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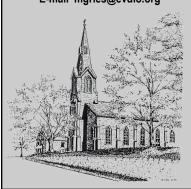
**WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE** Saturday—5 PM Sunday-8 & 10:30 AM **SACRAMENT OF** RECONCILATION SATURDAY 4-4:30 PM

**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 3, 2023 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Dear friends,



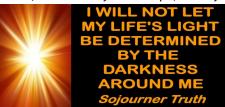
And so once again we begin the season of Advent. We hear familiar words: "stay awake, prepare the way of the Lord." For many people, motivated by very good intentions, Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Of course, this sounds good, even admirable. But what does that mean? Are we somehow preparing for the physical birth of Jesus just as it happened some 2000 years ago? Surely there has to be more to it than just trying to recreate an historical event. If we do not move beyond this notion,

than I fear we risk proclaiming something that seems, at best, sentimentality, and, at worse, another thing that gets dismissed by most people as n iust another example of how the church does not have anything to say of significance to the world.

But, as a church, as people who are trying to be disciples of Jesus, we do have something of great significance to offer to the world. The world is a tough place these days. Much of it is at war: bloodletting flows, systems are collapsing, governments are dysfunctional, the economy serves primarily the rich, institutions are in shambles, poverty runs rampant,



violence is a way of life, disregard for human life prevails, absence of human dignity looms, destruction of the natural world increases, pessimism and powerlessness are evidenced everywhere, the rise of tyrants is ripe, and....you can well continue the litany of lamentations.



Into this world we come to say "stay awake, be prepared, the Lord is present." And how do we do this? We do it by allowing Jesus to be born in our hearts, right here, right now, amidst all the stuff that is happening around us. We proclaim the words we hear in the Gospel of John, "the light came into the world and the darkness did not overcome it." And we hear further that "the darkness

that surrounds us, will lead us to giving testimony." (John 1:5).

So we give testimony. We do it by showing up everyday. We do it by refusing to be led down the road of pessimism and negativity. We do it by facing what is in front of us and not running away from it. How does this happen? I think it happens when we choose to do the next thing in front of us and do it with all the love and patience we can muster. The next thing might just be going to work and trying to be agreeable to all the folks around us, even those that can drive us crazy. It may even be just the courage to say, I am going to go to work even though much of me would rather be anyplace than this. Or it may be going to school and attending another class that doesn't hold much interest for us, or has a teacher that does

not inspire us. It may just be a willingness to do the next household chore-another load of laundry or another meal to fix, or another bathroom to be cleaned.

And the, maybe, there are those rare moments when our simple "hello," or gesture of kindness makes all the difference in another person's life. By acknowledging them and giving witness to all that it is happening in their lives, we are reminding them that they are beloved by God. In simple gestures like this we are reminding them that the light that comes into the world is not overcome by the darkness and so have "prepared the way of the Lord.

Showing up in life and doing the next thing may not seem like a lot, but when those simple acts are done with all the love and patience we can muster, it's effects go for beyond us. Our willingness to engage in this way of being, is the way we bring a little bit of peace and compassion to our world.

We do this most effectively when we let go of the need to be in charge and to want things to work out according to our plans and desire. It's like we are at our best being life for the world when we don't even know that we are doing it. But what a gift we give to the world!

#### PEACE IS THIS MOMENT WITHOUT JUDGEMENT

Do you think that peace requires an end to war? Or tigers eating only vegetables? Does peace require and absence from your boss, your spouse, yourself? Do you think that peace will come from some other place than here? Some other time than now? In some other heart than yours? Peace is this moment without judgment. That is all. This moment in the Heart-space where everything that is, is welcome. Peace is this moment without thinking that it should be some other way, that you should feel some other thing that your life should unfold according to your plans. Peace is this moment without judgment,

this moment in the Heart-space where

everything that is, is welcome

Dorothy Hunt

Leaning into the journey of life Fr. Gene Schroeder

### CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**5:00 PM MASS:** Doug Schapker, Stan Schapker, Elmer & Charlotte Schapker, Maria Ulrich (1859), Maria Baumgart (1876), Anna Eisterhold (1897), Mary Luekenheimer (1921), Mary Clary (1964)



# SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**8:00 AM MASS:** Joe James, Marcellus & Valeria Elpers Family, Ruth Miller, Marcus, Bertha, Henry, Henrietta, Edgar, Brother Lawrence CSC, Francis, and Eugene Miller; Cornelia Beane, Anita Kleinberg

10:30 AM MASS: Tom and Sandy Savage, Donald & Betty Donahue, Patricia & Ray Baldridge, Mary Ann & Bob Sloan, Henry Beckerle (1892), Mildred (2013) & Charles Lewis (2013) For all the people in our parish

# MONDAY, DECEMBER 4 ADVENT WEEKDAY

**6:30 PM MASS:** Peter Wolf (1883), Guilielmus Hillenbrand (1902), Frank Voelker, Sr. (1935), Dennis Will (1957), Donald Will (1957), Joseph (2005) & Anita Rexing (2005)

### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5 ADVENT WEEKDAY

**7:30 AM MASS:** Charles Thompson, Jim, Joe & Delores Cavera, Divd, Robert, & Patrick Cavera, Woody Pittman Infant Hartlein (1864)

## WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6 ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Agatha Effinger (1857), Magdalene & Maria Kissel (1857), Francisca Relleke (1858), Anna Hartlein (1864), Joseph Wangler (1893), Allen Wargel (2005)

#### THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

**6:30 PM MASS:** John Lenges (1878), Regina Becker (1906), John (1945) & Elizabeth Tieken, Barthol Bender (1959), Robert Jochum (2003)

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8

FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7:30 AM MASS: For the students in Haiti

# SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM MASS: For all the people in our parish, Tony & Cecilia Stricker, Walter Reherman (1989), Donald (2003) & Charlotte Titzer (2003)

## SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10 SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM MASS: Aloys & Marie Elpers,

Jeanne, Harry, Rosie, Kenny & Bert Elpers, Jeannette & Orville Hall, Wilma & Joe Gumbel, Jorhdan Woods, Killian & Irene, Peggy Baehl, Christina Jenkins Family

10:30 AM MASS: Leroy & Freddie Weiss, Arnetta Straub, Charlotte Weiss, Florian Schenk, Jr., Elisabeth Stoeckle (1862), Lillian Hillenbrand (1938), Paul (1942) & Maria Kissel, Kenneth Maurer (2013), Cyril (2015) & Wilma UbelhorUbelhor (2015)

### FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION-DECEMBER 8

This coming Friday is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. We will have mass on Thursday evening at 6:30 pm and Friday morning at 7:30 am.



#### STEWARDSHIP: The Lord's Way

We are the servants of God, each with his or her own task. We will be judged good stewards if, at His coming, He finds us ready and conscientiously pursuing the tasks to which we have been called.



r 3	
November 26, 2023	\$ 5,358.00
November 30, 2023	\$ 2,395.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 14,650.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 303,462.91
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 322,300.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	\$ 4.00

Thanks to our young stewards: Beatrice, Peter, Paul,
Bernadette & John Reckelhoff
OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI STUDENTS/HIGHER EDUCATION \$ 2,490.00 ST. VINCENT'S FOOD PANTRY \$ 5.00 CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT \$ 5.00

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 \$448,196

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 3: Ella Cody, Neal Dossett, Zachary Kendle, Frankie Romerhausen, Lawrence Schentrup, Don Weis, Kim Wolfe

December 4: Donna Blankenberger, Peggy Dossett,
Laura Elpers, Anthony Greubel, Eloise Hamner,
Jude Hays, Mary Ruth Lasher, Rachael Schnau

Jude Hays, Mary Ruth Lasher, Rachael Schnaus, Keith Smith

December 5: Ava Clark, Audrie Collins, Bettye Conley, Zach Ondash, Parker Muensterman, Catherine Schmitt, Taylor Vogt, Rose Weiss

December 6: Bryanna Barron, Tyler Collins, Brian Harpenau, Dylan Pfaffmann, Rick Scheller, Liam Stowers

December 7: Bill Cody, Tom Glaser, Becky Jung, Sarah Kissel, Evan Loehrlein, Eugene Schmitt, Sr.

December 8: Karen Angermeier

December 9: Julie Fehrenbacher, Joan Inkenbrandt, Chad Jansen, Ansley Singer, Linda Whelan

December 3: Bob & Leisa Loehrlein

December 4: Alan & Donna Blankenberger

December 5: Mike & Doris Niemeier,

Justin & Lena Greubel

December 6: Pat & Jeanne Freeman



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Please remember in your prayers *Charles Coleman*Thompson, the father of Bishop Thompson and Sandy Savage, one of our former parishioners who died last week. May God grant them eternal rest and may His peace be with their family and friends.

### 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



#### **CIVIL AND POLITICAL LOVE**

Caring for nature is part of a lifestyle that implies the ability to live together and communion. Jesus reminded us that we have God as our common Father and that this makes us brothers. Brotherly love can only be free, it can never be a reward for what another accomplishes, nor an advance for what we hope he will do. This is why it is possible to love enemies. This same gratuitousness leads us to love and accept the wind, the sun or the clouds, although they do not submit to our control. For this we can speak of a universal fraternity.

We need to feel once again that we need each other, that we have a responsibility towards others and towards the world, that it is worthwhile to be good and honest. For too long we have been in moral degradation, making fun of ethics, goodness, faith, honesty, and the time has come to recognize that this cheerful superficiality has been of little use to us. This destruction of every foundation of social life ends up pitting us against each other to defend our interests, provokes the emergence of new forms of violence and cruelty and prevents the development of a true culture of care for the environment.

The example of St. Therese of Lisieux invites us to practice the little way of love, not to miss the opportunity for a kind word, a smile, any small gesture that sows peace and friendship. An integral ecology is also made up of simple daily gestures in which we break the logic of violence, exploitation, selfishness. Conversely, the world of exasperated consumption is at the same time the world of the mistreatment of life in all its forms.



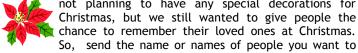
Love, full of small gestures of mutual care, is also civil and political, and is manifested in all actions that seek to build a better world. Love for society and commitment to the common good are an eminent form of charity, which concerns not only relations between individuals, but also macro-relations, social, nomic, political relations.

> For this reason the Church has proposed to the world the ideal of a "civilization of

love". Social love is the key to authentic development: To make society more human, more worthy of the person, it is necessary to re-evaluate love in social life - at the political, economic, cultural level - making it the constant norm and supreme ac-

Social love pushes us to think of great strategies that effectively stop environmental degradation and encourage a culture of care that permeates the whole of society. TO BE CONTINUED

Each year we have invited people CHRISTMAS FLOWER **MEMORIALS** to remember their loved ones at Christmas and use the money from these donations to buy the flowers for Christmas. This year, with all the work that we are doing to rebuild our church, things are a bit different. We are



not planning to have any special decorations for Christmas, but we still wanted to give people the chance to remember their loved ones at Christmas.

remember to the parish office by Dec. 18. The names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin. There is no need to send any money, since we are not buying flowers this year.

#### **CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL (CPC)**

PARISH GOAL \$130,270.00 PLEDGED TO DATE \$117,411.00 91% NUMBER OF PLEDGES 58% 300 \$ 391.37 AVERAGE PLEDGE

Our stewardship goal is to give 1% of our gross income to the Catholic Ministries Appeal (CPC). Thanks to the following people who have

Eric & Lori Jones Nick & Kelsey Austin Don & Connie Coomes Jonathan & Shannon Eickhoff

Theresa Doyle Luke & Brook Spaetti MAKE YOUR PLEDGE TODAY AND SUPPORT OUR COMMON EFFORT!

returned their pledge card (partial list):

#### 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 \$5 could feed one child for a from \$5-\$100. 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



#### **FAMILY POT LUCK and FUN NIGHT**

Come join us for a family pot luck dinner this coming Saturday, December 9 at 6 pm (after the 5 pm Mass). We'll share a meal, play games and pray a Chaplet of Divine Mercy together. Contact Jessica (812-598-1151) or email jreckelhoff@evdio.org. to sign up to attend. Bring your favorite game and your favorite side dish to share.

# 'S LOTTERY TIME THE 2024 ST. JOE MONTHLY LOTTERY

TICKETS are now available. Cost is \$75. THE 2024 MATER DEI/MEMORIAL TREASURE THE TRA-**DITION LOTTERY TICKETS** are also no available. Tickets are \$100. Call Margie Hartman (812-453-6836) or the parish office (812-963-3273) to get your ticket.



#### ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES DEC 13 & 15

As we prepare for Christmas, we will have two Communal Penance Services during the Season of Advent-Wednesday, December 13th at 7:00 pm and Friday, December 15th at 11:00 am.

I will also be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation privately each Saturday from 4-4:45 for those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. If these times are not convenient, please call/text (812.499.9074) and I will make a time available to you that is convenient. Fr. Gene Schroeder

Coming this week .....

Altar Society Christmas Gathering Tuesday, Dec. 5 5:30 pm School Advent Program Tuesday, December 5 at 6 pm Senior Citizens Gathering Friday, December 8 at 1 pm

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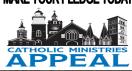
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