



## *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community*

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

OCTOBER 19, 2025 + TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### **From The Pastor**

The temptation in times of trouble is to close in, circle the wagons, and put up our best defenses. Whether the problem is large or small, personal, social, national, or global, there is an inclination to solve problems on our own. This is rarely the best course of action on several levels.

To close in on oneself can lead to fear, doubt, increased worry, and a sense of being alone. Depending on the nature of the problem, mistrust can grow towards oneself or others creating suspicion, judgement, or fear of a poor outcome. Separation builds and a sense of isolation deepens.

As people of faith, we are blest not only with the promise and providence of God's care, but also with the love and support of the faith community. I am not sure if we take advantage of the power and the strength of community in times of trouble. I am drawn to look back a couple of weeks to the Prophet Habakkuk when he pleaded to the Lord in a time of great violence and social disorder. On his own, he felt no hearing before the Lord and complained to God for a response. Opening his heart to the Lord in the weight of his distress, a response finally comes. But it was not for the Prophet alone, it was for all the people who suffered the social ills that surrounded them.

The word of the Lord to Habakkuk is worth recalling again today. In difficult times, humans quickly grow fearful and impatient. The Lord gives Habakkuk a vision, then tells him to write it down plainly so it could be easily read and understood. Seeing the message is itself a consolation for those in trouble with no sense of resolution in sight. The message is one of hope, patience, and promise grounded in the reality of time and circumstance.

God knows there is and will be grave troubles in this wounded world. Difficult and generational problems will not disappear overnight. The message comes: 'Write down the vision clearly...so that one can read it readily. For the vision still has its time, it presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late.'

This is a powerful word of hope for our time in both the Church and the world. There are no quick or easy answers to the changing times we are living through. Take note of the message and be clear of its intent. God has a vision and fulfillment for the Church and the world. Even from the time of Habakkuk to our day, the vision moves toward its

fulfillment. The vision is Jesus, Christ and Lord, dying and rising to heal, reconcile, redeem, and unite all humanity in God. All those who seek the truth of love, goodness, and justice will know its fruits. Even God must be patient and wait for the day of fulfillment. Faith is not a fairy tale. Personally and collectively, we are all on the same journey to the same heaven. The challenge is to realize we are called to love, serve, and carry one another along the way that none be left behind. Nobody comes to God on their own. Nobody.

Moses is the Christ figure of the Old Testament. During a battle, Moses supports his army by raising his arms in prayer. He tires as the day wears on. Aaron and Hur must help Moses by having him sit while they hold up his arms. Doing so, Israel wins the day and the Israelites can continue their journey. Moses willingly accepts the help he needs and God's way is fulfilled.

The widow makes her problem public as she pesters the judge to rule in her favor. She surrenders to her dependence on God through persistent prayer and lively action. The judge gives in lest she brings him to harm.

Too often we try to shoulder our problems alone. Even Jesus accepted help in carrying his Cross. The temptation of self-sufficiency is the work of the evil one because we are tempted to trust ourselves without the help of others. This is not the Christian way because it leads to pride, stubbornness of heart, or the illusion that I can or should solve my problems on my own.

There is no doubt that personal prayer is powerful and indispensable in the Christian life. It is equally true that community prayer is a tremendous source of strength and hope. People continually share with me their concerns or problems. I pray for their need, and I bring them to the altar and put them in the cup of the Lord's Precious Blood. The prayer is infinitely magnified. We are praying for Michele Waskowski to find a kidney donor. She willingly gave me permission to use her name and seek your prayerful support. No kidney yet, but I am not giving up hope.

I long remember an image used by the mother of Isaiah Thomas who grew up on the streets of Chicago. She said, "one matchstick is easy to break; many matchsticks very hard to break." She encouraged him to depend on a strong group of friends. In Christ, we are that group. Trust others and not only yourself. Let God love you. Let others help you. You help others. We will all be better for it.

Father John Esper

# Liturgical Schedule

## DAILY MASS

8:00am Monday thru Thursday

## WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday - 4:00pm

Sunday - 9:00am

## SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 - 3:45pm  
in Chapel

### Live Streaming of the Following:

**LIVE  
STREAMING**

#### Daily & Weekend Masses

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

Rosary on Thursdays  
following 8:00am 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 - 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

248-398-1743 – call for appointment

Matthew Zinser, Childhood Faith Formation Coordinator

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

## MONDAY, October 20, 2025

9:00am Mass: Richard McCarthy†  
req. by Corrine McCarthy

## TUESDAY, October 21, 2025

8:00am Mass: Doug Evans† req.  
by Family & Friends

## WEDNESDAY, October 22, 2025

8:00am Mass: Mark Esper† req.  
by Regina Juska-Svoba

## THURSDAY, October 23, 2025

8:00am Mass: Hudy & Simmons  
Families req. by Mary Ann Simmons

## SATURDAY, October 25, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Donna Dietrich† req. by Family

Tony Szeliga† req. by Mary Jane Guc

Nicole Adams (for health) req. by Drew & Rita Fisher  
Carl Jacobson (for health) req. by Drew & Rita Fisher

## SUNDAY, October 26, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer  
Elizabeth Gauronskas† req. by daughter, Debbie Ager  
Patricia D'Arca† req. by Bernadette Gutowski  
Nicole Adams (for health) req. by Drew & Rita Fisher  
Carl Jacobson (for health) req. by Drew & Rita Fisher



## HEALING MASS NEXT SATURDAY

OCTOBER 25, 2025 - 4:00pm



Anointing of  
the Sick

Fr. John will administer the  
Sacrament of the Sick after Mass.  
Prayer teams will be available for  
individual prayer.

# Readings for the Week

## October 19, 2025

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  
Monday: Rom 4:20-25/Lk 1:69-70, 71-72, 73-75/  
Lk 12:13-21  
Tuesday: Rom 5:12, 15b, 17-19, 20b-21/Ps 40:7-  
8a, 8b-9, 10, 17/Lk 12:35-38  
Wednesday: Rom 6:12-18/Ps 124:1b-3, 4-6, 7-8/  
Lk 12:39-48  
Thursday: Rom 6:19-23/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk  
12:49-53  
Friday: Rom 7:18-25a/Ps 119:66, 68, 76, 77,  
93, 94/Lk 12:54-59  
Saturday: Rom 8:1-11/Ps 24:1b-2, 3-4ab, 5-6/Lk  
13:1-9  
Next Sunday: Sir 35:12-14, 16-18/Ps 34:2-3, 17-18, 19,  
23 (7a)/2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18/Lk 18:9-14



## Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

A woman in my parish has an adult son who has rejected his faith. She prays for him every day. She lights candles, says rosaries, and asks

God again and again to bring him back. But nothing changes. Is God listening? Is He delaying? She told me once that she feels like the widow in Jesus' strange parable — crying out for justice, but hearing only silence. And yet, she said, she is at peace. I asked why. She responded, "God is *already* answering. I just can't see it yet."

She embodies something of the mystery in Jesus' parable this week in Luke 18. A powerless widow demands justice from a corrupt judge. This isn't about wearing God down until He gives in. It's about faith in the justice that is already coming. The widow isn't just persistent; she believes that justice is inevitable. And when Jesus points to the judge's words — his fear of being "struck" — He hints at something deeper: God's justice does not creep in gradually. It strikes. It comes like lightning.

Blessed Mary is, of course, the ultimate widow demanding justice. At the foot of the cross she stands before what looks like the ultimate injustice — the brutal execution of her son. But she did not despair. She did not beg for a last-minute rescue. She knew that justice was not delayed. In fact, it was happening. The power of the cross was already unleashing justice upon the world — suddenly, decisively, like a blow that would topple every corrupt power, making even the most corrupt fear her strike.

This parable asks us: will the Son of Man find faith on earth? Or will we mistake God's silence for absence? The cross proves that justice is not slow. It is only hidden. The lightning has already struck. In the cross, justice is speedily being done.

— *Father John Muir* ©LPi



October 19, 2025

### *\*Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples*

"For World Mission Day in the Jubilee Year 2025, the central message of which is hope (cf. Bull *Spe<sup>s</sup> Non Confundit*, 1), I have chosen the motto: "Missionaries of Hope Among all Peoples". It reminds individual Christians and the entire Church, the community of the baptized, of our fundamental vocation to be, in the footsteps of Christ, messengers and builders of hope..."

"Missionaries of hope are men and women of prayer... Let us not forget that prayer is the primary missionary activity and at the same time "the first strength of hope" (*Catechesis*, 20 May 2020)..."

"Evangelization is always a communitarian process, like Christian hope itself (cf. Benedict XVI, *Spe<sup>s</sup> Salvi*, 14)..."

"I urge all of you, children, young people, adults and the elderly, to participate actively in the common evangelizing mission of the Church by your witness of life and prayer, by your sacrifices and by your generosity."

\* Excerpts above are taken from World Mission Sunday message, "Missionaries of Hope Among All Peoples", written by Pope Francis prior to his death. For the full message visit: <https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/missions/documents/20250125-giornata-missionaria.html>

### St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

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

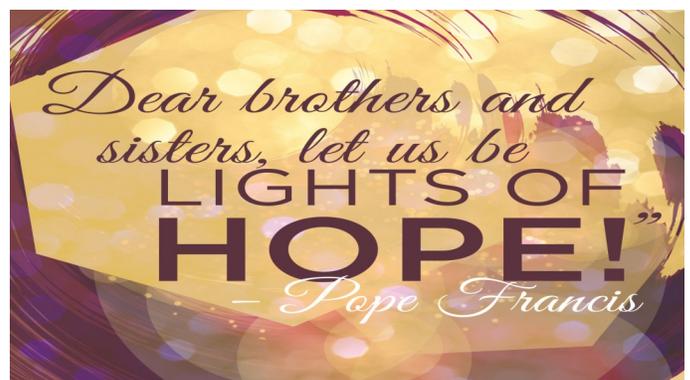
*Jo Ann Rearick*

*Mary Guaiana*



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

May all the deceased be welcomed into paradise!





## PRAYER BLANKET & CARDS for SHUT-INS MINISTRY MEETINGS

Thursday, October 23 - 6:00pm - Parish Hall

The Prayer Blanket Ministry and Decorating Cards for Shut-Ins Ministry will meet this Thursday, September 25, 2025 in the church social hall from 6-9 PM. All are welcome, children as well as adults. No artistic talent is required.

## Prayer REQUESTS

*...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*



### INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

**We are all the widow in Luke's Gospel. We are vulnerable. We feel small in the estimation of the world. We feel ignored. But Jesus is telling us to be bold in prayer, to bring our needs before the judge who will always hear our case.**

## Sparking Holiness

As the seasons change, a lot of us like to clean out our homes and unload some of the junk we've acquired over the summer. One trendy approach to decluttering is the Marie Kondo method, named after the author who popularized it. Overly simplified, it's a process that compels you to go through your closets, your garage, your basement — all the places you collect the dreaded "stuff." As you do so, you hold up the items and ask yourself: "Does it spark joy?"

It's a question that is bold in its simplicity. In answering, you're supposed to go with your gut. If it's a quick "Yes, it sparks joy," the item should be kept. If the answer is no, it gets tossed.

There are people in life who will support our efforts to do God's will. There are those who will, as Paul says, "convince, reprimand, (and) encourage," unafraid of the reaction we give them. There are those who will shore up our defenses when the battle goes longer than we thought.

The same goes for hobbies and pastimes. There are those that will ennoble our minds and bring us closer to God. And there are also those that will drain our funds and our free time, with nothing to show for it.

During these autumn months, don't just declutter your basement in preparation for the hauling out of the Christmas ornaments. Take stock of the people and pursuits that make up your life. With each one, ask yourself: "Does it spark holiness?"

If the answer is yes, thank God that our help is from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. If the answer is no, maybe it's time to declutter.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS  
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## QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Ex 17:8-13

**Question:** Moses needed to rely on his brother (Aaron) and his friend (Hur) to assist him in defeating the Amalekites. Can you think of a time when you really needed the support of your family or friends?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** 2 Tm 3:14-4:2

**Question:** Paul instructs Timothy to be persistent in relying on what Sacred Scripture teaches us. How do you use Scripture as a guide for your life?

**Gospel:** Lk 18:1-8

**Question:** With the parable of the persistent widow, Jesus teaches the disciples about the importance of praying often to God. When do you find yourself praying?

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**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION**

**Saturday, Oct. 25th 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.

**WHY DO WE DO THAT?  
CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED**

**SERVING OTHERS**

**Question:** I volunteer every once in a while. How can I incorporate serving the poor in my everyday life?

**Answer:** In the Gospels, Jesus is very clear about emphasizing outreach to vulnerable persons on the margins of society. These may be the materially poor, the disabled, the lonely, or any others whose circumstances drive them from mainstream society. We can all respond to Christ's call to love by incorporating direct service into our regular life routine. Here are some ideas to find your niche:

**Consider your life.**

Before you look for direct service opportunities, consider your schedule, commitment levels, and personal gifts. When can you help out and how regularly? Where have you volunteered in the past that has felt like a good fit? Do you have any particular skills or personality traits that lend you to particular work?

**Do some research.**

There are a lot of structured ways you can get involved in your community. Your parish might have a social concerns outreach program. If not, ask friends and family. A simple online search for local nonprofits can also expose you to new opportunities.

**Be open to God's invitation.**

The chance to serve may be closer than you think. Befriending an elderly neighbor, widowed and far from children, is an act of serving the poor. Keep your eyes and heart open!

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**CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN**

**Question:** How many mysteries are recognized in the Rosary?

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**Answer:** 20 (including the Luminous Mysteries added by St. John Paul II in 2002)

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

**THE OUR FATHER, Explained!**

The Our Father, also known as The Lord's Prayer, is found in the Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Universally beloved in most traditions of Christianity, its words are those of Jesus Christ himself as he answers his disciples' queries on how best to pray.

The version presented in the Gospel of Matthew is longer and more detailed than that which is contained in the Gospel of Luke. Both versions instruct the faithful to address God as "Father," to pray for the coming of His kingdom, to rely on His providence, and to embrace a spirit of forgiveness towards others, in the hope that we ourselves will be forgiven (Matthew 6:9-13, Luke 11:2-4). This last element, forgiveness, is also emphasized by Jesus in the Gospel of Mark (Mark 11:25) as an essential part of all prayer.

The Catechism quotes Tertullian when it calls the Our Father "the summary of the whole Gospel."

(CCC 2761)

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**Ministry Schedule**

October 25/26, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	D Tourville	R Grant
Reader #2	T Riley	L Yolkiewicz
EME	L Collins	C McCarthy
	D Tourville	N Virga
	J McCown	R Grant
Greeters	L Collins	R Juska-Svoba
	R Bertolini	T Oparka
	R Pasiak	N Oparka
	T Pasiak	B Gutowski

**Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Oct . 25/26, 2025**

Darren & Lisa Gray

### GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

**ST. MARIA BERTILLA BOSCARDIN**  
**1888-1922**  
**OCTOBER 20**

Many people could relate to the story of St. Maria Bertilla Boscardin, a young woman from Italy who experienced many hardships during her short life. Her father was a violently abusive alcoholic. In order to help out at home, St. Maria Bertilla Boscardin was only allowed some schooling in between her time as a house servant.

Things slowly began to change when in 1904 she joined the Sisters of St. Dorothy, where she served her community through bakery, kitchen, and laundry duties. After some extensive training, she eventually found herself a nurse working in a hospital helping to care for children suffering from diphtheria, a serious infection of the nose and throat. Even throughout World War I, she worked tirelessly by their bedsides to care for the very ill.

She died of cancer in 1922. In 1961 she was canonized by Pope John XXIII before a crowd that included many of her former patients, by whom she was well-loved.

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### The Prayers We Don't Say

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

It has always confused me: why a judge?

Jesus could have compared prayer to the subject who requests a gift of his king. He could have compared it to the child who asks a favor of a parent. But in the parable of the widow and the judge, Jesus compares prayer — specifically constant, unwearying prayer — with the marginalized person who doggedly pursues her claim through an unforgiving legal system.

It's not a rosy or reassuring picture. So what is he trying to tell us?

Unlike a king or a parent, a judge has strictly drawn lines which he cannot, under any circumstances, cross. He can only help people who bring their case to court. Even good, earnest judges cannot render justice if charges are not brought.

God is all-powerful. But that doesn't make Him a meddler. He will not force His way into our problems. What would be the point? What is our life on earth for, if it is not to teach us how to turn willingly to God, in every instance — adoration, gratitude, need?

Today, I sat down and made a list of problems I don't pray about. When I was done, I looked at the list and asked myself: why not? Why don't I pray about these things? Some are huge issues over which I have absolutely no control, and prayer feels futile. Some are small grievances I never even considered mentioning to God.

If I prayed about them all, my life would be totally consumed by prayer. Constant, unwearying prayer. The kind of prayer Jesus calls me to in the parable of the widow and the judge: continual surrender of myself to the mysterious, limitless power of God.

Praying that way could make me tired. The widow was tired, too — but she kept bringing her charges. She got justice. And her judge wasn't even a nice guy.

So say the prayer. Bring the charges. Our judge is one who wants to help, but He won't overstep His bounds.

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### Observances of the Week

Sunday: 29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Mission Sunday

Monday: St. Paul of the Cross, Priest

Wednesday: St. John Paul II, Pope

Thursday: St. John of Capistrano, Priest

Friday: St. Anthony Mary Claret, Bishop

Next Sunday: 30<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

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# Detroit Catholic

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Nov 6 (6pm) to Nov 9 (1pm)

**discernment weekend**  
DETROIT PRIESTLY VOCATIONS

A Discernment Weekend is a unique experience for men (ages 18-55) from the Archdiocese of Detroit who feel a call to the priesthood.

Spending four days living at the seminary provides them with a first-hand opportunity to see what it's like from the inside to discern with like-minded men.

If you or you know any man who might be interested and would like more information, please contact us: Contact Us - Detroit Priestly Vocations. Those interested must have a meeting with Fr Craig Giera, Director of Priestly Vocations, before they are allowed to register.

**Not ready for entire weekend, try a discernment group!**

**discernment group**  
Learn more at [detroitpriestlyvocations.com](http://detroitpriestlyvocations.com)

Nov 5 - 7 to 8pm

The Office of Priestly Vocations' discernment group for men (18-55) considering the priesthood is having its next meeting on Wednesday, November 5, 2025 from 7-8pm. New members can join at any time, as there is no requirement to have been at the last meeting. The previous nights have been a great success with many men excited to talk about their possible vocation to the priesthood

Meetings are led by Fr. Craig Giera, Director of Priestly Vocations, and will include prayer, group discussion on discernment, light refreshments and fellowship with other like-minded men. Please contact the vocation office for more info:

[Detroitpriestlyvocations.com/discernment-groups/](http://Detroitpriestlyvocations.com/discernment-groups/)



**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.



**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. 11/12, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	101		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$5,990.93	805.93	7,176.51
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	420.00	(52.00)	(1,180.50)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	*926.00	(747.00)	615.50
Bequests		165.00		1,111.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		175.00		2,090.00
AOD Collections: Propagation of Faith (Mission Sunday)		1,335.00		1,345.00
Holy Days: All Saints/All Souls		18.00		218.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,228.50				Paid 64,274.18
<b>Includes 590.00 CSA refund</b>				

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