25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“If, therefore, you are not trustworthy with dishonest wealth, who will trust you with true wealth?” - Lk 16:11
25th Week in Ordinary Time

Saturday, September 21—Memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am Intentions of the Parishioners
Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 / Matthew 9:9-13
Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:00—3:30pm
4:00pm †Bender & Salzano Families

Sunday, September 22—25th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am †Kevin Henry by Anthony & Dawn Dota
10:30am A Special Intention by Rosemary Henault
4:30pm †James Lederer by Anne Boffen
Amos 8:4-7 / 1 Timothy 2:1-8 / Luke 16:1-13

Monday, September 23—St. Pius (Pio) of Pietrelcina
7:30am †Paul Cyr by Alina & Les Czaplinski

Tuesday, September 24—Weekday
7:30am †Crocie Sequenzia by his Family
Ezra 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20 / Luke 8:19-21
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00am—9:00am

Wednesday, September 25—Weekday
7:30am †James & Marie Nardello by Jane & Bob Curina
Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:30pm—7:30pm

Thursday, September 26—Weekday
7:30am †Ted Caldwell by John & Barbara Suo

Friday, September 27—St. Vincent de Paul
7:30am Jocie Pavia (living) by Barbara & Samantha Suo

Saturday, September 28—Memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary
8:00am Intentions of the Parishioners
Zephaniah 2:5-9, 14-15a / Luke 9:43b-45
Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:00—3:30pm
4:00pm †Louise Urbano by Donna & Larry Hanlon & family

Sunday, September 29—26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
8:00am Anthony Dota (living) by Tom & Arlene Martucci
10:30am †Mary Mangine by Vincenza Cannizzo
4:30pm †Joseph B. Knowles by his brother, Brian
Amos 6:1a, 4-7 / 1 Timothy 6:11-16 / Luke 16:1-13

“Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life”
Caring for and Sharing with Each Other
“G I F T S”
Giving In Faith Through Stewardship
Discover your God-given gifts and find a place in our community to give your gift back to God in gratitude and service.

Treasure (Resources): Financial Report
$ 2,105.00 Envelope Offertory for September 15, 2019
$ 684.00 Loose Offertory for September 15, 2019
$ 451.00 L E D Lighting
$ 536.00 Previous weeks & other donations
$ 3,776.00 Sub-total
$ 264.00 Cathedraticum
$ 3,512.00 Total that stays in the parish for our use.

Thank you for giving your “first fruits” back to the Lord!
May God return your generosity to you 100-fold!

Staff
Father John Kuzhikottayil, Administrator
Father Binny Issac and Father Joy Jacob, Parochial Vicars
Mary Sciarretta, Child Care Center Director
Thomas Festa, Facilities Manager
Jeff Bingham, Parish Secretary
Helen Finateri, Bookkeeper
Anita Gawronski, Parish Council President
Nancy Hanson, Parish Minister
Cornell Bialicki, Music Director & Organist

Finance Council
Father John, Matt Fortney, Michael Mason, David Whidden, Don Duman (Trustee) & Cindy Russo (Trustee)

Ministries
Virtus Facilitator: Annette Whidden
Pro-Life: Dorothy Deitelbaum
Raffle: Don & Jackie Duman
Attic Treasures: Joan Bettencourt
Food Bank: Barbara Salerno & Mabel Herring
Cooking Club: Joanne Ramos
Adult Faith Formation Minister: Sherri-Lyn Raimo
Retreat Coordinator: Mary Welch
Holy Name Society President: Don Duman
Our Lady’s Guild Co-Presidents: Mabel Herring and Jackie Duman
Why do we go to Confession?

The very word confession conjures up all kinds of stories and images, but those who go to confession know that it is a source of holy comfort and blessed relief. Confession is a gift, a means of grace, a way to God, and a way back to God.

This sacrament originated early in the church’s life, when it became clear that those who had been baptized were not immune to sin. Lesser sins were considered to be forgiven through prayer, fasting, works of mercy, and participation in the Eucharist. Greater sins needed more.

Many early Christians lived through times of persecution (as some around the world still do). While many held fast to their faith under threat of torture and death, some denied it, a sin known as apostasy.

When the persecution ended, many who had denied the faith wished to return to the community of faith. How to deal with such people—Accept them back? Turn them away? Re-baptize them?—caused a great controversy in the church. Jesus’ own practice of forgiveness led the church to welcome them back. But it wasn’t easy.

Those who had committed apostasy and other serious sins, such as murder and adultery, underwent a rigorous process of public confession to the bishop, prayer, fasting, and expulsion from the Eucharist, to which they were gradually restored. Because such sins affected the whole community, the process was public, and all were asked to pray for the penitents. A person could undergo this procedure only once, and lifelong penalties could be imposed.

As you might expect, this rigorous practice rather quickly fell into disuse. It was superseded by an Irish monastic practice: confession to a spiritual advisor, male or female, who assigned an appropriate penance. When the penance was completed, the advisor offered a prayer of absolution. This was adopted by the whole church, the confessor had to be a priest.

When the sacrament was renewed after the Second Vatican Council, the communal nature of sin and forgiveness was acknowledged by a public service of reconciliation as a context for private confession and absolution.

So, why do we have to go to confession? Lesser sins can still be forgiven by prayer, fasting, works of mercy, and participation in the Eucharist, and greater sins—mortal sins—still need more. Our sins still affect others, and through the ministry of the priest we ask forgiveness of God and reestablish our bond with the community.

Finally, we are obliged to go to confession because participation in the Eucharist is our greatest joy and privilege, as well as a duty (at least once a year, preferably during the Easter season, but that’s just the bare minimum). To participate worthily we must be free of mortal sin. Confession is a gift, a means of grace, a way to God, and a way back to God.

* * *

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states:

Jesus’ call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, “sackcloth and ashes,” fasting and mortification, but at the conversion of the heart, interior conversion. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false; however, interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance.

Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one’s life, with hope in God’s mercy and trust in the help of his grace. This conversion of heart is accompanied by a salutary pain and sadness which the Fathers called animi cruciatus (affliction of spirit) and compunctio cordis (repentance of heart).

The human heart is heavy and hardened. God must give man a new heart. Conversion is first of all a work of the grace of God who makes our hearts return to him: “Restore us to thyself, O LORD, that we may be restored!” God gives us the strength to begin anew. It is in discovering the greatness of God’s love that our heart is shaken by the horror and weight of sin and begins to fear offending God by sin and being separated from him. The human heart is converted by looking upon him whom our sins have pierced:

Let us fix our eyes on Christ’s blood and understand how precious it is to his Father, for, poured out for our salvation it has brought to the whole world the grace of repentance.
Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst.” (John 6:35)

Parents (who are registered here) and godparents are prepared at a class next held October 1 at 6:30pm. Please call the Office to sign up. If you missed a class you previously signed up for, you must sign up again for the new class; nothing is assumed.

Godparents must be confirmed and obtain a Sponsor Certificate from their own Catholic parish.

Baptisms normally take place here on the 2nd or 3rd Sundays of the month after the 10:30am Mass, but other weekends are possible depending on other events.

Religious Education

The Confirmation Class is collecting items for Brian’s Bags. We are looking for items such as individual packages of tuna, cookies and crackers, socks, deodorant, wet ones, chap stick, dental floss, Slim Jims, toothbrush, toothpaste, first aid supplies, $5-$10 gift cards to KFC, McDonald’s, Subway, Dunkin Donuts. Items collected will be packaged and donated to the Brian O’Connell Homeless Project to benefit homeless individuals in our area. Collection Boxes will be at Church Entrances until October 20. For more information, check http://www.brianoc.org. Thank you for your support.

St. Vincent Ferrer Parish is seeking new Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for the weekend Masses. Please contact the Parish Office if you are interested in either of these important ministries.

Safe Families for Children Information Session

Thank you all so much for such a wonderful response from everyone in June when I visited St. Vincent’s. Your interest in Safe Families for Children has been wonderful!
Safe Families—A Movement...Are you interested in discussing the possibility of building a Circle of Support (Team) within St. Vincent’s Church? Do people come to mind in your church that have a heart for children, and may want to make a lasting impression on a child in need, and possibly change the trajectory of a family? Just One family a year. A team, assigned to one family at a time. A Circle of Support (St. Vincent’s Team) to surround just one family. Those that come to mind, could meet and have a small information gathering to see if they may be interested in volunteering.
I’ll be having a gathering so I may give everyone more information about Safe Families. Please RSVP to let me know if you are able to attend. Text or call 845-742-6304. Michelle Montague Email: mmontague@safefamilies.net
St. Vincent Ferrer Church
Room 3
Tuesday, October 8th at 7:00pm

Parishioners in active ministries (lectors, catechists, aides, ministers, etc) need to attend a training session in child protection. The Virtus Training session entitled “Protecting God’s Children” is being offered at various locations throughout the Archdiocese.

VIRTUS
Protecting God's Children

Important: Register online only at: www.virtusonline.org

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel School—Waterbury
Tuesday, September 24—6:00pm
Assumption—Ansonia
Thursday, October 3, 2019—6:00pm

Have you checked out our advertisers page lately? There are many local businesses who publish their information right on the back page of this bulletin each week. Our bulletin is actually funded by these advertisers! So, take a look...perhaps you’ll find something great!

As we announced recently, the Book of Mass Intentions for the year 2020 is open. If you would like to have a Mass offered for a loved one, please stop by the Parish Office any weekday between 10am and 3pm.
In addition, the Sanctuary Lamp is available for a week at a time, for you to honor or remember your loved ones.

MONEY COUNTERS
September 22 Donna Hanlon / Helen Kelly / Joan Bettencourt
September 29 To be determined

Saint Vincent Child Care Center

*Attention We now offer Infant and Toddler Care*
State-licensed facility offering Year-round Full and Part time care for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years of age, including Before and After care during the School Year.

HOURS: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
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FAX 203-632-8157
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Monday-Friday 10am-3pm  
Church email: stvincentferrer@sbcglobal.net  
Parish website: saintvincentferrerchurc.org  
Email Father John: kcjohnsdb@gmail.com  
Phone Father John: (203)729-4543 ext. 101

**“LET US JOURNEY WITH CHRIST” POPE FRANCIS**

**EVENT SUMMARY THIS WEEK AT ST. VINCENT FERRER**

<table>
<thead>
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<td>8:00am and 10:30am and 4:30pm</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9/28/19</td>
<td>8:00am // Confessions</td>
<td>Mass and 4:00pm</td>
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**SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL DINNER**

Our next meal for the St Vincent de Paul Shelter is on Sunday, September 22, 2019. The meal will be Breaded Chicken Thighs and Drumsticks, Mashed potatoes, Salad and Ambrosia. We are asking our Parishioners to provide us with instant mashed potatoes, fruit cocktail, flaked coconut and mini marshmallows. We thank you for your continued support.

Our weekly **Bible Study** continues on Friday of this week, September 27th at 7pm in the Vern Maxwell Family Center. Everyone is welcome to come and learn about God’s holy word.

Come pray the **Rosary** with us! Sundays at 10AM in the chapel!

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**REFLECTION ON THE TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

The steward in today’s Gospel confronts the reality that he can’t go on living the way he has been. He is under judgment. He must give account for what he has done. The exploiters of the poor in today’s First Reading are also about to be pulled down, to be thrust from their stations. Servants of mammon or money, they’re so in love with wealth that they reduce the poor to objects; they despise the new moons and Sabbaths—the observances and holy days of God. Their only hope is to follow the steward’s path. He is no model of repentance. But he makes a prudent calculation—to use his last hours in charge of his master’s property to show mercy to others, to relieve their debts.

He is a child of this world, driven by a purely selfish motive—to make friends and be welcomed into the homes of his master’s debtors. Yet his prudence is commended as an example to us, the children of light. We too must realize, as the steward does, that what we have is not honestly ours, but in truth belongs to another, our Master.

All the mammon in the world could not have paid the debt we owe our Master. So He paid it for us. He gave His life as a ransom for all, as we hear in today’s Epistle. God wants everyone to be saved, even kings and princes, even the lovers of money. But we cannot serve two masters. By His grace, we should choose to be, as we sing in today’s Psalm “servants of the Lord.”

We serve Him by using what He has entrusted us with to give alms, to lift the lowly from the dust and dunghills of this world. By this we will gain what is ours and be welcomed into eternal dwellings, the many mansions of the Father’s house.

Scott Hahn
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The Catholic Cemeteries Association
of the Archdiocese of Hartford, Inc.
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During the months of July and August, 2019, any Mausoleum Crypt purchase or any 4 Grave or more burial plot purchase from the Catholic Cemeteries Association will receive 0% financing for up to 2 years with 30% down payment.

For your convenience we now sell Granite Flush Markers and Upright Monuments at all our locations! Unlike other providers of these products who come and go, the Catholic Cemeteries will always be here to look after your loved ones and their memorials, for eternity.

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