on Oct 31-Nov 2, 2025 at the St. Francis Retreat Center, DeWitt, MI (10 miles north of Lansing). Cost is \$240 for meals and a single room. For more info, go to [www.RenewRetreats.org](http://www.RenewRetreats.org), e-mail [renewretreat.mi@gmail.com](mailto:renewretreat.mi@gmail.com), or call (517) 323-7012.

To support St. Vincent Ferrer with a financial contribution scan the code below to connect to our [tithe.ly](https://tithe.ly) giving site.



**FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING OCT. 4/5, 2025**

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	113		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 6,503.92	1,318.92	6,370.58
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	686.00	214.00	(1,128.50)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	100.00	(1,573.00)	1,362.50
Bequests		83.00		946.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		620.00		1,915.00
AOD Collections: Propagation of the Faith		10.00		10.00
Holy Days: All Saints/All Souls		130.00		200.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,228.50				Paid 63,824.18

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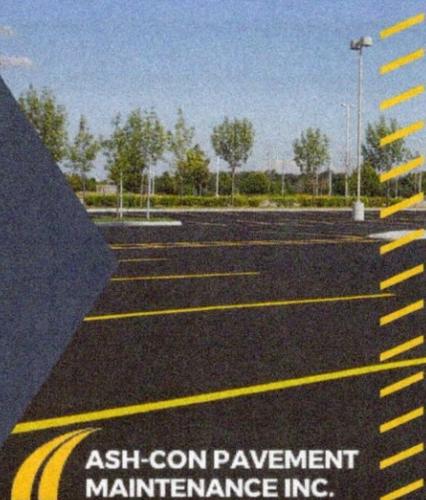
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