



St. Vincent Ferrer Catholic Community

Madison Heights, MI www.stvincentferrer.net

DECEMBER 28, 2025 † THE HOLY FAMILY

From The Pastor

More than any other time of the year, Christmas is a season of love. It is grounded in, but more than the mystery of the birth of our Savior. Jesus is and will always be the star of the show. Jesus is love Incarnate, God revealed, seen, and experienced in the flesh of a human person. God, in the person of Jesus, reveals the nature of Divine love in every expression of human love. Jesus is the image of what it means to be fully human. There are no walls, boundaries, limitations, or defenses in Jesus that hinder his freedom to love fully. The human love of Jesus is an image of the Divine love of the Father.

I believe Jesus loved his life. I believe he embraced his life and lived it with joy, hope, and happiness with a clarity of purpose. Even though Jesus experienced great suffering, rejection, and death on a Cross, I believe he loved his life to the end because it was his nature to do so. Unusual as it sounds, Jesus did not resist the hard realities that come to a person who seeks to live a life fully committed to love.

It is not unusual to think, ‘he was God; it was easier for him to live and love the way he did.’ Jesus felt the pain, loss, rejection, and trauma of his life the same way any of us do. Yes, Jesus knew the fullness of grace and matured into a fully committed relationship with his Father in the realization of pure love. Like the rest of us, he grew into this awareness. How did that happen?

Jesus grew up in a family, the Holy Family. They were holy because each of them surrendered in faith to the call they received from God. Each was secure in the bonds of love they all shared. The power and effect of this love formed Jesus not only in his love for God, but also in his love, care, and justice for others. This does not mean his life was a bed of roses. Yes, Mary was free from the burden of original sin and its consequences, but that does not mean she was free of human emotion including impatience, frustration, and the challenges known to any young wife and mother. What made this family holy is the commitment of love they received, experienced, and wanted for each other. Their lives were full of grace.

Your family is also full of grace. However messy or ill-directed at times, every family grounded in love is a holy family that bonds each member to the others for the sake of all. These bonds of love allow and inspire us to direct our lives in love, care, and compassion for others. Love frees us to live beyond ourselves for the good of others in mutual

relationships of respect. Imperfect as they may be, it is the bonds of love we hold that carry us through the hurts and losses of life.

The theme of the Holy Family carries us into the New Year on Thursday as we celebrate January 1st, and the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The threads of love knit together these themes. Do you believe Mary loved her life? I do. Mary is a woman secure in faith with confident trust in God, a loving husband, and a new baby. I can only imagine the joy Mary must have felt in the birth of Jesus, despite and because of all she has been told of him. It is easy to believe Mary ‘kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart.’ Like Jesus, Mary endured great suffering as she watched her Son grow into the mission and identity of his life. God is ever-present in times of love as well as in times of suffering and loss. Mary and Jesus both endured the Cross. Love carried them through. This is a fitting image of Mary as the Mother of God. Love stands with love through the darkest hours.

You do not often hear a person say, “I love my life.” What a bold and deeply hopeful statement. Several years ago, I was out walking with my niece. During our conversation she said, “I love my life.” I asked her to say more, and she expressed her happiness and commitment to the rhythms of her life. I was moved and have always remembered that day.

Do you love your life? What makes a person love the life they are living? God is the source and origin of love. Life is a gift given by God who is love. Loving your life is to love God. Love is an act of faith. Gratitude is a core virtue that inspires love for life. Relationships, connectedness, a desire to belong to someone or something larger than yourself all build a foundation of self-love that leads to creativity and generous living.

As we begin a New Year, thank God for the year past. Tell God and others how grateful you are to have them in your life. Think about your life in God and God’s life in you. You are redeemed in Christ. You belong to God and God belongs to you. Frame your life in the image of who you are in God rather than the losses, complaints, and difficulties. In Christ, you are blessed. Seek to be a blessing for others. May the bonds of love secure your house and home. Happy New Year.

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



MONDAY, December 29, 2025

8:00am Mass: Richard Velez† req. by Family

TUESDAY, December 30, 2025

8:00am Mass: Edward Gauronskas† req. by daughter, Debbie Ager

WEDNESDAY, December 31, 2025, MARY, MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY

4:00pm Vigil Mass: Doug Evans† req. by Family & Friends

THURSDAY, January 1, 2026, MARY, MOTHER OF GOD HOLY DAY

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St Vincent Ferrer

SATURDAY, January 3, 2026

4:00pm Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Mary Guaiana† req. by Dominic & Rosemary Lopez
Mike Pietraszewski† req. by Bernadette Gutowski
Leo King† req. by Peter & Mary Jo Miles

SUNDAY, January 4, 2026

9:00am Mass: Parishioners of St. Vincent Ferrer
Joseph Dong Kim Pham† req. by Family



Readings for the Week

December 28, 2025

Sunday: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14/Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5/Mt 2:13-15, 19-23
Monday: 1 Jn 2:3-11/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 5b-6/Lk 2:22-35
Tuesday: 1 Jn 2:12-17/Ps 96:7-8a, 8b-9, 10/Lk 2:36-40
Wednesday: 1 Jn 2:18-21/Ps 96:1-2, 11-12, 13/Jn 1:1-18
Thursday: Nm 6:22-27/Ps 67:2-3, 5, 6 and 8/Gal 4:4-7/Lk 2:16-21
Friday: 1 Jn 2:22-28/Ps 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4/Jn 1:19-28
Saturday: 1 Jn 2:29-3:6/Ps 98:1, 3cd-4, 5-6/Jn 1:29-34
Next Sunday: Is 60:1-6/Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 10-11, 12-13/
Eph 3:2-3a, 5-6/Mt 2:1-12

AOD RESTRUCTURING PLANS

For information or questions contact any person below or visit: restructuring.aod.org

Primary Person of Contact: Debbie Tourville

Key Parish Leaders:

Steve Orloski
Angie Maynard
Linda Collins
Mike Kairis

Tom Karolski
Corrine McCarthy
Judy McCown
Linda Yolkiewicz

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

When I was ten, my dad gathered our family around the table in small-town Vermont and told us we were moving to the big desert city of Phoenix, Arizona. We were leaving behind family, friends, and everything familiar. None of us knew what to expect.

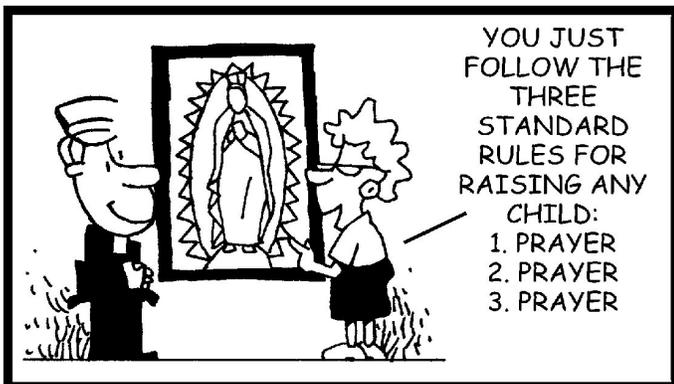
But something beautiful happened. As we made the move together, our family grew closer. In retrospect, I'm amazed at my parents' courage to go on that adventure. Even as a kid I realized our family found, in that challenge, a deeper unity and mutual love.

In today's Gospel, Joseph is told: "**Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee...**" (Matthew 2:13, 20). First to Egypt, then later to Israel. The Holy Family is frequently challenged to move and change, to adapt to God's will for them, in order to find safety in the midst of threat. It's not just an idiosyncratic story about survival. It's a spiritual pattern for all of us. Every Christian family is called to be a kind of sanctuary, especially in a world full of noise, busyness, and fear.

May I make a practical application for us? The Lord's Day, Sunday, is perhaps the most practical way we imitate this dynamic we see in Joseph and his family. Sunday is not meant to be just like every other day, filled with errands and stress. It's meant to be a day set apart; a holy "escape" into rest, worship, joy, and peace. A day to rise, take your family, and flee, into God's presence.

— Father John Muir

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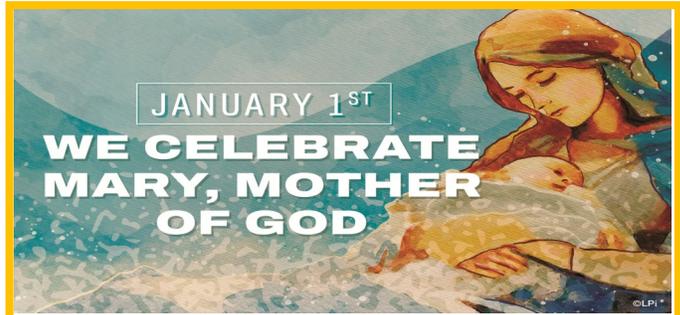


CATHOLIC TRIVIA – JUST FOR FUN

Question: Which saint is the patron saint of priests?

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Answer: St. John Vianney



MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Holy Day Masses

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 2025 4:00pm

Thursday, Jan. 1, 2026 9:00am

SHE KEPT ALL OF THESE THINGS IN HER HEART

by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

"What was my first word? Who was there when I was born? When did I start to walk? Which toys did I play with? What made me cry when I was a baby?"

My oldest has reached the age where she has started to ask questions like this. As she grows up, she is realizing that, in order to understand the world around her, she must first understand herself. This makes her insatiably curious about her own identity, her history — her "origin story," as they say in the movies.

I've got most of it documented either in writing or in photos, but even if it's a detail that wasn't scribbled in a baby book or saved to my digital cloud, it's a memory that I can quickly summon and make real for her as we snuggle and talk about who she was, who she is, and who she may become.

I'm the mom. I have kept all of these things in my heart.

The Blessed Mother knew more about God before opening a book than most of us could discover after a lifetime of study and prayer. There is no one whose knowledge of Christ was so intimate, so deep, so simultaneously ordinary and extraordinary, as the human woman who bore him, birthed him, nursed him, raised him and eventually gave him up.

In the way that I can tell my daughter everything there is to know about the part of her life she cannot recall, Mary can tell us everything we need to know about Christ. All we have to do is ask.

Mary kept all of these things in her heart.

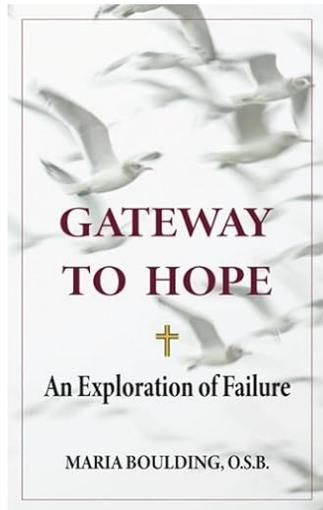
— Luke 2:19

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*"May the mother of Jesus and our mother,
always smile on your spirit, obtaining for it,
from her most holy son,
every heavenly blessing."*

- Saint Padre Pio

**BREAKFAST BOOK STUDY
WEDNESDAYS AT 9:00AM
BEGINNING JANUARY 21, 2026**



“Poignant reflections on loss and its meanings are collected in this succinct volume aimed at a broad audience of seekers, parents, businesspeople, and the suffering alike. With each passage embracing human failure and loss, the elegant musings of Sister Maria Boulding speak gently and eloquently to those beyond the walls of convents—to those who set their goals high, yet struggle to grasp their own limitations and reconcile them with God,

as well as to those who second guess their path in life, and to worshipers mourning the premature loss of friends and family. With each meditation on loss, Sister Boulding creates a spiritual, contemplative grid against which readers can interpret the setbacks of their life.”

Amazon Books

Call the Parish Office to Register - 248-542-8720



...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

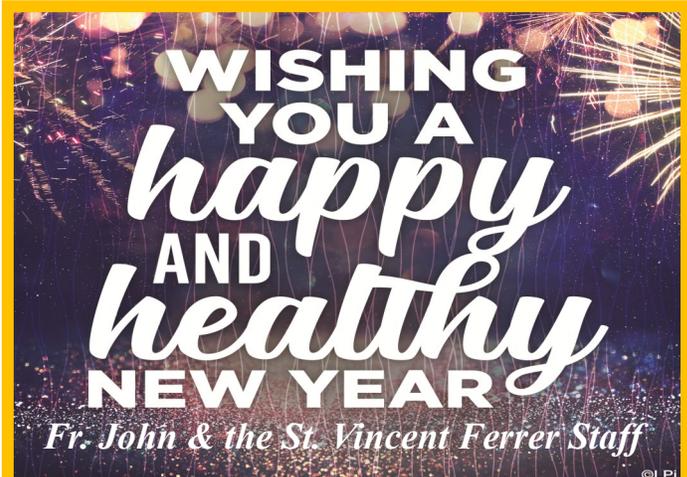
...the safety of men and women dedicated to protecting lives and freedom.

...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



The Parish Office is closed for business this week and will reopen on Monday, January 5, 2026



Theme of the Pope Leo's Message for World Day of Peace 2026

“Peace be with you all: Towards an ‘unarmed and disarming’ peace”

The theme of the Message invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, and to embrace an authentic peace based on love and justice. This peace must be unarmed, that is, not based on fear, threats or weapons. And it must be resolving conflicts, opening hearts and generating mutual trust, empathy and hope. It is not enough to call for peace; we must embody it in a way of life that rejects every form of violence, whether it be visible or systemic.

The greeting of the Risen Christ, “Peace be with you” (Jn 20:19), is an invitation addressed to everyone—believers, non-believers, political leaders and citizens—to build the Kingdom of God and to work together to build a humane and peaceful future.”

From the Bulletin of the Holy See Press Office

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT REQUEST

We **WILL NOT** do a parish wide mailing of contribution statements. If you would like a copy of your 2025 contributions for income tax purposes, please fill out a request form found at the church entrance and drop it in the collection basket, Or call the parish office at 248-542-8720 after Jan. 5, 2026.

Please make request by January 16, 2026.

**VIRTUES, EXPLAINED!
CONNECT WITH TRADITION AND
GROW YOUR FAITH**

Hope, Explained!

“Hoping against hope, he believed, and thus became the father of many nations.” (Romans 4:18)

This is how Paul describes the hope of Abraham, who allowed himself to believe in and wish for what seemed like an impossible thing — all because it had been promised to him by God. In this same way, Christian hope “is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness” (CCC 1817), even as we recognize that our own strength and merit can never achieve this.

Hope, simply, is remembering that God keeps His promises.

A desire for happiness is a seed planted by God in each heart. The virtue of hope pours down like rain to nourish that seed, but a barrier has been created by original sin. The Holy Spirit removes the barrier, allowing the hope to pour forth upon the roots of our sprouting happiness in great abundance. ©LPi

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

God created the Holy Family with a great sense of purpose, because he knew that Jesus would be defined by the woman and man who raised him. Who is our “Holy Family” — the people who will define us? Who has God placed within our lives for a specific purpose? ©LPi

QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK FOR REFLECTION

1st Reading: Sir 3:2-6, 12-14

Question: Sirach emphasizes the importance of children honoring and respecting their parents. What are some of your favorite memories of your parents?

2nd Reading: Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17

Question: Paul taught the Colossians that families should show mutual respect and love toward one another. How do you encourage these virtues in your family?

Gospel: Mt 2:13-15, 19-23

Question: We hear how the Holy Family faced some very dangerous circumstances early on. Can you think of some challenges your family has had to overcome? ©LPi

MEN’S FELLOWSHIP & SCRIPTURE REFLECTION

Saturday, January 3rd 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.

To the Prayer Blanket Ministry

This note is to thank all involved in this ministry. “Peace beyond all understanding” has comforted me since receiving the sacrament of the sick and my prayer blanket. The experience of being anointed and prayed over, as I awaited skin graft surgery following skin cancer excision, was an unexpected blessing! Having the prayer blanket near me throughout this challenging time is a physical reminder of the faith and support of Jesus Christ that I can not see or touch.

*God Bless you all.
Mary*



What are your New Year’s Resolutions?

Ministry Schedule		
January 3/4, 2026		
Mass	4:00pm	9:00am
Sacristan	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
Reader #1	D Tourville	J Kosnak
Reader #2	R Pasiak	C McCarthy
EME	D Tourville	M Black
	P Miles	N Virga
	L Collins	P Allen
Greeters	R Bertolini	M McLaughlin
	L Collins	D McLaughlin
	P Miles	T Oparka
	M Smith	N Oparka
Traveling Chalice Host beginning week of Jan. 3/4, 2026		
Robin Silverest		

Fr. Dan Crosby's presentation on hope was wonderful. He shared that the symbol of hope is an anchor. "Hope is the God-given virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promise and relying not on our own strength but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit." (CC, #1817) This was his message. We thank Fr. Dan for gracing our Advent Tea.

We also thank our 36 guests for the wonderful donations of baby outfits, diapers, diaper wipes, bibs, blanket, toys and books that will be going to the Women's Pregnancy Aid Center in Madison Heights.



ADVENT
TEA
2025



Other Plans by Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

I don't know exactly what kind of life Mary and Joseph envisioned when they were first betrothed — back in those simple times when they were just like any other couple who had hopes, dreams and no angels telling them what to do.

Whatever their plans were, I think it's safe to say that the future God had in store for Mary and Joseph was not one either of them expected. I would imagine they both anticipated something a little quieter. A little more stable (no pun intended). A little less tumultuous.

It exhausts me simply to read through the chaos of their movements in today's Gospel. Flee to Egypt, return to Israel (but not Judea! Herod's son is there! Divert to Galilee! Divert!). Settle in Nazareth (let me remind you, this is all happening with a baby in tow, and without the aid of a minivan). Take a deep breath, but don't get too comfortable — now it's almost time to lose your kid in Jerusalem. Then you'll have about 20 years off before he starts raising people from the dead, and that's when things start to get *really* crazy.

The story of the Holy Family is the ultimate example of the phrase "God had other plans." If any four-word sentence encapsulates what we can expect from the Christian life, it is this.

I thought I was meant for that job, but God had other plans. I thought I would live in this place, but God had other plans. I thought I was supposed to become this person, but God had other plans.

We can do all the right things. We can make all the right choices. We can say, over and over again until our voice wears out, "Thy will be done." But all we can know for sure is that God has other plans.



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

SATURDAY - 4:00pm

SUNDAY - 10:00am -

St. Mary

730 S. Lafayette, Royal Oak, 48067

SATURDAY - 4:30pm

SUNDAY - 9:00am, 11 am

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



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

Observances of the Week

- Sunday: The Holy Family
- Wednesday: St. Sylvester I, Pope; *New Year's Eve*
- Thursday: Mary, The Holy Mother of God, New Year's Day, World Day of Peace
- Friday: Ss. Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops and Doctors of the Church
- Saturday: The Most Holy Name of Jesus
- Next Sunday: The Epiphany of the Lord

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FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING DEC. 13/14, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	104		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 5,048.23	(136.77)	9,942.87
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	588.00	116.00	73.50
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	*2,125.99	452.99	(7,061.33)
Bequests		270.00		2,094.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		70.00		2,350.00
AOD Collections: Retirement Fund for Religious		740.00		745.00
Holy Days: Immaculate Conception		402.00		3,094.00
* includes 1,815.99 return of CSA funds				

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP GIVING - WEEK ENDING DEC. 20/21, 2025

<i>Fiscal Year 7-1-25 to 6-30-26</i>	Budgeted	Actual	Over/Under	YTD
Offertory Env. Used & e-fund participants	240	93		
Offertory	\$ 5,185.00	\$ 4,261.83	(923.17)	9,019.70
Energy, Coffee/Donuts, Flowers/Trees, Candles, Mass Intentions	472.00	493.50	21.50	95.00
Fundraising: includes Budget Deficit envelope, CSA returned	1,673.00	141.00	(1,532.00)	(8,593.33)
Bequests		123.00		1,947.00
AOD Collections: Priest Retirement Fund		5.00		2,355.00
Holy Days: Immaculate Conception, Mary Mother of God		29.00		3,123.00
CSA 2025 Pledged 69,228.50				Paid 66,902.13

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**2026
Catholic
Calendar**

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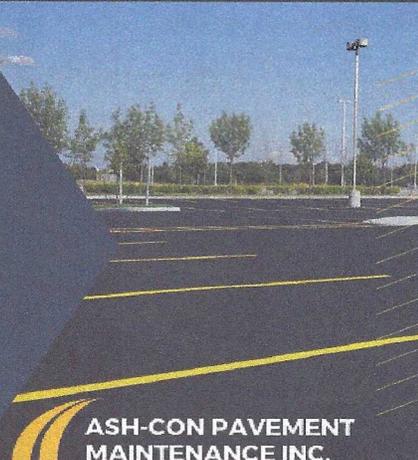


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