



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 † OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE

From The Pastor

Why is Jesus Christ King of the Universe and Lord of my life? Why should this inspire me and be the primary focal point of my existence?

The Christian truth is centered on God revealed in the person of Christ. Our faith is centered in the person of God Incarnate through the Virgin Mary in Jesus Christ, now present to us through the Holy Spirit. Sometimes it is helpful to review in a reflective way the truth and foundation of our faith. This is my intention here. You may or may not hear anything new. I hope you can hear it in a new way as the foundation of your life as a Christian who seeks to actively live all that we profess and hope for in Christ. Not incorrectly but too often, the faith we profess is seen, perceived, and judged through the rituals and activities of religion. Religion and its practices are easily criticized, and at times admittedly found wanting. My purpose here is to invite each of us to hear and ponder deeply the core truth of Christianity. Religion is essential to faith, but a different conversation.

The Father is head of the Trinity. God creates out of love through Christ who is the agent and mediator of God's will for the world. In Christ, all things were created in heaven and on earth. God created all that is in, and through, and for Christ. All that is, belongs to and is in Christ. The Divine power and authority through which Christ created, this is not why he is King of the Universe. Reflect: Christ is your origin and Creator. God in Christ thinks your life is a good idea. You are a beloved and essential image of God's making.

In time, the Word became Flesh. God in Christ accepted our human nature and shared our human condition in all things but sin. Jesus knows the heights and depths of living in a human body. Can you relate to that? This did not make him King of the Universe. Through the Incarnation, Jesus honors the will of the Father to reveal the nature and identity of God through a human person. Jesus is the glory, the evidence, and the experience of God in the flesh. You also are incarnate with a body that is a temple and dwelling place of God in Christ.

Becoming human, Jesus in humble obedience embraces our humanity. Without resentment or bitterness, Jesus surrenders his body, his person/life to heal, forgive, and reconcile all things to himself to accomplish our redemption. After the death and

Resurrection of Jesus, in him, as if we were him, we are presented to and received by the Father. It is this that makes Jesus King of the Universe and Lord over all that is in heaven and on earth. Why? Because God in Christ, fully human and fully Divine freely and with pure love surrendered his life for your sake and for mine, including all creation in heaven and on earth.

Consider: the human Jesus, now the Cosmic and Risen Christ, is Lord of Creation, Lord of the Cross, and Lord over evil, sin, and death through the power of his dying and rising. Reflect. God gave all in Christ to create, redeem, and sanctify his creation through the redemption work of the Son. We belong to Christ who gave his life for us that we, with him, might share in the unity and eternal love of the Father and the Holy Spirit in the glory of heaven.

For some, this may not be overly appealing. We prefer to be in control of our own lives. We do not want to be owned by anyone, nor be in debt to anyone. Redemption is a gift. It is pure and it is free. As much as we want and try, we cannot save ourselves. If we want what Christ is offering us, then we must follow his example. In whatever condition or state of our lives, there is an undeniable call to surrender in humble obedience. If you are maturely in love with someone, you know what this means. Maturity means allowing the early years of selfishness to fall away as we learn to give ourselves to the commitments of love in our lives directed for the good of others. Maturing in love forms and creates our identity in Christ that awakens us to the presence of Christ already within us.

Christ is King and Lord of our lives. Not a worldly king of social or political power and control, but a King of justice, love, and peace grounded in the truth of love through which we were created and redeemed. The Church and the world will change and are changing. The Kingship and Lordship of Jesus is eternal and unending. The Kingdom of God is eternal, and you are a part of it; in fact, you are an agent called to help bring it about.

In Christ, this is the focus, the identity, and the mission of our lives. It is a messy, imperfect, and incomplete journey, yet it holds and promises the glorious perfection of union with God in heaven. Be at peace.

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

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

Mass Intentions

MONDAY, November 24, 2025

8:00am Mass: JoAnn Rearick† req. by Corrine McCarthy
TUESDAY, November 25, 2025

8:00am Mass: Mary Guaiana† req. by Family

WEDNESDAY, November 26, 2025

8:00am Mass: Cathy McCarthy† req. by Corrine McCarthy
THURSDAY, November 27, 2025 THANKSGIVING

9:00am Mass: St. Vincent de Paul Ministry

SATURDAY, November 29, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Tony Szeliga† req. by Richard & Donna Dolinski
Mary Guaiana† req. by Regina Juska-Svoba
JoAnn Rearick† req. by Bill & Mary Beth Hochstetler
Dod & Lul Hyson† req. by File Vuktilaj
Vitore Dod Vushoj† req. by File Vuktilaj
Rushe Lumaj (for health) req. by File Vuktilaj
Family of File Vuktilaj req. by File

SUNDAY, November 30, 2025

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Lorraine Kuczborski† req. by Stanley & Family
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family
Milagros Sunga† req. by Family
Paul Gorcyca† req. by Lynn Trout
Ron Sadowski† req. by Nancy Sadowski
Robert & Joan Silverest† req. by Robin Silverest

Readings for the Week

November 23, 2025

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 (see 1)/
Col 1:12-20/Lk 23:35-43
Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56/Lk
21:1-4
Tuesday: Dn 2:31-45/Dn 3:57, 58, 59, 60, 61/Lk
21:5-11
Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28/Dn
3:62, 63, 64, 65, 66, 67/Lk 21:12-19
Thursday: Dn 6:12-28/Dn 3:68, 69, 70, 71, 72, 73,
74/Lk 21:20-28
Friday: Dn 7:2-14/Dn 3:75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81/
Lk 21:29-33
Saturday: Dn 7:15-27/Dn 3:82, 83, 84, 85, 86, 87/
Lk 21:34-36
Next Sunday: Is 2:1-5/Ps 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9/
Rom 13:11-14/Mt 24:37-44

AOD RESTRUCTURING PLANS

For information or questions regarding AOD
Restructuring contact any person below.

Primary Person of Contact: Debbie Tourville

Key Parish Leaders:

Steve Orloski	Tom Karolski
Angie Maynard	Corrine McCarthy
Linda Collins	Judy McCown
Mike Kairis	Linda Yolkiewicz



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

Menu

- Appetizers
- Salad
- Rolls
- London Broil
- Chicken Marsala
- Meatless Mostaccioli
- Mashed Potatoes
- Dessert
- Beverages

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

Tickets

Tickets are \$30
 No tickets at the door.
 Tickets can be purchased at the Parish Office or on weekends in back of church until December 1st.

Raffles

**THANKSGIVING DAY
MASS**

**Thursday, November 27th
9:00am**

A collection on Thanksgiving Day will go to support the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Ministry.



**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
St. Vincent de Paul NOT St. Vincent Ferrer**



In observance of the holiday, the Parish Office will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 27/28.

RAFFLE BASKET DONATIONS NEEDED!

Join us in celebrating Fr. John's 42nd Anniversary of Ordination as a priest of the Archdiocese of Detroit on December 13, 2025.

This year the basket theme will be "A JOYFUL HOPE"

We have so much to be joyful for at St. Vincent Ferrer. It is a joy to have Fr. John as our pastor. Since this is a special event, the value of each basket should be around \$50.00. There are several ways you can help:

- * You can be creative and assemble your own basket
- * You may donate the items, and we will create the basket for you.
- * You may make a monetary donation, and we will shop and create a basket for you.
- * Have fun with the theme. For instance, I am going to create a BBQ basket and call it "Joy of the Grill Master"

Bernadette Gutowski and Linda Collins will be managing the raffle. If you wish to donate a basket or items, please contact one of us. Bernadette (Bernadette42@comcast.net - 248-224-8771 or Linda (lcoll03@yahoo.com - 248-721-2109) The raffle will be held at the ordination dinner, and you must be present to win.

You are invited to

Advent Tea

Renewing Our Hope in Jesus

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

**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 22/23, and 29/30 or call the Parish Office at 248-542-8720 to RSVP by Monday, December 1st.



**HEALING MASS NEXT SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 29, 2025 - 4:00pm**

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

First Sunday of Advent

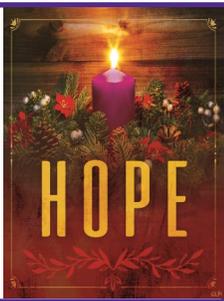
Lighting the Candle of Hope

Saturday, November 29, 2025

4:00pm Mass: Tom & Terri Riley

Sunday, November 30, 2024

9:00am Mass: Michelle Waskowski



To be sure that Christmas donations are properly credited for Christmas, please do not submit them until after December 10th.



...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

Our king wears a crown of thorns, not a crown of gold. His glory is not in riches but in suffering. His law is written in his own blood, shed for the love of us. Do we understand the gift that it is, to be subject to such a king? ©LPI

EARLY BULLETIN DEADLINES

MASS INTENTIONS

If you will be requesting a Mass Intention on the weekends of December 20/21, December 27/28 or any of the three Christmas Masses and would like it to appear in the bulletin, please call the Parish Office with your request by **Monday, December 8th.**



FLOWER ENVELOPES

To have names of deceased loved ones included in the Dec. 21, 2025 bulletin, which is our Christmas bulletin, memorial flower envelopes must be returned by **Monday, December 8th.**



Prayer for Archdiocesan Restructuring

Come, Holy Spirit.

Make your presence known as we restructure the parishes and ministries of our archdiocese.

Be our light on the path we walk together.

Help us hear your voice in the quiet of our own hearts, in the wisdom of others, and in the world around us.

We know you are with us in every step of the process.

Give us clarity, understanding, and direction. In all things, help us share the light of your love. Amen.

St. Anne, pray for us.

Blessed Solanus Casey, pray for us.

Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.

RESTRUCTURING.AOD.ORG

EXTENDED ADORATION HOURS DURING ADVENT PLEASE SIGN UP

On Tuesdays during Advent, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament following 8am Mass will extend until Noon, but we will need people to keep Jesus' company during those hours.



If you can commit to a specific time, please sign-up on the sheets outside the chapel wall. Even if you can not commit, please come to visit with Jesus.

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

WHAT IS EUCHARISTIC ADORATION?

Question: What is Eucharistic Adoration?

Answer: The practice of Eucharistic Adoration is a centuries old ritual and falls within a broader category of devotions and rituals that are associated with the Sacrament of the Eucharist. In a particular way, Eucharistic Adoration is an extension of the worship and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament that occurs in every Mass.

In a long-standing practice, a period of Eucharistic Adoration often ends with “benediction,” the blessing of the faith with the Blessed Sacrament.

Several parishes throughout the United States have introduced the practice of perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, while other communities have the custom of shorter periods of Eucharistic Adoration. Care should always be taken that these periods of adoration respect the instructions outlined in *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, the liturgical book that gives the instructions for the proper celebration of Eucharistic Adoration.

Although adoration of the Blessed Sacrament can never take the place of Eucharistic Communion, many Catholics find great comfort and consolation in their prayers before the Eucharist enshrined in the tabernacle or when it is exposed in the monstrance (both are equally valid, as the Christ is not more present in one than in the other). But when we consider our eucharistic devotions, it is always important to remember the fundamental connection these acts of devotion have the celebration of the Eucharist in the Mass and reception of Christ in Communion.

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DEVOTIONS, EXPLAINED!

ADVENT WREATH, Explained!

The Advent Wreath as we know it today is a modern spin on an ancient practice — or rather, several of them.

Christians have always utilized candles to illustrate the metaphor of Christ as the “great light” shining on a people waiting in darkness (Isaiah 9:2). Historians tell us that pre-Christian societies in Europe also viewed candles as symbolic of the coming light of spring, and may have used wreaths of natural material along with these candles. Traditions and rituals surrounding an “Advent Wreath” are often thought to have originated in the Lutheran tradition in 16th-century Germany. Today, Advent Wreaths are a practice embraced by most Christians in the Western world.

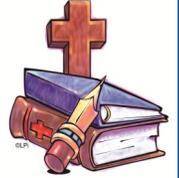
An Advent Wreath consists of a circle of evergreen and four candles, one for each week of Advent. Three of the candles are purple; one is rose, representing Gaudete Sunday, a time of rejoicing at the closeness of Christmas. In Catholicism, Advent Wreaths are blessed on the First Sunday of Advent. For Advent Wreaths in private homes, it is appropriate for a family member to perform the blessing.

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Women’s Sacred Journey

SATURDAY, NOV. 29TH - 9:00AM

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE
SVF SCHOOL BLDG.



Women’s Sacred Journey group invites all women to join them in praying and reflecting on Scripture passages. The gathering is every other Saturday. No registration or fee required.

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: 2 Sm 5:1-3

Question: The people of Israel recognized that David was a natural leader, and with the Lord’s blessing anointed him king of Israel. What do you think makes someone a good leader?

2nd Reading: Col 1:12-20

Question: Paul offers to the Colossians a beautiful piece of poetry reflecting on how Jesus reconciled all things in heaven and on earth. Can you share a time when you were reconciled with a family member or friend?

Gospel: Lk 23:35-43

Question: Jesus assured the repentant criminal crucified next to him that he would be with him in paradise. Who might you offer words of comfort to this week?

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Ministry Schedule

November 29/30, 2025

Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	T Riley	D Tourville
Reader #1	D Tourville	R Grant
Reader #2	T Riley	D Tourville
EME	D Tourville	R Grant
	P Miles	M Waskowski
	R Pasiak	N Virga
Greeters	R Pasiak	D McLaughlin
	T Pasiak	M McLaughlin
	T Oparka	B Gutowski
	N Oparka	J Ballantine

Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Nov. 29/30, 2025
Tom & Terri Riley

GETTING TO KNOW OUR SAINTS

ST. FRANCESCO ANTONIO FASANI
1681-1742
FEAST DAY NOVEMBER 27

(Giovanneillo Fasani was born in Lucera, Italy, into a poor peasant family.) St. Francesco Antonio Fasani lived his whole life as a loving, devout, and atoning man. He entered the Conventual Franciscans in 1695 (age 14), and 10 years later (he was ordained and sent to the Sagro Convento to study. At 26 years old, he received a doctorate in theology and became lector of philosophy in a college in his home town.) He taught philosophy to younger friars, served as guardian of his friary, and eventually became provincial minister. When his term of office ended, St. Francesco became master of novices and finally pastor in his hometown of Lucera. (He declined a bishopric).

Known throughout his various ministries as being loving, devout, and penitential, he was also a well-known confessor and preacher. St. Francesco was a loyal friend of the poor and worked tirelessly to find ways to support them. He was a mystic with such a profound prayer life and supernatural gifts that he was known to levitate during prayer. He was canonized in 1986 by Pope John Paul II.

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Thanksgiving Day Is Coming! Just Days Away...

Thanksgiving will be here before you know it, and you will soon be saying, "Pass me the mashed potatoes, please." This November holiday has its roots in American history and has grown into a day where we remember all the things for which we are thankful: country, family, friends, health, etc. Unfortunately, we can find ourselves so caught up with travel plans and buying the perfect turkey or ham that we let the day pass us by, and all we can focus on is how much we ate and who won the day's football games. That's why it is time NOW to begin reflecting daily of all things, great and small, that we are thankful for in life.

Gratitude is a key characteristic of a good Everyday Steward, but it does not develop in us without effort. In the coming days, we can contemplate all those things God has given us. If it helps, we can create a written list and bring it with us to the Thanksgiving dinner table. The point is that too often we take so many gifts for granted, and unless we pause and purposely reflect, we miss the chance to give thanks. A healthy and hearty heart filled with gratitude can make the highs in life that much higher and the lows easier to bear. Increased gratitude will also bring us closer to the source of all those good gifts, our God.

So, what will Thanksgiving be like for you this year? You have some time to make it something more than it has been in the past. The choice is yours.

— Tracy Earl Welliver ©LPi



The King Who Hangs Beside Us

by Colleen
Jurkiewicz Dorman

We love to hate the bad thief.

Ancient Christian tradition has called him by the name "Gestas." In contrast to Dismas, "the good thief" who recognized and repented of his own sins, Gestas goes down bitter and swinging. With his last breaths he taunts Jesus, poking fun at the absurdity of a deity who allows himself to be crucified by mortals. "Are you not the Christ?" he sneers.

But his final words betray an undercurrent of desperation. Of terror. In the end, Gestas just wants Jesus to save him.

It's taken me a few hundred read-throughs of this Gospel passage to finally understand a painful truth: I am Gestas. I hang from my own cross — we all do, in this life. But I'm lucky enough that my cross is right beside Jesus, because the sacraments bring him as close to me as he was to Gestas — closer, even. How unfathomable is the mercy of God.

And yet, I am not grateful. I don't rejoice at my proximity to my Lord, to the flesh and blood that have bought my salvation. I don't do what I should do, and what Dismas does. I don't say, "Wherever you are King, please, let me be your subject. Wherever you are going, please, take me with you."

"Are you not the Christ?" I say instead. And what I mean is exactly what Gestas meant: "Get me down. Take this cross away. I don't want it. I can't take it."

What a tragedy it would be, if all Christ had to offer us was an easier life.

None of this looks like anyone thought it would. The long-foretold Messiah, whose majesty and might would eradicate violence and establish peace. The guy who was going to make everything okay again. The King of the Jews. And here he hangs: bleeding and dying and doing what looks like nothing. Staring at Gestas. Staring at me. Staring at you.

What will you say to him?

©LPi

CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: What's the difference between a disciple and an apostle? ©LPi

Answer: Disciples are "called", and apostles are "sent".

The Feast of Christ the King was instituted in 1925 to address growing attitudes of secularism and atheism and to proclaim Christ's kingship forever. The day also marks the final Sunday on the Church's Liturgical Calendar.

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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. Mary Magdalen

50 E Annabelle Ave. Hazel Park, 48030

WEDNESDAY - Noon St. Mary Magdalen

SATURDAY - 4:00pm St. Mary Magdalen

SUNDAY - 10:00am - St. Mary Magdalen

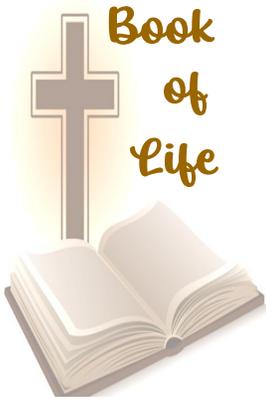
St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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



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.

Observances of the Week

- Sunday: Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe
- Monday: St. Andrew Dũng-Lạc, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs
- Tuesday: St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr
- Thursday: Thanksgiving Day
- Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Advent

©LPI

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



FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING NOV 15/16, 2025

Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	101		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 6,139.50	954.50	8,598.00
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	273.00	(199.00)	(1,312.50)
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	191.00	(1,482.00)	(4,327.32)
Bequests		129.00		1,570.00
Bequests: Thanksgiving		385.00		1,525.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund				2,280.00
AOD Collections: CCSEM				.00
Holy Days:				2,303.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,228.50				Paid 64,889.61

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