



# *St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community*

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

**NOVEMBER 2, 2025 + COMMEMORATION OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED**

## **From The Pastor**

‘The souls of the just are in the hand of God and no torment shall touch them.’ The hope of all believers is the consolation of the mercy of God in the promise of eternal life. Today’s Memorial is an unusual one in that it ranks as a Solemnity of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and various saints in the liturgical calendar. As such, it takes the place of the Thirty-first Sunday of Ordinary time. Why does this Memorial rank so highly?

The Resurrection of the dead is the core belief of all Christians. The Resurrection of Jesus is the fruit of our redemption with the culmination of the Christian year at Easter. The foundation of all we believe depends on Jesus rising from the dead as Savior and Christ. Only because of the freely chosen death of Jesus, who took into himself the lie of evil and the disorder of all sin, can we find new life in him who is now risen. This is our hope and our deepest longing not only for ourselves, but for those who have preceded us in death.

Today’s Memorial gives us the opportunity to not only remember our loved ones through prayerful intercession. It also allows us to deepen our faith and trust in the dying and the rising of the Lord Jesus that opens the path to our eternal life. This is a day to stir up our love for those who have died, and to embrace more dearly the work of the Lord that promises this eternal peace.

Who are the souls of the just? The just ones are the righteous, those who lived in right relationship with God in the faithful hope of heaven. God receives those who are his own. The invitation is to surrender the sadness, fear, and uncertainty of death to the joyful hope of Divine glory. These are the reasons this is not an ordinary memorial of remembrance. Through our love and care for those who have died, we are consoled and raised beyond our sadness in the fruit of our redemption. This does not deny the sadness of death nor minimize the challenging process of bereavement. This is a day of faith that in the reality of death, we are able to surrender our loved ones with ardent hope into the hands of God.

The day reminds us that we are spiritual beings redeemed, holy and beloved in the Lord. The loving remembrance we voice today gives us the opportunity to ponder the glories of heaven. The work of our redemption is fulfilled in the rising of the Lord Jesus. The souls of our loved ones who died in the Lord are

now free from sin in the mercy of God through Christ.

In the bereavement process, surrendering our loved ones is rarely easy for many reasons. Mostly because of their absence in the loss of their company and the bonds of love we hold so dear. Even in the bonds of love, it is not unusual to wonder where our loved one is. Are they in heaven? Are they with God? Could they be in purgatory? These are natural questions of human nature in the bonds of love and the reality of human incompleteness.

We may wonder about their sins or those things that were difficult in their lives. We all know the weight of our human incompleteness in the world. Things can get stuck in our head or in our heart. We can all name things that should not have been but did happen. We know things that could have been but did not. A survivor can feel guilty, unable to find peace due to unresolved tensions or sorrow for unforgiven hurts. This is the grace of the day and why the day holds the higher rank that it does in the promise of redemption.

The resolution, healing, and forgiveness of any unfinished or unresolved tension is the work of redemption. The Cross heals, forgives, and redeems. This is confirmed in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus. Jesus took all our human incompleteness into himself on the Cross, and with perfect mercy forgives all who seek to know and live in his love. This is the fruit of the Cross.

I like the image St. Paul uses in his letter to the Romans. Do not our souls groan inwardly for the fulfillment of our life in the Holy Spirit as those adopted by God in Christ? They do. ‘We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains...and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, also groan within ourselves as we await... the redemption of our bodies.’ Praise be God for the Resurrection of Jesus. In him our loved ones are with the Lord.

Please take the opportunity to write the names of your loved ones in the Book of Life so we can pray together on their behalf. I also invite you to bring your loved ones to the altar in prayer and put them in the cup of the Lord’s Precious Blood. Through this saving cup the fruit of our redemption is the glory of heaven. Be at peace with joyful hope as you surrender your loved ones to the Lord. Now in the communion of saints, they are indeed praying for us.

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



### MONDAY, November 3, 2025

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Fr. John Esper req. by Mary Jane Guc

7:00pm **MASS OF REMEMBRANCE:** Deceased Parishioners and those who had funerals at SVF this past year

### TUESDAY, November 4, 2025

8:00am Mass: Intentions of Debbie Tourville req. by Mary Jane Guc

### WEDNESDAY, November 5, 2025

8:00am Mass: Fred Karolski† (4th R.A.) req. by Tom Karolski

### THURSDAY, November 6, 2025

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

### SATURDAY, November 8, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Tony Szeliga† req. by Jim & Dorothy Morrison

### SUNDAY, November 9, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer Mary Guaiana† req. by Bernadette Gutowski Living & Deceased Members and Families of the Fr. Heary K of C Council

Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family

## 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



## Readings for the Week

### November 2, 2025

Sunday: Wis 3:1-9/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6/Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9/Jn 6:37-40  
Monday: Rom 11:29-36/Ps 69:30-31, 33-34, 36/Lk 14:12-14  
Tuesday: Rom 12:5-16b/Ps 131:1bcde, 2, 3/Lk 14:15-24  
Wednesday: Rom 13:8-10/Ps 112:1b-2, 4-5, 9/Lk 14:25-33  
Thursday: Rom 14:7-12/Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14/Lk 15:1-10  
Friday: Rom 15:14-21/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Lk 16:1-8  
Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27/Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 10-11/Lk 16:9-15  
Next Sunday: Ez 47:1-2, 8-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/1 Cor 3:9c-11, 16-17/Jn 2:13-22



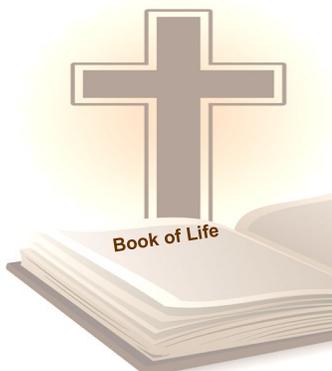
All are welcome to our Mass of Remembrance this Monday, November 3rd at 7:00pm to pray for all of our beloved deceased, especially deceased parishioners and those whose Funeral Mass was held at our parish this past year.

*We Remember*

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Mark Kraska</i>           | <i>Janice Fox</i>          |
| <i>Richard Slomkowski</i>    | <i>Neil Repke</i>          |
| <i>John Skorna</i>           | <i>Barbara Thomson</i>     |
| <i>Edda Marchesi</i>         | <i>Patricia King</i>       |
| <i>James Dyer</i>            | <i>Apolonio Limon</i>      |
| <i>Diane Seavitt-Conway</i>  | <i>Mary Lou Stema</i>      |
| <i>Mary "Molly" Gheldof</i>  | <i>Pauline Moran</i>       |
| <i>Patricia Melchert</i>     | <i>Robert Schmidt</i>      |
| <i>John Tata</i>             | <i>Ruth Smith</i>          |
| <i>Doris Kline</i>           | <i>Janet Van Elslander</i> |
| <i>Barbara E. Morissette</i> | <i>Albert Ventimiglio</i>  |
| <i>Ann Brunk</i>             | <i>Dennis Tye</i>          |
| <i>Shirley Malkiewicz</i>    | <i>"G" Dennis Novak</i>    |
| <i>Rose McGee</i>            | <i>Anthony Szeliga</i>     |
| <i>Jean Witkowski</i>        | <i>Patricia D'Arca</i>     |
| <i>Douglas Evans</i>         | <i>Mary Guaiana</i>        |
| <i>Mary Jo Kronbach</i>      | <i>JoAnn Rearick</i>       |

*May all our deceased loved ones be welcomed into paradise.*

**Book of Life**



During the month of November, the Book of Life, remembering our beloved deceased will be displayed in church. In it, you will find the names of the deceased of our parish and those whose funerals were celebrated at St. Vincent Ferrer during the past year. You are invited to write in the names of your deceased loved ones for our remembrance.



**Nov. 1-16**

**Please make donation choices only from the items below:**

- |                              |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Cranberry sauce</b>       | <b>Gravy</b>    |
| <b>Canned Vegetables</b>     | <b>Stuffing</b> |
| <b>Fried Onion Rings</b>     | <b>Yams</b>     |
| <b>Macaroni &amp; Cheese</b> | <b>Pickles</b>  |
| <b>Soups</b>                 | <b>Olives</b>   |
| <b>Canned Fruit</b>          | <b>Rice</b>     |
| <b>Applesauce</b>            | <b>Cookies</b>  |



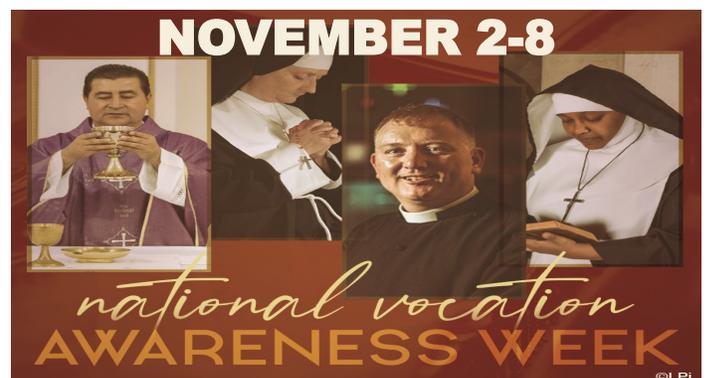
If making a monetary donation for perishable items, please use the white envelopes marked for Thanksgiving which can be found at the church entrance **or** make an electronic donation through our QR code or website: [www.stvincentferrer.net](http://www.stvincentferrer.net)

**Evangelical Service Corner**

**No CCSEM SENIOR FOOD COLLECTION THIS MONTH - DONATE TO FOOD DRIVE**

**MONTHLY HOSPITALITY/ BLOOD PRESSURE CHECKS - NOVEMBER 9**

After Mass on Sunday, November 9th, Angela, our Parish Nurse will be checking blood pressures at our monthly Coffee and Donut Hospitality.



**You are invited to** **Advent Tea**  
*Renewing Our Hope in Jesus*

**Sunday, December 7**  
**2:00 to 4:00pm**  
**SVF AdminBldg.**

**Advent Reflection by**  
 Fr. Dan Crosby OFM Cap

*A free will offering of a baby gift will go to Women's Pregnancy Aid Center in Madison Heights*

It will be a prayerful, peaceful, relaxing atmosphere in which you can escape for a few hours. Join with friends to reflect upon the renewal of hope in Jesus as we begin this Advent season.

If you would like to host a table, or be a guest at someone's table, please sign up at the back of church after Mass the weekends of November 15/16, 22/23, and 29/30 or call the Parish Office at 248-542-8720 to RSVP by Monday, December 1st.




*...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*

**SIGN-UP TO LIGHT OUR ADVENT WREATH**

Families and individuals are needed to light the Advent Wreath Candles. Please sign up at the table outside the chapel by the Herbert St. entrance.



*Father John's 42nd Ordination Anniversary Mass & Vocations Dinner*

**December 13, 2025**  
**Mass 4:00pm**  
**St. Vincent Ferrer Church**  
**Dinner 5:30pm**  
**SVF Admin Bldg.**

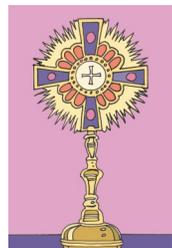
**Menu**  
 Appetizers  
 Salad  
 Rolls  
 London Broil  
 Chicken Marsala  
 Meatless Mostaccoli  
 Mashed Potatoes  
 Dessert  
 Beverages

**Tickets**  
 Tickets are \$30  
 No tickets at the door.  
 Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office or on weekends beginning 11-9 in back of church.

**Raffles**

**EXTENDED ADORATION HOURS DURING ADVENT**

On Tuesdays during Advent, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following 8am Mass will extend until Noon, but we will need people to sign up keep Jesus' company during those hours. Please sign up to spend some time with Jesus. The sign-up sheets are located on the table outside the chapel.



**Observances of the Week**

- Sunday: The Commemoration of All the Faithful Departed (All Souls' Day); Daylight Saving Time Ends
- Monday: St. Martin de Porres, Religious
- Tuesday: St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop
- Next Sunday: Dedication of the Lateran Basilica ©LPi

## WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

### RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

**Question:** What do Catholics believe about the resurrection of the dead?

**Answer:** Every Sunday, we proclaim in the Creed that we believe “in the resurrection of the body.” Does that mean Christ’s resurrection or our own? Both! Jesus’ resurrection is part of the work of salvation, but it’s also a sign of what’s to come. While death separates our bodies and our souls, this was not the intention of God when He first created us. It’s an effect of original sin. At the end of time, our bodies and our souls will be reunited.

Scientifically, we may have questions about this, since bodies decompose over the course of centuries. Or what about the saints, whose relics are spread around the earth? How the resurrection will happen is a mystery. But we know that our resurrected body will be *our* body. If we are in heaven, our body will be in a glorified state. Some theologians speculate what this glorification will be like based on Jesus’ resurrected body. Will we be able to walk through walls? Will we eat, since Jesus broke bread with his disciples? We don’t really know the answers to these questions. We do know, however, that we will be free from the effects of the fall (such as sickness and pain) and physical defects that occurred in life. Christ redeems us as whole persons, body and soul.

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

### Prayer for the Dead, *Explained!*

It may seem strange to pray for someone who is already dead and who, according to our earthly reckoning of time, has already undergone judgment. But God is not subject to the constrictions of time as we understand them. Our prayers for the dead are, like our prayers for the living, an expression of charity and the unity that exists between all members of the Body of Christ.

Prayer for the dead is a practice which not only predates Catholicism but predates Jesus Christ, as we see in the Second Book of Maccabees (2 Maccabees 12:42-45).

“By virtue of the ‘communion of saints,’ the Church commends the dead to God’s mercy and offers her prayers, especially the holy sacrifice of the Eucharist, on their behalf,” says the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1055).

The most common Catholic prayer for the dead is as follows: “Eternal rest grant unto them, o Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.”

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## MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, Nov. 8th 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

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Wis 3:1-9

**Question:** Our wisdom writer speaks of just souls resting peacefully in God’s loving hands. Can you think of a more peaceful image of death?

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading** Rom 5:5-11 or Rom 6:3-9

**Question:** Paul teaches the Romans that with Jesus’ resurrection, “death no longer has any power over him,” or us, as believers. Does this belief help you through times of grieving from the loss of a loved one?

**Gospel** /Jn 6:37-40

**Question:** Jesus taught the crowds that anyone who believes in him will have eternal life and be raised from the dead on the last day. How do others know you believe in Jesus?

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## Ministry Schedule

November 8/9, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
Reader #1	T Riley	P Allen
Reader #2	R Pasiak	L Yolkiewicz
EME	T Riley	P Allen
	M Kairis	N Virga
	J McCown	R Grant
Greeters	J Ballantine	T Oparka
	L Collins	N Oparka
	R Bertolini	P Rarus
	R Juska-Svoba	B Gutowski

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Nov. 8/9, 2025  
Marge & Duane McLaughlin



## GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

### ST. PIER GIORGIO MICHELANGELO FRASSATI 1901-1925 FEAST DAY JULY 4

Pier Giorgio Frassati was born April 6, 1901 to a wealthy family in Turin, Italy. His mother, Adelaide was a painter. His father, Alfredo, founded and directed the "La Stampa" newspaper. Alfredo was anti-fascist and influential in Italian politics, including holding an Ambassadorship to Germany.

Pier grew up with a deep spiritual life which he shared with his friends. Early in his life, he joined the Marian Sodality and Apostleship of Prayer. He was given permission to receive Eucharist daily, a rarity at that time. He spent many nights in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The Eucharist and the Blessed Virgin were instrumental in his prayer life. He enjoyed mountain climbing with friends and evangelized them at every opportunity, sharing his love for Mass, Scriptures and the Rosary.

Despite his wealthy family, at 17 years old, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society. Dedicating much of his spare time and using his own funds, he served the sick and needy, cared for orphans and assisted the injured veterans of World War I. He considered his service to be a privilege, even giving up vacations to stay in the city to help the poor. He studied to become a mining engineer so that he could serve miners better.

Pier enjoyed going to the theater, opera and museums. He loved art, music and the writings of St. Paul and St. Catherine of Siena. These writings led him to join the Third Order of St. Dominic. Pier's education was important to him, but his social and political activism were even more so. At 18 he joined a Catholic Action organization. He became a very active member of the People's Party, which promoted Catholic social teaching based on Pope Leo XIII's encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*. Strongly anti-fascist, he participated in Church organized demonstrations against Fascism. He helped organize the first convention of Pax Romana, a Catholic youth organization dedicated to uniting all Catholic students throughout the world to work toward peace.

Just before he was to graduate from university, he contracted polio, probably from a poor person he was serving. Although sick himself, he tended to his grandmother who was dying. After suffering terribly for almost a week and giving away his medications to another sick man, he died July 4, 1925.

Pier's cause for canonization was opened in 1932. In 1981 his body was exhumed and found intact and incorrupt before being transferred from the family tomb in Pollone to the cathedral in Turin. He was beatified by Pope, John Paul II (himself a saint now) on May 20, 1990. Pier Giorgio Michaelangelo Frassati was declared a saint by Pope Leo XIV together with another youth, Carlo Acutis on September 7, 2025.

## Gather Them Home

Saturday, November 8th - 10am

Catholic Funeral & Cemetery Services invites the Faithful to bring to Catholic Cemeteries the cremated remains of their loved ones who have passed, to be entrusted to their final resting place.

10am Mass at Divine Child (1055 N Silvery Lane, Dearborn 48128) Committal Service follows Mass. Committal Service at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (25800 W 10 Mile Rd. Southfield, 48033)

**For information or to reserve a spot for your loved one call 248-350-1900**

## The Semicolon

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

My grave is in the corner of a cemetery in rural southeastern Wisconsin. For at least a mile in every direction, all you can see is farmland — cows, barns and quiet country roads. It's beautiful, serene. I imagine the hand of God writing me into existence — *she lived, she died* — using for ink the very dirt that fills this grave. The dust from which I was created.

Surrounding my grave are the burial plots of other family members — Rachel, Georgiana, Julian, Josephine. I visit the cemetery to pray for them, knowing they are there, but also not there. And when I visit their graves, I stand on my own. I look out at the tree-lined horizon and the farmland. I think of how, in a thousand years, none of this will be here. But I will be here, God's hand paused against the page, preparing to write the rest of the story not in dirt but in his own blood. For Christ does not lose anything of what the Father has given him.

Not a soul. Not a bone. Not a lock of hair.

*She lived, she died; she lived again.* No longer is there a period after the words *she died* but instead a semicolon. And the semicolon is the grave, that mystical place where the Blood mixes with the dust of the earth, where life meets death, and then meets life again. And the story continues.

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## INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

**To live with Christ, we must die with him. But what does this mean? What does this look like in the ordinary life of a Christian? We must ask God for the wisdom to see our own crosses, so that we may carry them into the newness of life.**

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## 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.



## MERCY IN ACTION 2025 UPDATE & THANK YOU

Once again the parishioners, families, and friends of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish stepped up and did as Jesus would do in giving of their Time, Talents, and donations to reach out to those in need. We were able to fill 325 snack bags with a juice box, 2 fruit snacks, a granola bar, a pack of cheese and crackers and a pack of cookies. These are being given to Detroit school children as they go home for the day. According to Glen from Our Lady of La Salette Parish, the coordinator of the activity, for some this may be all they have to eat until breakfast at school the next morning. We also made 200 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the M.A.T.T. homeless shelter in Macomb county. We had about 30 jars of peanut butter and 20 jars of jelly left over that will be added to the Thanksgiving food baskets. Our Prayer Blanket ministry had enthusiastic volunteers who designed 80 squares. All of this was being done while a group of about 15 people prayed the rosary on the patio of the administration building and others spent time in church in Adoration. We accomplished all by the Grace of God and about 35 volunteers. Our prayers of gratitude go out to all of you who continue to reach out to those in need.



### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING OCT. 25/26, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	97		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,817.05	632.05	6,573.76
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	548.00	76.00	(1,399.50)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	49.00	(1,624.00)	(2,556.00)
Bequests		70.00		1,248.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		120.00		2,260.00
Holy Days: All Saints/All Souls/Immaculate Conception		240.00		528.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,228.50				Paid 64,779.50



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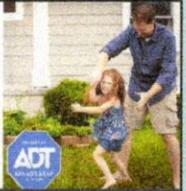
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