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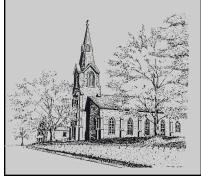
Like us on Facebook "St. Joseph Vanderburgh County"

WEEKEND MASS
SCHEDULE
Saturday—5 PM
Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM
SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILATION
SATURDAY 4-4:30 PM

PARISH OFFICE
6202 W. Saint Joseph Road
Evansville, IN 47720
SCHOOL
6130 W. Saint Joseph Road
Evansville IN 47720

Parish Office: (812) 963-3273 School: (812) 963-3335 School Fax: (812) 963-3335 Prayer Requests: (812) 963-3149

Parish Staff Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor E-mail qschroeder@evdio.org Julie Kempf—Secretary E-mail jkempf@evdio.org Kristan Gilles **Director of Liturgy** E-mail kgilles@evdio.org Jessica Reckelhoff Coordinator of **Religious Education** E-mail ireckelhoff@evdio.org Nathan Winstead—Principal E-mail nwinstead@evdio.org Mary Gries—School Secretary E-mail mgries@evdio.org



JANUARY 1, 2023 SOLEMNITY OF MARY MOTHER OF GOD

Dear friends,

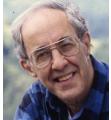


And so we begin another year. I'm at the point in my life when I know that I have had more years behind me than I am going to have in the future. While I have no sense of impending doom, this does makes me more aware of just how I want to spend whatever time I have left. This week I came across again these words of Fr. Henri Nouwen. If I was in the habit of making a New year's Resolution, I don't think I could do better than to try to live up to the the spirit expressed in these words.

As I grow older, I discover more and more that the greatest gift I have to offer is my own joy of living, my own inner peace, my own silence and solitude, my own

sense of well-being. When I ask myself, "Who helps me the most?" I must answer, "The one who is willing to share his or her life with me."

If you dare to believe that you are beloved before you are born, you may suddenly realize that your life is very, very special. You become conscious that you were sent here just for a short time, for twenty, forty, or eighty years, to discover and believe that you are a beloved child of God. The length of time doesn't matter. You are sent into this world to believe in yourself as God's chosen one and then to help your brothers and sisters know that they are also Beloved Sons and Daughters of God who belong together. You're sent into this world to be a people



of reconciliation. You are sent to heal, to break down the walls between you and your neighbors, locally, nationally, and globally. Before all distinctions, the separations, and the walls built on foundations of fear, there was a unity in the mind and heart of God. Out of that unity, you are sent into this world for a little while to claim that you and every other human being belongs to the same God of Love who lives from eternity to eternity.

The more I think about the human suffering in our world and my desire to offer a healing response, the more I realize how crucial it is not to allow myself to become paralyzed by feelings of impotence and guilt. More important than ever is to be very faithful to my vocation to do well the few things I am called to do and hold on to the joy and peace they bring me. I must resist the temptation to let the forces of darkness pull me into despair and make me one more of their many victims. I have to keep my eyes fixed on Jesus and on those who followed him and trust that I will know how to live out my mission to be a sign of hope in this world.

It is remarkable how easy it is to bless others, to speak good things to and about them, to call forth their beauty and truth, when you yourself are in touch with your own blessedness. The blessed one always blesses. And people want to be blessed! No one is brought to life through curses, gossip, accusations, or blaming. There is so much taking place around us all the time. And it calls forth only darkness, destruction, and death. As the "blessed ones," we can walk through this world and offer blessings. It doesn't require much effort. It flows naturally from our hearts. When we hear within ourselves the voice calling us by name and blessing us, the darkness no longer distracts us. The voice that calls us the Beloved will give us words to bless others and reveal to them that they are no less blessed than we.

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A few thank you's you are in order. Thanks to **Jodi Fehrenbacher** who also helped with the church decorations. Special thanks to **Bob and Peter Fehrenbacher and Ryan Niemeier** for clearing the sidewalks and parking lot. You get extra graces for doing all that work in the cold weather!

You may have noticed the new doors that were installed at the front entrance of the church. Keith Fehrenbacher and crew from Fehrenbacher Wood Specialties crafted and

installed them last week. They are just the latest display of great craftsmanship of our parishioners that can be found throughout our church.

Thanks to all of you who have responded so generously to our CPC campaign this year. We've reached 99% of our goal with only \$1,700 to go to reach our goal. Thanks as well to all those who have contributed to our Haiti Gifts of Compassion Campaign. And thanks to those who purchased lottery tickets again this year. There is still time to get your name in the pot!

Thanks to all those who have honored me my giving money for food for our friends in Haiti. Finally a word of thanks to all those who have blessed me with cards, gifts, well wishes, cookies, chicken noodle soup, deer salami, quiche, cinnamon rolls, chocolates of all types and sizes, and all amazingly without any calories. Who could ask for more? I am truly blessed!

Leaning into the journey of life, Fr. Gene Schroeder

THE FUTURE

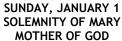
For God's sake, be done with this jabber of "a better world." What blasphemy! No "futuristic" twit or child thereof ever in embodied light will see a better world than this, though they foretell inevitably a worse. Do something! Go cut the weeds beside the oblivious road. Pick up the cans and bottles, old tires, and dead predictions. No future can be stuffed into this presence except by being dead. The day is clear and bright, and overhead the sun not yet half finished with his daily praise.

-Wendell Berry

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 31
SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF
GOD

5:00 PM MASS: Joann Schoenstein, Leo Gumbel, Lawrence & Nancy Gumbel, Tom & Joann Muensterman, Jack, Jean & Nick Lannert, Elisabeth Comings (1880), Olivia (1994) & Leo Schapker, Stephanie Hillmam (2017), Bob Straub (2018)



8:00 AM MASS: Robert & Margie Harpenau, Dean Trowbridge, Mary Schell, Cyril & Wilma Ubelhor, Guy Smyth, Dave Tieken, Jerry & Ann Seng

10:30 AM MASS: Steven Koch, Pat Koch, Leo & Berta Waninger, Dick & Mary Ann Klausmeier, Don & Charlotte Titzer, Leroy & Marilyn Jochum, Anna Herrmann (1872) Francis Wolf 1874) Adam Wolf (1895) Mary Effinger (1919) Barbara Hoefling (1924)

MONDAY, JANUARY 2 BASIL THE GREAT, GREGORY NAZIANZEN

6:30 PM MASS: Victims of war in Ukraine, Catharina Weiss (1929) Susanna Schneider (1930) Peter Schenk (1944), Mary Hoefling (1967)

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Victims of Famine in Ethiopia, Catherine Hillenbrand (1963) Frank Voekler (1968) Blanche Rives (1978), Clara (1998) & Clarence Baumgart, Dorothy (2015) & Francis Hillenbrand, Verena (2019) & Gus Bender

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4 ELIZABETH ANN SETON

7:30 AM MASS: Deceased members of the Daughters of Charity, Adolphus Fahrney (1902) Louise Macke (1953)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5 BISHOP JOHN NEUMAN

NO MASS: Barthel Bender (1914) Alfred Kibby (1981) Katherine Quinlin (1984), Sr. Conradine Will O.S.F. (2002), Keith Stewart (2017), Talmedge (2018) & Rita Wells, Larry (2020) & Donna Alsop

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6 CHRISTMAS WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS; Cyrilla Recker, Elisabeth (1871) Christina Benendes (1955)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 7 THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5:00 PM MASS: Bettye & Boobie Maurer, Rose Loehrlein, Ritz Ziliak, Kenny Mauer, Delores & Merl Hoefling, Cheryl Gries, Beth Ann Hoefling, Ron Happe, John Buchart (1880) Rosina Buchart (1880) Friedric Roeleke (1892), Joseph Ritter (1960), Sylvester Schnepper (1967), Viola (2012)

& Francis Englert

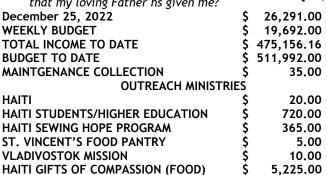
SUNDAY, JANUARY 8
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
8:00 AM MASS: Joe James,
Carol Linz, Gerald Drone,
Darren Drone, Kenny Jarvis,
Laymon, Judith, & Barry Jarvis,
Teresa Francis, Bud 7
Sharon Werner

10:30 AM MASS: Alvina & Florian Schenk, Herman Schneider, Catharine Kissel (1887), Bettye (2008) & Boobie Maurer



Today's second reading reminds us that through Christ we have been delivered from the law and become daughters and sons of God. New Year's Day provides a perfect opportunity to ask ourselves the question:

Does my life reflect my gratitude for all that my loving Father hs given me?



May we continue to be blessed by your faithful financial support to our parish and to our outreach ministries. Remember that you can SEND YOUR COLLECTION THROUGH THE MAIL:

St. Joseph Church 6202 W. St. Joseph Rd. Evansville, IN 47720

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOMES

HERITAGE CENTER: Brenda Koester, Mary Lou Davis
PREMIER NURSING CENTER (NEW HARMONY) Betty Fischer
THE RETREAT AT LIESURE LIVING: Margaret Kafel

CYPRUS REHABILITATION CENTER (NEWBURGH): Steve Hasselbrinck

NORTH PARK NURSING CENTER: Marie Gumbel, Carl Kempf

GOOD SAMARTIAN: Doris Head BETHEL REHAB AND NURSING CENTER: Willie Nieten

NORTH RIVER: Randy Appler

JANUARY 1: Bobby Mossberger, Becket Tenbarge

JANUARY 2: Becky Raben

JANUARY 3: Pluma Hillenbrand, Ella Paul,

Carolyn Wargel

JANUARY 4: Clara Baylor, Alan Blankenberger,

Haley Elpers, Delores Strupp, Amy Tenbarge

JANUARY 5: Joe Happe, Ethan Kissel, Tyler Weinzapfel JANUARY 6: Clay Allison, Logan Daugherty, Brian Elpers,

Max Laymon, Quinn Laymon, Ruby Miller,

Charloltte Schlichting, Jenna Waugh

JANUARY 7: Mark Duncan, Nathan Egler,

Keith Fehrenbacher, Dustin Paul

JANUARY 1: Charles & Monica Voelker,

Joe & Karla Deweese
JANUARY 3: Jordan & Kelly Wilkinson

JANUARY 4: Bryan & Angie Will

JANUARY 6: Todd & Sheri Powers

JANAURY 7: Norb & Madonna Niemeier, Lisa & Ron Schneider

We received these additional Christmas Flower Memorials: The Werner Family, Lee and Dolly Werner, Jeanette Werner, Bud and Sharon Werner, The Swain Family, Lou and Catherine Swain, Kenny Jarvis, The Schweizer Family, Gilbert Schweizer, Robert Schweizer, Brian Schweizer. Let us remember the gift they have been in our lives.



HAPPY

HAPPY

BIRTHDAY



Please remember in your prayers *Carol Linz*, the sister of Terry Drone, and *Kenny Jarvis*, the brother-in-law of Don & Jim Werner who died last week. May God grant them the blessings of a good and holy life and may His peace be with all the members of her family and friends.

POPE FRANCIS URBI & ORBI MESSAGE "TO THE CHURCH AND TO THE WORLD"

Dear brothers and sisters in Rome and throughout the world, happy Christmas!

On this festive day, we turn our gaze to Bethlehem. Jesus is born in our midst; he is *God with us*. He comes to accompany our daily lives, to share with us in all things: our joys and sorrows,

our hopes and fears. He comes as a helpless child. He is born in the cold night, poor among the poor. In need of everything, he knocks at the door of our heart to find warmth and shelter.

Like the shepherds of Bethlehem, surrounded by light, may we set out to see the sign that God has given us. May we overcome our spiritual drowsiness and the shallow holiday glitter that makes us forget the One whose birth we are celebrating. Let us leave behind



the hue and din that deadens our hearts and makes us spend more time in preparing decorations and gifts than in contemplating the great event: the Son of God born for us.

Let us and listen to the first faint cries of the Prince of Peace. For truly Jesus is our peace. By his incarnation, passion, death and resurrection, he has opened the way that leads from a world closed in on itself and oppressed by the dark shadows of enmity and war, to a world that is open and free to live in fraternity and peace. Let us follow that road! Let us divest ourselves of the burdens that weigh us down and block our way.

If we want it to be Christmas, the Birth of Jesus and of peace, let us contemplate the face of the Child who is born for us! And in that small and innocent face, let us see the faces of all those children who, everywhere in the world, long for peace.

Let us also see the faces of our Ukrainian brothers and sisters who are experiencing this Christmas in the dark and cold, far from their homes due to the devastation caused by ten months of war. May the Lord inspire us to offer concrete gestures of solidarity to assist all those who are suffering, and may he enlighten the minds of those who have the power to silence the thunder of weapons and put an immediate end to this senseless war!

On this day, as we sit around a well-spread table, let us remember all those, especially children, who go hungry while huge amounts of food daily go to waste and resources are being spent on weapons. And as we enjoy gathering with our loved ones, let us think of families that experience great hardship and those that, in this time of economic crisis, are struggling as a result of unemployment and lacking in the necessities of life.

Today may we not forget the many displaced persons and refugees who knock at our door in search of some comfort, warmth and food. Let us not forget the marginalized, those living alone, the orphans, the elderly - who are wisdom for their people - who risk being set aside, and prisoners, whom we regard solely for the mistakes they have made and not as our fellow men and women.

Bethlehem shows us the simplicity of God, who reveals himself not to the wise and the intelligent but to the little ones, to those with a pure and open heart. Like the shepherds, let us allow ourselves to be amazed by the unthinkable event of God who becomes one with us. Let us allow ourselves to be deeply moved by the love of God. And let us follow Jesus, who stripped himself of his glory in order to give us a share in his fullness.

CATHOLIC PARISHES CAMPAIGN UPDATE

PARISH GOAL \$125,270.00 PLEDGED TO DATE \$123,51700 NUMBER OF PLEDGES 361 AVERAGE PLEDGE \$ 344.04





We have now reached 99% of our goal! Getting sooooo close! Only 1,753.00 to go! Our stewardship goal is to give 2% of our gross income to the CPC. Thanks to the following people

who have returned their pledge card.

Rodger Duncan

Dave & Becky Richter

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR COMMON EFFORT!



PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT OUR SCHOOL TECHNOLOY FUND

SATURDAY



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Tickets: email jreckelhoff@evdio.org BY JANUARY 28



IT'S TIME TO WRAP UP OUR LOTTERY

SALES FOR THIS YEAR? Thanks to everyone who has purchased a ticket. We have had a few tickets returned to us that have not been sold. Here's your chance to be a lucky winner this year! Call the parish office and we'll deliver the tickets to you!



DECEMBER LOTTERY WINNERS: ST. JOE: \$750:

Connie Gries, \$300: Bruce Woodward, \$200: Rick & Pauline Elpers, \$100: Matt & Jeni Bishop MATER DEI TRADITION: \$10,000: Richard Royalty, \$1,500: Sidney Jost, \$1,000: Jerry Exline, \$500: Ryan & Devon Rogers

THANK YOU....We have received numerous thank you messages from the people who were on the receiving end of the gift of cookies prepared for and delivered by members of the St. Anne Altar Society. They made these efforts on



behalf of our entire parish as a way of reminding our homebound parishioners that they are in our hearts and prayer. Thanks to the Altar Society members for all their efforts.



Each Monday we invite people to come to pray before the Blessed Sacrament from 7 am to 6:30 pm. You can sign up to come for a regular hour each Monday or just come when you can.

We believe in a God of extravagant love who dwells within us, rejoices with us in our blessings and weeps with us in our struggles, losses and sufferings.

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