ST. JOSEPH **PARJSH**

Celebrating 181 Vears 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.



Like us on Facebook "St. Joseph Vanderburgh County"

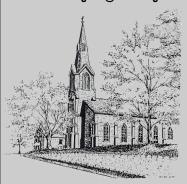
WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE Saturday-5 PM Sunday-8 & 10:30 AM **SACRAMENT OF** RECONCILATION SATURDAY 4-4:30 PM

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

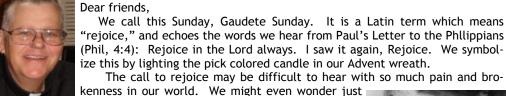
6130 W. Saint Joseph Road Evansville IN 47720

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 gschroeder@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 jreckelhoff@evdio.org Kelsey Meier—Principal E-mail kmeier@evdio.org Mary Gries—School Secretary E-mail mgries@evdio.org



DECEMBER 17, 2023 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

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 Tues-

day: Paul Stewart, Randy Fehrenbacher, Jim Gries, Danny Gries, Steve Frey, John Maurer, Randy Tenbarge, and Larry Elfreich. (Did we miss anyone?) You sure made guick work of this project and left our campus looking really great.

> 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



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



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

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

> **MONDAY. DECEMBER 18** LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

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





TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19 LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

ADONAI 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

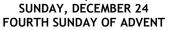


SATURDAY, **DECEMBER 23** FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



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

Gilbert Thompson



8:00 AM MASS: For the people in our parish, Infant Schilly (1862), Elisabeth Adler EMMANUEL (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	Ś	7.75

Thanks to our young stewards: Avery Frankenberger & CJ Martin **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

\$ 702.00
\$ 3,384.00
\$ 600.00
\$ 1,405.00
\$ 125.00
\$ 10.00
\$ 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 Pedo, 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

ANNIVERSARY



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
PLEDGED 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 Catherine Schneider Adam & Rebekah Nisley Pat & Lavern Fleck Matt Voelker Matt & Missy Singer Mike & Rosemary McGarrah Mark & Laura Duncan Mike Collins

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 iseiler@evdio.org or 812-426-2258 for info.

T'S LOTTERY TIM 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 HEALTHLY



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

- 1. Sending your contribution to us H 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 <u>evdio.org</u> 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

IT'S GOOD TO DO BUSINESS WITH OUR ST. JOE ADVERTISERS



(812) 457-5609 TOM GOEDDE Parishioner



CONSTRUCTION BRICK - BLOCK -STONE FIREPLACES - CONSTRUCTION



812-423-6471

Heating or AC Repair

σ ...on our professional heating or AC repair service, This offer may not be combined with any other discounts and does not apply to previous service

812-425-8435

PAUL SCHAPKER BUILDING CONTRACTOR

Custom Homes and Remodeling "Since 1979"

812-963-9112

Have a Great Day!

479-6338 www.bassemiers.com



2345 W FRANKLIN ST 812-425-4364 1150 S GREEN RIVER RD 812-962-3500 3408 N FIRST AVENUE 812-422-8255

Drive-Up Window Perscriptions -- Free Deliver



9500 BIG CYNTHIANA RD EVANSVILLE, IN 47720 812-963-3464



Woody's Septic Service Martin Woodward, Owner We Install New Systems Pump Out and Repair Old Systems Ph. 812-963-8026 or 812-457-0527



ROOFING, INC. COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL ROOFING PROFESSIONALS 812-426-1111

Gene Elper Dexterous

2535 Loucut Creek Dr. Evansville, IN 47720 (812) 422-8046 Fax (812) 422-8047 www.dexterousmold.com

CONTRACTORS

IERRE

Funeral Home

Save \$35



AUTO WHEEL & RIM SERVICE COMPANY, INC.

TRUCK PARTS

812-423-3157

1208-1212 E.ast Morgan Avenue Evansville, IN 47711

FEHRENBACHER CABINETS, INC.

CUSTOM CABINETS & COUNTERTOPS SPECIALTY FINISHES - APPLIANCES

(812) 963-3377 | FCI3.COM

Complete Commercial & Residential Landscaping NURSERY & FARMS INC

812-963-5011 Fax 812-963-5052 14930 Bender Rd Evansville, IN 47720

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY







EXPERT BRAKE SERVICE & MOTOR TUNE UP 1400 W. FRANKLIN 812-424-5000

Freeman, Will, **Niemeier & Heston** Personal and Commercial Insurance 1919 W. Franklin 812 437-3933 **Ethan Freeman Jordan Raben**

TRUCKING - EXCAVATING - FARM Enterprises, uc

81

Pizza and Wings Weekend Specials & Noon Plate Lunches CARRY OUT 812-963-9310



German American Bank

Banking | Insurance | Investments

germanamerican.com f Voin (812)962-2265

JOIN THE Carpenter Society

Remember St. Joseph Parish in your will



1033 Mt. Pleasant Road Evansville, IN 47725 Randy Folz (812) 760-4120

Olsen & White, LLP —Attorneys at Law -

123 Locust Street 812-423-3143

Stranb PHOTOGRAPHY

12820 Cynthiana Rd • Evansville, IN 47720 812.963.5014

www.straubphotography.com



www.drsjohnsandkuester.com Howers & More 812-424-8931



Custom Screen Printing & Embroidering 812-425-5104 2229 W. Franklin St 800-348-0356 Evansville, IN 47712 www.southwestgraphix,com



Residential - Commercial - Industrial 3225 Claremont Avenue - Evansville, IN 47712 Phone 812-424-5077 Fax 812-424-5061





JODI FEHRENBACHER 812,480,8886

FREEMAN, WILL & NIEMEIER, INC **Financial Consultants** 1919 W. Franklin 812-425-1030

Patrick Freeman P. Evan Freeman



donsclaytons.com

TODD NIEMEIER, OD RACHEL REXING OD 2311 W. Franklin Stree Evansville, IN 47712 (812) 425-5131

Professional Eyecare Associates



2701 Mesker Park Dr. Evansville, IN 47720 (812) 464-1086

Mark Messal DVM Jim Back, CFP®

812-777-0071 www.riversidecmg.com

RIVERSIDE

One-Day Bath Remodeling Call as for generations to



Jim Werner-812-550-3138

MARGARET KIMMEL, CFP® Vice President, Investments Financial & Investment Planning 812-471-2318 RAYMOND JAMES

www.raymondjames.com/margaret_kimme





esus is Kev jesusiskey.org

Shari Kempf

6701 Nisbet Station Road (812) 963-9305 Owned by Jim & Becky Harl World's Coldest Beer & Finest Bar-B-Q

GRACE MOTORS

2131 W. Mill Road Evansville, IN 47720 812-454-4624



Chris Moutoux

WOOD SPECIALTIES EHRENBACHEK MOLDINGS - DOORS -STAIRS

8920 HIGHWAY 65 812-963-9414 EVANSVILLE, IN FAX 812-963-8978

REALTOR®
Like a trusted friend... helping you buy or sell your house 812-459-6729

Uebel hor Pastler ON BUICK TOYOT EME DEVROLET ISUZU



to the rescue! 428-COOL

OUTDOOR POWER Toro - Ariens - Gravely - Stihl - Sales & Service www.strauboutdoorpower.com

14101 Highway 65 (812) 963-5024 Evansville, IN 47720 Fax (812) 963-8381

FOR INFORMTION ABOUT ADVERTISING IN OUR BULLETIN CAL .L 812-963-3273