Come to the Water

AREA CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

St. Nicholas, Belle River | Immaculate Conception, Osakis | The Church of St. Mary, Alexandria

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time | OCTOBER 25, 2026

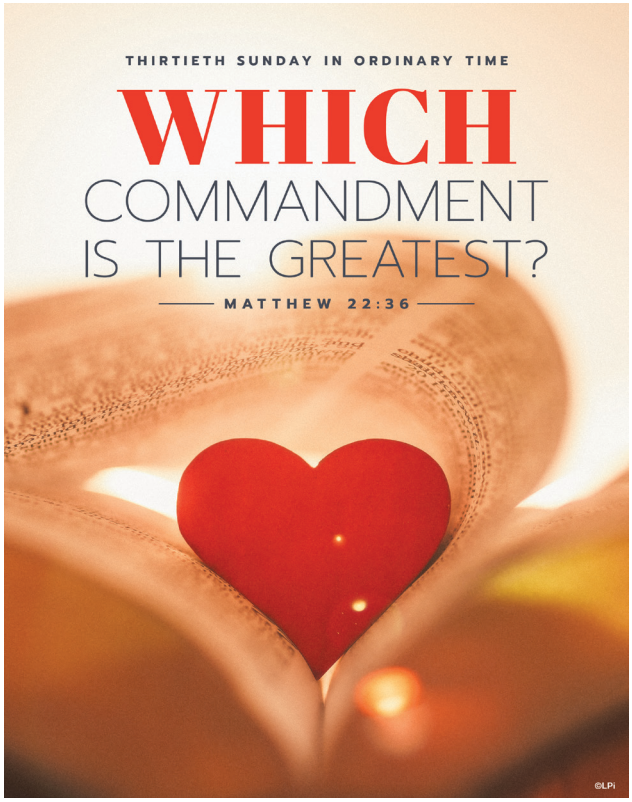
Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It happens every year. We lose daylight, we lose leaves off the trees, and it starts to get cold. The changing of the seasons in theory should only happen four times a year, but for us Minnesotans we know we can be blessed with dozens of "season shifts" throughout the year. But rather than complaining, most of us accept these changes because we know that good also comes with the change. When we look at a brown tree, rather than being sad, we can think of how excited we are to get out on the lake for ice fishing, or out on the ski-trail, or to cozy up next to the fireplace with hot chocolate and a book. With change comes loss, but good also comes. Jesus says:

Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (John 12:24, NABRE)

Throughout our lives, we face many changes; much more than those of the seasons. We go through different "seasons" of life. Childhood, young adult, married, parenthood, empty-nesters, grandparents, retired, widowed, etc. And even within these we experience other significant changes such as our career, where we live, an illness or disease, or the loss of a loved one. With change, there is always loss. If we begin something new, something old must be given up. Sometimes change is forced upon us; sometimes we would rather choose something else. However, Jesus in the Gospel of John reminds us that change is sometimes necessary, and that it sometimes requires a loss, and we should take great consolation in this.

We must accept change in order to receive the good that God wants to bring about through it. But this is just plain hard sometimes. How can we better navigate change? I suggest focusing on our Gospel from this weekend can help us navigate



change. Love. We are given the great commandment to love God and our neighbor. In times of change, focusing on the call to love can help us to prosper through it. Rather than focusing on the loss or the suffering that comes with change, let us focus on how we can love others during it. As things come to an end, new opportunities to live out our calling to love will emerge...ones that were not available prior. Let us live change through love.

Peace and Blessings,
Father Dan Ruprecht



JPIC "About Life"
(Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation)
NOVEMBER 3, ELECTION DAY IN OUR COUNTRY.
"Voting is a sacred right that we are called to be faithful citizens to help shape the moral character of society and the democratic powers that cannot be taken away from us." (Bishops of Iowa) We just have to keep reminding people to vote. A significant percentage of American citizens who can vote, don't vote. Remember that behind every issue, whether it's immigration, war, poverty, the environment, there are human beings created and loved by God, our fellow citizens on this one planet, EARTH.
Voting has never been more important than it is today.
Blessed Mother, patroness of the United States, pray for us.
TO STUDY YOUR BALLOT GO TO: Office of MN Secretary of State.

MISSION QUILTING, OCT. 26
Mission Quilting on Monday, **October 26,** has been cancelled because of a funeral. For future events, no sewing experience needed - we will teach you how to tie a square knot. Questions call Joyce (320-219-0055) or Gwen (218-791-3768).

"WINE" GROUP, OCT. 26
Meet in the Great Hall of The Church of St. Mary after the 5:30 pm Mass on Monday, October 26, for WINE Group. (Women in the New Evangelization). This month's topic is "Bound by Love: One Mystical Body in Heaven, Earth, and Purgatory". This group meets on the 4th Friday of each month. All Catholic women are invited.

"WHY WE ARE PRO-LIFE" TALK, OCT. 28
An MCCL speaker is scheduled for **October 28**. All parishioners are invited to join our Faith Formation students to learn, think and speak with charity about this important topic. The talk will take place in the sanctuary at The Church of St. Mary at 7:15 pm.

ALL SAINTS DAY CELEBRATION, OCT. 28
On Wednesday, **October 28,** from 6:30 - 8:00 pm come to St. Nick's dressed as your favorite saint. Enjoy saint-themed games and activities. Win treats and enjoy light snacks. All are welcome.

A HISTORY OF THE BIBLE IN MANUSCRIPTS, OCT. 29
How did the Bible travel from the ancient world into our hands today? On Thurs., **October 29,** from 6:30-8:30 pm, John C. Solheid, PhD Adjunct Professor of Patristics and Theology at St. Augustine's Seminar, will trace the history of the Bible through its manuscripts. He'll cover from the Septuagint and the earliest Christian Bibles to the medieval manuscript tradition, the printing press, and modern critical editions. John's presentation will be held in the Great Hall at St. Mary's.

KC BREAKFAST AT ICC, NOV. 1
Knights of Columbus breakfast after the 10:30 Mass on **Sunday, November 1**, at Immaculate Conception. Menu includes pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, caramel rolls, coffee, juice, and milk. Free will offering will help support "Options for Women." Come for good food and fellowship!

KC MISSION BREAKFAST, NOV. 8
The annual Knights of Columbus Mission Breakfast will be held on **November 8** at St. Mary's. All proceeds go to selected missions who are working hard to spread the message of Jesus to people around the world. Last year we were able to send over $2,000 to five different groups. We need your help to continue to support these dedicated missionaries.

ALL SOULS/OFFICE OF THE DEAD AT ST. NICK'S, NOV. 2
Directly following the 7:00 pm All Souls Mass on Monday, **November 2,** at St. Nick's, there will be prayers for the Office of the Dead in the cemetery. Incense will be used.

ST. GIANNA'S APOSTOLATE, NOV. 12
A monthly event for mothers each second Thursday of the month in the Great Hall, following the 5:30 pm Mass. Come when you can! Socializing & Refreshments start at 6:30 pm, Fr. Matthew gives a talk at 7:00 pm ("*Advent: Prepping our hearts & homes for Christ*"), ending with Adoration & Reconciliation at 7:30 pm.

"SOLES4SOULS" COLLECTION BOXES
The Faith Formation students at St. Mary's have once again partnered with the Alexandria Evening Lions to collect shoes for people all over the world. Donated shoes to Soles4Souls are repurposed and used to create new shoes that are distributed to children in 127 countries and all 50 states. Drop off your new or used shoes, boots or sandals at the drop boxes in the Commons Area or the St. Mary's School entryway through **November 20**. To learn more about the Soles4Souls program, visit www.soles4souls.org.

THANKSGIVING POTLUCK AT ICC, NOV. 15
There will be a Thanksgiving Potluck at ICC on Sunday, **November 15.** More details to come.

Announcements

Bulletin submissions due by Tuesday at noon.
Please send submissions to jkorkowski@stmaryalexandria.org.

THEOLOGY ON DRAFT, NOV. 3

Join engaging speaker Lexi Torres for Theology on Draft in the Isabelle Room at The Alexandria Hotel and Conference Center (formerly Holiday Inn) Tuesday, **November 3,** from 6:30-8:30 pm. The evening is titled "Beyond Comparison: Who You Are Before the World Tells You". For young adults (ages 21-39).

THANKSGIVING DINNER AT ST. MARY'S, NOV. 26-

With the help of various faith communities in Alexandria, and Fat Daddy's Bar & Grill, St. Mary's is again hosting a free Thanksgiving Dinner on **November 26** from 11:30 am - 1:00 pm in the St. Mary's School gym. This meal is for those who would otherwise be alone or for those who would like to share a meal with other members of our community.

For the homebound, we offer meal delivery (1-2 meals per household). Please call Julie Kirscht at 320-766-1321 after **October 25**. Deadline is **November 18** to order delivered meals.

Volunteers wanting to help with set up, prepping, serving the meal, or cleanup, please contact Grace Lambert at 618-292-0506 or email gracehlambert@yahoo.com. Help is also needed **Nov. 22-25** in case you are unable to help on Thanksgiving Day. (More about pies next week!)

BREAKING BREAD, SATURDAYS

Meet in the Commons Area at The Church of St. Mary after 5:00 pm Mass to enjoy a meal with other parishioners. It's called "Breaking Bread." This is an informal gathering of people who mutually decide on a restaurant and then simply dine and chat with others in our faith. Meet by the sofas each Saturday.

ALL THINGS NEWS INFORMATION

As we continue along with changes throughout the Diocese, it's important to have accurate information. If you have any questions, please ask one of the members of the All Things New committee, listed below. We are meeting monthly and receive all of the latest updates from the Diocese:

Tonya Beulke, Mike Helwig, Joe Korkowski, Fr. Matthew Kuhn, Francie Peterson, Ellyn Ponicki, Sharon Marthaler, Fr. Dan Ruprecht, Josh Waltzing and Todd Wentworth.

You are always encouraged to go to the Diocese website via this QR Code as well.

Baptisms

Grace Elizabeth Anderson
Child of
Blake & Emma Anderson

Brexton Terance Waldorf
Child of
Zach and Cassie Waldorf

Easton Lee Petron
Child of
Jordan and Chelsey Petron

Sympathy

Gretchen Boesen

Geneva Roers

PRAYER REQUESTS

All names submitted for the prayer list will be found on a paper copy at the hospitality desk OR by scanning the QR code. New prayer requests will be listed in the bulletin for 4 weeks, then added to the paper copy and the QR code. All names will remain on the list until there is a request to be removed. Please continue to pray for all of those who have asked for prayers.

If you have a person you would like to lift up in prayer, contact the Pastoral Care Coordinator, Patty Marriott
320-762-2320
PastoralCare@stmaryalexandria.org

FIND THE FULL LIST ---->

New to the prayer list:

Curt Determan
Mariah Determan
Conchita Larion
Ruth Pletcher
Steve Michel
Rustin Roper

CONFIDENTIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

Please contact any of the following for prayer requests that will remain confidential and will not be published in the bulletin:

ST. MARY'S
Karla Lovaasen at 701-899-0193 or krl.quiltlady@gmail.com

ST. NICHOLAS
Anita at 320-852-7792

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
Rose Julig at 320-859-4170 or 320-808-0365

Events/Weekly Announcements

SEEK 2027, OCT. 28 *REGISTRATION DEADLINE*
Register now to get your spot at the SEEK 27 conference for young adults age 18-39 in San Antonio, TX, December 31 - January 5. This year's theme is "Ever Ancient, Ever New (He is waiting)". **Register by October 28**.

DEER HUNTERS' MASS - ST. NICK'S, NOV. 7
On the first weekend of the Minnesota firearm deer season, St. Nicholas will not be having their first Saturday Mass, but will instead have a Saturday evening Mass at 8:00 pm. Have a safe hunting season as well as safe travels.

SERVICE OF REMEMBERANCE, NOV. 8
Please join us for our annual Service of Remembrance which will take place on Sunday, November 8, at 4:30 pm at St. Mary's. This is a beautiful service to honor and remember all those who have died from St. Mary's, Immaculate Conception and St. Nicholas churches this past year. We invite you to bring a picture of your loved one to place on the table for the service. There will be refreshments after the service in the Great Hall.

HEAL THE WHOLE PERSON, DEC. 4-6
Join us for the 3-day retreat at Mount Carmel in Alexandria, December 4-6. This teaching, presented in video format by Dr Bob Schuchts & Sr Miriam James Heidland, is for anyone desiring wholeness, freedom and an encounter with a loving Creator. If you are looking for a deeper understanding of God's love and the healing of your own story, you'll fit right in. Option to stay on-site at Mount Carmel (Alexandria, MN) or commute.
Please note: This is a licensed video series used with the permission of the JPII Healing Center.
Early bird pricing through Nov. 22.

HEALING PRAYER
Come and experience the healing power of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and prayer. Those in need of physical, spiritual, or emotional healing are invited to meet in the Adoration Chapel at St. Mary's Thursdays and Saturdays after Mass, and the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month at 4 pm. For November the Sunday dates will be **November 15** and **November 29** due to conflicts.

DIVINE MERCY HOUR
Please join us Mondays from 3–4 pm in The Church of St. Mary Chapel. Contact Barb Nei at 320-846-0022 for more info.

THE ST. ELIZABETH ADORATION CHAPEL - ICC
Adoration hours are from 10 am to 6 pm every Friday. If interested in spending 1 hour with Our Lord, call the church at 320-859-2390.

PRAY THE ROSARY BY PHONE
Daily at 8 am, dial 667-770-1484, enter access code 653790#. Announce your name if you wish. Sponsored by Free Conference Call H.D. Contact Judy 320-333-9892 or Diane 320-766-7036 if you have questions.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Please prayerfully consider spending one hour with our Lord each week.
The hours most in need of adoration commitments are:
*Mondays: 4 pm (Most urgent need)
*Tuesdays: 12 pm (noon)
*Thursdays: 5-5:30 pm (until Mass)
*Fridays: 11 am.
Use the QR code or call Emily Odland at 320-815-8517 to sign up. You can view the whole schedule on the website, and all hours are available for commitments.

BIBLE STUDIES - ST. MARY'S

-Tuesday evenings - from 6:30–7:30 pm. Study the upcoming Sunday readings via Zoom. Contact Mike Sponsler at sponslermc@gmail.com
-Wednesday Mornings
For any man, single or married, young or old, looking for discussions over a cup of coffee. Meet on Wednesday from 6:00-7:00 am at Common Grounds Coffee House. Contact Michael at michaelghuss@gmail.com for details.
-Wednesday afternoons—Men gather at 2:30 pm in the St. Mary's Commons Area. Contact Russ Craigmile at rjcraigmile@gmail.com
-Thursday Mornings -Men gather at 6:30 am in the Great Hall. Contact craighamilton55@gmail.com .

PENS & PALS, NOV. 10
Because of elections the next Pens & Pals will take place on Tuesday, November 10, at 5:00 pm in the Great Hall. Take part in this ministry to love and serve persons in our community with disabilities in a social setting through a shared supper and table top activities.

Youth Faith Formation

Get more info on the Faith Formation tab of the website.

LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS, OCT. 26

Middle School youth in grades 6-8 come to the St. Mary's Gym on Monday, October 26, from 6:00 to 7:15 pm. The topic is finding "Light in the Darkness".

COME TO THE WATER ACC YOUTH MINISTRY LEADERSHIP (GR 9-12)

The purpose of the Come to the Water ACC Youth Leadership group is to provide valuable input, and to help plan and assist in the implementation of ACC sponsored youth ministry events. We will meet once a month for 2-3 hours on the 2nd Sunday after Mass either in Alex, Osakis or Belle River. Details on church website, this QR Code, or contact Cassie with questions. Call 320-460-5325 / text 320-808-9599.

NET MINISTRIES LIFELINE, NOV. 7

Praise and worship, Mass and adoration. Hear a message from Maggie Craig during the Lifeline event on Saturday, November 7, from 6:00 - 9:30 pm. Sign up and learn details through this QR Code.

IGNITE KIDS, NOV. 9

Join other 4th and 5th grade students in the St. Mary's School gym on Monday, Nov. 9 from 6-7 pm. Learn about "Gratitude that Changes Me."

FASTFOOD FRIENDSGIVING, NOV. 15

WyldLife will hold a fun Fastfood Friendsgiving celebration on Sunday, November 15, at 5:07 pm at the Alexandria YMCA.

REGISTER NOW FOR AAYL WYLDLIFE CAMP, NOV. 20-22

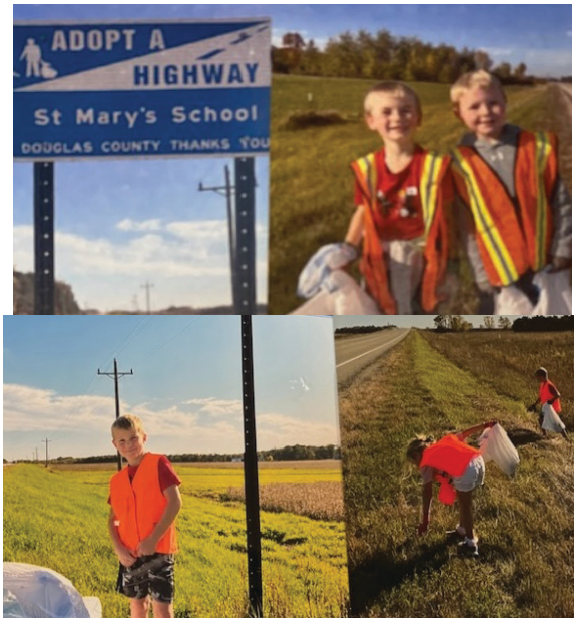
Enjoy this AAYL Wyldlife Camp on November 20-22 at the Castaway Camp near Detroit Lakes. This trip is for Grade 6-8 students. Sign up by scanning the code. Cost is $140.

EXTREME FAITH CAMP, SUMMER 2027

Kids in grades 5–12 are invited to join us for Extreme Faith Camp in Trego, WI this upcoming summer. Spend a week immersed in high-adventure activities, meaningful prayer, and friendships that help you grow closer to God. Fundraising is available. Contact Cassie with questions 320-460-5325 or youthminister@stmaryalexandria.org.

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As part of our Marathon of Service this month, our Parent Advisory Council organized an Adopt-a-Highway cleanup along County Road 17 (the road to Villard). More than 30 students and parents took part in this community service event, a wonderful example of teamwork and stewardship





SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

October 30 – SMS Costume Parade

November 6 - No School

ST. MARY'S CALENDAR RAFFLE WINNERS		
10/18	Jan Breun, Alexandria	$35
10/19	Scott Hieb, Farwell	$20
10/20	Donna Orbeck, Eden Valley	$20
10/21	Jackie Stifter, Alexandria	$20
10/22	Lesley Donahue, Alexandria	$20
10/23	Andria Belisle, Becker	$20
10/24	Kathy Willemssen, Prior Lake	$20

Mass Schedules and Intentions

St. Nicholas Catholic Church of Belle River

9473 County Road 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319

10/28	Wednesday	8:30 am	
10/31	Saturday	~~9:00 am~~	No Mass
11/1	Sunday	8:30 am	For the People of the Parishes **Incense will be used*

Immaculate Conception Catholic Church of Osakis

306 W. Oak St., P.O. Box F, Osakis, MN 56360

10/27	Tuesday	10:00 am	@ Galeon
10/30	Friday	8:30 am	
10/31	Saturday	4:00 pm	
11/1	Sunday	10:30 am	† Richard Daas

The Church of St. Mary

420 Irving Street, Alexandria, MN 56308

10/26	Monday	5:30 pm	† † Carl & Paul Roers
10/27	Tuesday	8:30 am	† Dave Lenarz
10/28	Wednesday	8:30 am 1:30 pm	† Gary Tandberg @ Edgewood Vista
10/29	Thursday	1:30 pm 5:30 pm	@ Nelson Gables *(Caregivers of N. Gables)* † Dorothy Kuzniar
10/30	Friday	8:30 am	Int. of Breun's 60th Wed. Anniversary
10/31	Saturday	5:00 pm	For the People of the Parishes
11/1	Sunday	8:00 am 10:00 am	† Michael Murphy † Mark Jennissen

Sacraments

RECONCILIATION	BAPTISM	MARRIAGE PREPARATION	ANOINTING OF THE SICK	ALL OTHER SACRAMENTS
St. Nicholas Sundays at 7:45 am **Immaculate Conception** Fridays at 9:15 am Saturdays at 3 pm **The Church of St. Mary** Blessed Sacrament Chapel Mondays 4:30-5:15 pm Fridays 4-5 pm Saturdays 3–4:30 pm	All parents must take the Baptism Preparation Course. Call Brenda Becker at 320-763-9202 to sign up and to schedule a baptism date.	Members of the parish (or children of members) must arrange for marriage at least six months in advance. Contact your parish office for more information.	After 8 am Mass on the First Sunday of the month at The Church of St. Mary	Please contact your parish office.

St. Nicholas
Catholic Church of Belle River

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
CATHOLIC CHURCH of OSAKIS

The Church of St. Mary

9473 Co. Rd. 3 NE, Carlos, MN 56319
320-859-2390
stnickbelleriver@gmail.com
stnicholasbelleriver.org

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320-859-2390
office@icosakis.org | icosakis.org

420 Irving St., Alexandria, MN 56308
320-763-5781
stmary@stmaryalexandria.org
stmaryalexandria.org

CONTACT INFORMATION

Father Matthew Kuhn, Pastor .....father@stmaryalexandria.org 320-460-5335, emergencies 320-815-1230
Father Dan Ruprecht, Parochial Vicar..... frdan@stmaryalexandria.org 320-460-5332, emergencies 320-815-1230
Tony Pasko, Deacon (retired).....thadeac@aol.com
Todd Wentworth, Business Administrator.....twentworth@stmaryalexandria.org..... 320-460-5333
Joe Korkowski, Director of Communications.....jkorkowski@stmaryalexandria.org 320-460-5336
Tammy Huss, Director of Faith Formation.....thuss@stmaryalexandria.org 320-460-5324
Cassie Klimek, Youth & Young Adult Minister.....YouthMinister@stmaryalexandria.org 320-460-5325
Troy Sladek, School Principal.....tsladek@stmaryalexandria.org 320-460-5327
Parker Olson, Director of Liturgy and Music.....polson@stmaryalexandria.org.....320-460-5339
Patty Marriott, Pastoral Care Coordinator.....PastoralCare@stmaryalexandria.org 320-762-2320

Faith Formation, Grades 1–12
Tonya Beulke 320-815-3162
roytonya@gmail.com

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Veronica Haavig 320-491-2132

Family Formation, Grades K–6
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Carrie Drevlow 320-491-7676
familyformation@icosakis.org

Faith Formation, Grades 7-11
Sharon Marthaler 320-859-2390
office@icosakis.org

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Bev Paul.....320-815-2352

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Erin Takle.....320-460-5337

Coordinator of Family & Youth Formation
Jodi Vanderheiden..... 320-460-5323

Cemetery Sexton
Jan Anderson.....320-808-1536

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Sandy Wussow..... 320-760-0369

GIVING

GIFTS OF GRATITUDE

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR OCT 18	
Envelope	$2,440
Electronic	245
Other	377
TOTAL	**$3,062**

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	$3,062
Budget	3,733
Variance	**$(671)**

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	$54,875
Budget	59,728
Variance	**$(4,853)**

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR OCT 18	
Envelope	$2,270
Electronic	725
Other	372
TOTAL	**$3,367**

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	$3,367
Budget	5,300
Variance	**$(1,933)**

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	$71,910
Budget	84,800
Variance	**$(12,890)**

WEEKLY OFFERINGS FOR OCT 18	
Envelope	$15,267
Electronic	17,094
Other	2,453
TOTAL	**$34,814**

WEEKLY BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	$34,814
Budget	50,900
Variance	**$(16,086)**

YTD BUDGET PROGRESS	
Actual	$737,078
Budget	702,009
Variance	**$35,069**

The fiscal year runs from July 1 thru June 30. Detailed financial reports may be viewed at each parish office.

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