

ST. JOSEPH

PARISH

Celebrating 181 Years

1841-2022

Vanderburgh County

www.stjoeco.org

A community of joyful, active, faith-filled people who give thanks to God by generously sharing their individual gifts and talents to serve the needs of all.



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"St. Joseph
Vanderburgh County"

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday—5 PM

Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

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E-mail mgries@evdio.org



DECEMBER 17, 2023 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Dear friends,

We call this Sunday, Gaudete Sunday. It is a Latin term which means "rejoice," and echoes the words we hear from Paul's Letter to the Philippians (Phil, 4:4): Rejoice in the Lord always. I saw it again, Rejoice. We symbolize this by lighting the pink colored candle in our Advent wreath.

The call to rejoice may be difficult to hear with so much pain and brokenness in our world. We might even wonder just how a person is supposed to "rejoice" in such a

situation. I've been reading some of diary entries of a young Jewish woman, Etta Hillesum, who lived in Amsterdam in the early 1940's. Like many other Jews of that city, she was rounded up by the German Nazis and sent to the concentration camp in Auschwitz where she was killed in 1943. She was 29 at the time of her death.

Fully aware of the fate that awaited her, she wrote this: *All disasters stem from us. Why is there war? Perhaps because now and then I might be inclined to snap at my neighbor. Because I and my neighbor and everyone else do not have enough love.... Yet there is love bound up inside us, and if we could release it into the world, a little each day, we would be fighting war and everything that comes with it.*

I have looked our destruction, our miserable end which has already begun in so many small ways in our daily life, straight in the eye and accepted it into my life, and my love of life has not been diminished. I am not bitter or rebellious, or in any way discouraged. I continue to grow from day to day, even with the likelihood of destruction staring me in the face. I shall no longer flirt with words, for words merely evoke misunderstandings: I have come to terms with life.... Ultimately, we have just one moral duty: to reclaim large areas of peace in ourselves, more and more peace, and to reflect it towards others. And the more peace there is in us, the more peace there will also be in our troubled world.

If Etta could be this kind of hopeful presence, facing the things that she did, surely we can be signs of joy and hope in our world. Leaning into the journey of life

Fr. Gene Schroeder

P.S. Thanks to all those who came to help clean up the leaves on our parish campus last Tuesday: Paul Stewart, Randy Fehrenbacher, Jim Gries, Danny Gries, Steve Frey, John Maurer, Randy Tenbarger, and Larry Elfreich. (Did we miss anyone?) You sure made quick work of this project and left our campus looking really great.

On the Necessity of Snow Angels for the Well-Being of the World

Wherever there is snow, I go,
making angels along the way
Luckily angels have no gender
and are easier to make
than you might think.

All you have to do is let go,
fall on your back,
look up at the sky as if in prayer.
Move your arms like wings.
Move your legs to make a robe.
Rise carefully so as to do no harm,
and walk away.

All the angels along the path behind you
will sparkle in sunlight, gleam under the stars.
In spring the angels will be invisible
but really they are still there,
their outlines remain on the earth
where you put them,
waiting for you and the snow to return.

Keep walking,
towards the next beautiful thing
you will do. —Grace Butcher



MASS SCHEDULE FOR DECEMBER 23 & 24

Saturday, December 23 5 pm

Sunday December 24 8 am

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE CHRISTMAS EVE

SUNDAY DECEMBER 24

4 PM MASS WITH CHILDREN

9 PM CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY DECEMBER 25 MASS AT 9:00 AM

MASS SCHEDULE FOR
DECEMBER 30-31
Saturday, December 30 5 pm
Sunday, December 31 8 & 10:30 am

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS MONDAY, JANUARY 1 8 AM



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM MASS: Doug Schapker, Bill & Lula Townsend, Lawrence & Elizabeth Luigs, Lisa Zkiliak, Pat & C.J. Sauer, Joseph Schili (1901), Martin (1959) & Matilda Ritter, Jean Johnson (2020)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM MASS: James & Mabel Blythe, Alice Keil, Bill & Marian Elpers, Robert & Margie Harpenau, Dean Trowbridge, Joe & Dolores Elpers, Robert Angermeier, John Reckelhoff, Luke Mehringer, Ali Mehringer, Basil and Marie Mehringer, Dennis Mehringer

10:30 AM MASS: Rose Castrale, Dennis Heathcott, Lisa Ziliak, For the people in our parish, Francisca Goebel (1869), Mary Hovals (1913), August (1935) & Pauline Recker, Felix Preske (1978), Marion (2000) & John Ticken

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

6:30 PM MASS: Bette (2005) & George Duncan, Robert Stevens (2007)



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Betty Englert (1980), Bernie Scheller (2001), Alice Keil (2009)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Anthony Releke (1868), Christina (1994) a& Francis Voelker, Marie Wallenmeyer (1996)



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY
NO MASS: Infant Sebastian (1862)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22
LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Georgium Wolf (1878), Sr. Felicitas OSF (Frances Gumbel, 1887), John Bender (1908), Magdalen (1918) & Donatius Baumgart, James Pauli (1973), Louis (1975) & Theresa Folz (1975), Sylvester Will (1989), Herman Ritter (1989), Carolyn (2014) & Herman Tenhumberg



SATURDAY,
DECEMBER 23
FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT

5:00 PM MASS: Darren Drone, Rick Townsend, Michael Baumgart (1856), Mary (2014) & Gilbert Thompson



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM MASS: For the people in our parish, Infant Schilly (1862), Elisabeth Adler (1872), Maria Helfrich (1878), Nicolaus (1906) & Maria Kissel (1906), Valentine Schilli (1945), John Branstrator (1982), Alma (2018) & Paul Schapker



4:00 PM CHRISTMAS MASS WITH CHILDREN
9:00 PM CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT
Christmas Flower Memorial Names



STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

All of the people in today's readings — the prophet Isaiah, the Virgin Mary, St. Paul, St. John the Baptist — seemed to understand clearly and rejoice in what God was calling them to be and to do. Do I?



December 10, 2023	\$ 10,870.44
December 15, 2023 Auto Debit Collection	\$ 10,996.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 14,650.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 344,586.35
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 351,600.00
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	\$ 15.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	\$ 7.75

Thanks to our young stewards:
Avery Frankenberger & CJ Martin

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI COLLECTION	\$ 702.00
HAITI STUDENTS/HIGHER EDUCATION	\$ 3,384.00
HAITI SEWING PROGRAM	\$ 600.00
HAITI GIFTS OF COMPASSION (TO DATE)	\$ 1,405.00
VLADIVOSTOK MISSION	\$ 125.00
ST. VINCENT'S FOOD PANTRY	\$ 10.00
RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTION	\$ 110.00

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

REBUILDING OUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN

TOTAL PLEDGED	\$802,672
RECEIVED TO DATE	\$462,761

Your monthly packet of collection envelopes now includes a "Rebuilding our Church Campaign" envelope which you can use to make your pledge contributions.

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

HERITAGE CENTER: Brenda Koester, Christine Settle
PREMIER NURSING CENTER (NEW HARMONY) Betty Fischer
THE RETREAT AT LEISURE LIVING: Margaret Kafel
CYPRUS REHABILITATION CENTER (NEWBURGH): Steve Hasselbrinck
NORTH PARK NURSING CENTER: Marie Gumbel, Carl Kempf
ENVIVE HEALTHCARE: Doris Head
RIVER POINTE: Beverly Jones
SOLARBRON TERRACE: Rose Weiss
EVANSVILLE PROTESTANT HOME: Mary Lou Davis
NORTH RIVER HEALTH CAMPUS: Marilyn Mossberger

December 17: Zachary Baehl, Stephanie Freeman, Samantha Gibbs, Joseph Harl, Joshua Hohler

December 18: Patrick McDonald, Chris Scheller

December 19: Samuel Back, Mike Ennis, Alec Freeman, Kaelyn Hughes, Jeffrey Meyer

December 20: Joshua Baehl, Irelyn Brakie, Andrea Jarboe, Rachel Peto, Caroline Voelker

December 21: Ellie Bishop

December 22: Joan David, Braydn Jones

December 23: Reid Grossman, Henrietta Happe, Ellington Rodriguez, Jewel Tenhumberg

December 18: Paul & Chris Schapker

December 20: Rob & Dana Grasso

December 21: Jason & Tricia Gerteisen

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY

Church Calendar

This weekend you can pick up your copy of our yearly calendar. You can find them at the church doors. The calendars have been made available to us through the generosity of Pierre Funeral.

CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL NAMES NEED TO
BE TURNED IN TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY MONDAY

CARING FOR OUR COMMON HOME



In this year of Eucharistic Renewal, we continue reading Pope Francis's teaching letter (encyclical) entitled *Laudato Si'—Caring for Our Common Home*



AN ECOLOGICAL CONVERSION

The great richness of Christian spirituality, generated by twenty centuries of personal and community experiences, constitutes a magnificent contribution to be made in the effort to renew humanity. I wish to propose to Christians some lines of ecological spirituality that arise from the convictions of our faith, because what the Gospel teaches us has consequences on our way of thinking, feeling and living. It is not so much a question of talking about ideas, but above all of the motivations that derive from spirituality in order to feed a passion for caring for the world.

In fact, it will not be possible to engage in great things only with doctrines, without a mysticism that animates us, without "some inner motive that gives impetus, motivates, encourages and gives meaning to personal and community action. We must recognize that we Christians have not always collected and made fruit of the riches that God has given to the Church, where spirituality is not separated from one's own body, nor from nature or from the realities of this world, but rather lives with them and in them, in communion with everything that surrounds us.

If the outer deserts multiply in the world, because the inner deserts have become so wide, the ecological crisis is an appeal to a profound interior conversion. However, we must also recognize that some committed and prayerful Christians, under the pretext of realism and pragmatism, often scoff at environmental concerns. Others are passive, do not make up their minds to change their habits and become inconsistent. They therefore lack an ecological conversion, which involves letting all the consequences of the encounter with Jesus emerge in relations with the world around them. Living the vocation of being custodians of God's work is an essential part of a virtuous existence, it is not something optional and not even a secondary aspect of the Christian experience.



Let us recall the model of St. Francis of Assisi, to propose a healthy relationship with creation as a dimension of the integral conversion of the person. This also requires recognizing one's mistakes, sins, vices or negligence, and repenting from the heart, changing from within. The Bishops of Australia were able to express conversion in terms of reconciliation with creation: "To bring about this reconciliation we must examine our lives and recognize how we offend God's creation with our actions and our inability to act. We have to experience a conversion, a transformation of the heart."

But social problems are answered with community networks, not with the mere sum of individual goods. The needs of this work will be so immense that the possibilities of individual initiatives and the cooperation of individuals, individually trained, will not be able to respond to them. A union of forces and a unity of contributions will be necessary. The ecological conversion that is required to create a dynamism of lasting change is also a community conversion.

TO BE CONTINUED

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CPC)

PARISH GOAL	\$130,270.00
PLEGDED TO DATE	\$121,606.00 94%
NUMBER OF PLEDGES	319 62%
AVERAGE PLEDGE	\$ 381.21

Our stewardship goal is to give 1% of our gross income to the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CPC). Thanks to the following people who have returned their pledge card (partial list):

Tom & Debra Clem	Matt & Missy Singer
Catherine Schneider	Mike & Rosemary McGarran
Adam & Rebekah Nisley	Mark & Laura Duncan
Pat & Lavern Fleck	Mike Collins
Matt Voelker	

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR COMMON EFFORT!



LOOKING FOR A GIFT FOR THOSE "HARD TO BUY PERSONS" THIS CHRISTMAS?



Give the 'GIFT OF FOOD' to our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Gifts ranging in price from \$5-\$100. \$5 could feed one child for a month. \$60 could feed a child for a whole year. \$100 could feed the entire six hundred children in school for a day

Self-service station located in the front of church if you prefer mail order. Deadline December 16, 2022 Questions? Please email Alison Martin at alison@twc.com



Mater Dei is now accepting new student applications for the 2024-25 school year! Go to materdeiwildcats.com and click the link to apply online. Want to schedule a visit to Mater Dei? Contact Jill Seiler at jseiler@evdio.org or 812-426-2258 for info.

IT'S LOTTERY TIME Got Your Ticket?

THE 2024 ST. JOE LOTTERY TICKETS are now available. Cost is \$75. MATER DEI/MEMORIAL TREASURE THE TRADITION LOTTERY TICKETS are also Available. Call Margie Hartman (812-453-6836) or the parish office (812-963-3273). NOVEMBER 2023 ST. JOE LOTTERY WINNERS: \$750—Rachel Schnaus, \$300—St. Joe Haiti Fund, \$200—Sandy Raben, \$100—Dan Ulrich



KEEPING OUR PARISH FINANCIALLY HEALTHY



Remember that there are several ways you can continue to make your weekly contributions.

1. Sending your contribution to us through the mail.
2. You can also make your contribution by setting up an automatic withdrawal from your checking or savings account.

3. If you like the option of donating online, The Diocese of Evansville has launched Online Giving, an enhanced online-giving solution. Please visit evdio.org and click "DONATE NOW" There, you'll find a one-stop, user-friendly giving page with quick point-and-click features enabling you to pledge and give to the CPC and to the Sunday Offertory. Thanks! Fr. Gene Schroeder



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