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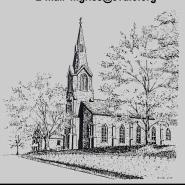
WEEKEND MASS
SCHEDULE
Saturday—5 PM
Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM
SACRAMENT OF
RECONCILATION
SATURDAY 4-4:30 PM

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

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FEBRUARY 26, 2023 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear friends,



Today we hear a familiar story from the Book of Genesis. Adam and Eve are in the Garden of Paradise where God has given them everything. The only thing he asks is that they not eat the fruit of the tree of knowledge. And then along comes the devil and he tempts Eve into eating from the fruit of the tree of knowledge. And she, in turn, tempts Adam to eat the same fruit. And then, bam, God catches them. They try to deny it, but in the end they are thrown out of the Garden of Paradise. More often than not, this story gets interpreted thusly. "If we had listened to God we would be

in Paradise today. But we got seduced by the devil. We sinned and now we have to suffer the consequences of living on this earth hoping that someday we can make it back to Paradise. In the meantime we have to constantly be on the lookout for the devil because he is always out there to tempt us to do wrong.

Now if that is the complete story, then consider these words we hear proclaimed in the Easter Proclamation (The Exultet) on Holy Saturday. "O truly necessary sin of Adam. Oh happy fault that eared so great a redemption." Apparently the sin of Adam and Eve was necessary. Perhaps we needed to thrown out of Paradise because that was the only way we would come to know what it means to be a disciple. Put another way, we have to be challenged in life if we are to grow up in our faith. I read this recently: "The spiritual life does not come cheap. It is not a stroll down a Mary Poppins path with a candy-store God who gives sweets and miracles. It is a walk into the dark with the God who is the light that leads us through darkness.

Jesus put it another way. "If you want to be my disciple then you must first take up your cross and follow after me." Taking up our cross is being willing to show up each day, among the things that are joyous and the things that make no sense at all. And it means be willing to be with these situations so that they can shape and mold us according to God's ways. That doesn't mean that the Christian life is supposed to be all drudgery and pain. Far from it. But it does mean not running away from the things that frighten us and that we would rather not deal with.

In the Book of Wisdom we read: "the souls of the just are in the hands of God and no torment shall touch them. Some people may think they are being punished. Yet they are filled with hope and are greatly blessed because God challenged them much like gold is purified by being burned in fire." (Wisdom 3:1-9)

Jesus always shows us the way to do this. That is why we hear in today's Gospel that "he was led into the desert to be tempted." And he continued to show the disciples what this will mean in their lives. He is constantly inviting them to make their hearts bigger, to keep the focus of their life on serving others.

It is no accident that pain and suffering are the normal means that open us up, helping us grow in our faith. These are the moments when we are "tested in fire." The truth is that most of us want to avoid these situations. We don't want to be led into the desert. But we can't learn without them. The old saying is true: "if it doesn't kill you it will make your stronger. But you're likely to feel pretty awful going through it.

People who can embrace this journey will often say: "I wouldn't wish that experience on anyone, but I am glad I went through it. Without it, I would not be the person I am today.

So maybe that is what we mean we say that Adam had to be pushed out of paradise. And that is why we can call his experience "oh happy fault, oh necessary sin."

Leaning into the journey of life, Fr. Gene Schroeder

In the Book of Wisdom we read: "the **Not The Saddest Thing In the World**

All day I feel some itchiness around the collar, constriction of living. I write the date at the top of a letter; though no one has been writing the year lately, I write the year, seems like a year you should write, huge and round and awful. In between my tasks, I find a dead fledgling, maybe dove, maybe dunno to be honest, too embryonic, too see-through and wee. I don't even mourn him, just all matter-offact-like take the trowel, plant the limp body with a new hosta under the main feeder. Seems like a good place for a close-eyed thing, forever close-eyed, under a green plant in the ground, under the feast up above. Between the ground and the feast is where I live now.

Before I bury him, I snap a photo and beg my brother and my husband to witness this nearly clear body. Once it has been witnessed and buried, I go about my day, which isn't ordinary, exactly, because nothing is ordinary now even when it is ordinary. Now, something's breaking always on the skyline, falling over and over against the ground, sometimes unnoticed, sometimes covered up like sorrow, sometimes buried without even a song.

Ada Limón





CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 PM MASS: Dolores Strupp, Doug Schapker, Stan Schapker, Theresa Schenk, Jeff Schneider, Jack Siemers, Walter & Ardell Schneider, John Helfrich (1862), Eva Reising (1903), Donald Evans (1996), Alexis Gerteisen (2000), Edgar Hartz (2012), Judith Cosgrove (2013)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26 FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM MASS: Phil Lasher, Joe Lasher, Frank Will, Jorhdan Wood, Clarence & Mildred Rexing, Joe & Anita Rexing 10:30 AM MASS: Catharine Kissel (1866), Velma Merrick (1970), Aletha (2018) & Albert Vollman

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27 LENTEN WEEDAY

6:30 PM MASS: Sr. Mary Emma Jochum, OSB, Leroy & Marilyn Jochum, Bubba Jochum, Infant Zuber (1868), Fred Niemeier (1944)

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:30 PM MASS: Bishop David O'Connell, Sophie Scholl, Maria Rexing (1876), Mary Schmitt (1949), Harvey Klenck (2020), Harold & Esther Klenck

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Hargarete Wolf (1900), Anna (1958) & Henry Hillenbrand, Francis & Dorothy Hillenbrand

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 LENTEN WEEKDAY

NO MASS: John December (1878), Anthony Ehrbacher (1886), Irena Foerstel (1890), Anthony Zeggeling (1899), Valentine Schenk (1953), Ruth (2003) & Phillip Duncan

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 SAINT KATHERINE DREXEL

7:30 AM MASS: Elisabeth Frohlinghausen (1865), George Sebastian (1865), Catherine Enlow (1953), Gerald Niemeier (1997) Norm Moutoux (2014)

SATURDAY, MARCH 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

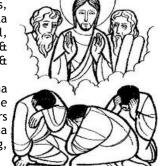
5:00 PM MASS: Leo Gumbel, Lawrence & Nancy Gumbel, Tom & Joann Muensterman, Joseph Gobel (1867), Christian Lunkenheimer (1938)

SUNDAY, MARCH 4 SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM MASS: Harry & Rosalie Elpers, Wilma & Joe Gum-

bel, Orville & Jeannette Hall, Jeanne, Kenneth & Bert Elpers, Alois & Marie Elpers, Ivan & Lila Simon, Killian & Irene Baehl, Peggy Baehl, Alice Keil, Bill & Marian Elpers, Carl, Gertrude, & Charles Elpers

10:30 AM MASS: Berhardina Tepole (1876), Gertrude Klee (1899), Gertrude Elpers (1937), Barthol (1987) and Erma Rexing , Joe & Anita Rexing, Clarence & Mildred Rexing



STEWARDSHIP: The Lord's Way

What temptations lure us from the path of discipleship? Possessions? Pride? Power? Oh Lord create fro us a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within us.



February 19, 2023	\$ 9,756.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 19,692.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 610,406.01
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 669.836.00

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI FOOD \$ 125.00
HAITI SEWING PROGRAM \$ 65.00
ST. VINCENT'S FOOD PANTRY \$ 5.00
EASTERN EUROPEAN COLLECTION \$ 10.00

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:

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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 RIVER POINTE: Keith & Beverly Jones

February 26: Oliva Baumberger, Grant Gillenwater, HAPPY
Austin Williams, Leo Zimmer
February 27: Rick Elliott, Coppie Gries, Brooklyn, BIRTHDAY

February 27: Rick Elliott, Connie Gries, Brooklyn Helmer, Hensley Jarboe, Glenn Lewis, Jim Scheller

February 28: Angie Happe, Norb Niemeier,

Kathy Weber, Steve Wingert

March 1: Emily Brandenstein, Ruby manger,

Jack Mochau, Nancy Schmitt

March 2: Janet Debes, Rich Harpenau, Bill Laymon, Ron Schneider, Donna Helfrich-Stucke

March 3: Beth Jones, Tanner Norsworthy, Mark Raben, Shannon

Schultz, Sawyer Spaetti

March 4: Darlene Appler, Audrey Greubel,

Eric McDonald, Natalie Schuble

February 28: Troy & Amy Meyer

March 2: Mike & Annn Ennis, Brett & Donna Stucke

March 3: Greg & Susie Head

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Each Wednesday during Lent, (excluding March 29), we will gather for Family Stations of the Cross from 6:30-7:00 at St. Joe Church. Bring the whole family to pray and reflect on Jesus' passion. Contact Jessica (812) 598-1151 for more information.



FEBRUARY LOTTER WINNER: St. Joe: \$750-John Volor, \$300-Lorriane Blandford, \$200-Alex Scott, \$100-Jacob Duncan Mater Dei Tradition: \$10,000-Alan and Kathy Tenbarge, \$1,500-Fr. Sudhakar Bhastati, \$1,000-Patti Green, \$500- Andrew Goebel



JOIN US EACH SUNDAY AT THE 10:30 MASS



MATER DEI BIG BINGO & AUCTION

Sunday, March 17 Old National Events Center www.bigbingo.org for tickets



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 and seeing the real presence of God in all things.



The lesson of the global financial crisis has not been learned. In some circles it is argued that the current economy and technology will solve all environmental problems. in the same way it is argued that the problems of hunger and misery in the world will be solved simply by the growth of the market. It is not a question of economic theories, which perhaps no one today dares to defend, but of their settlement in the factual development of the economy. Those who do not say it with words support it with facts, when they do not seem to care about a fair level of production, a better distribution of wealth, responsible care for the environment or the rights of future generations.

By their behavior they claim that the goal of maximizing profits is sufficient. However, the market alone does not guarantee integral human development and social inclusion. In the meantime, we have a sort of wasteful and consumerist superdevelopment that contrasts in an unacceptable way with persisting situations of dehumanizing misery while economic institutions and social programs are not developed quickly enough to allow the poorest to access basic resources on a regular basis. We do not



sufficiently realize what are the deepest roots of the current imbalances. They have to do with the orientation, the aims, the meaning and the social context of technological and economic growth.

> The specialization of technology implies a considerable difficulty in having an overview. The fragmentation of knowledge fulfills its function in the moment of ob-

taining concrete applications, but often leads to a loss of the sense of wholeness, of the relationships that exist between things, of the broad horizon, a sense that becomes irrelevant. This same fact prevents us from identifying adequate ways to solve the most complex problems of today's world, especially those of the environment and the poor, which cannot be tackled from a single point of view or from a single type of interest.

A science that claims to offer solutions to big guestions should necessarily take into account all that knowledge has produced in other areas of knowledge, including philosophy and social ethics. But this is a difficult course of action to carry out today. Therefore we cannot even recognize true ethical horizons of reference.

Life becomes an abandonment to circumstances conditioned by technique, understood as the main resource for interpreting existence. In the concrete reality that challenges us, various symptoms appear that show the error, such as environmental degradation, anxiety, the loss of the meaning of life and living together. This shows once again that reality is superior to idea. Several symptoms appear that show the error, such as environmental degradation, anxiety, the loss of the meaning of life and living together. This shows once again that "reality is superior to idea".

Ecological culture cannot be reduced to a series of urgent and partial responses to the problems that arise. It should be a different lifestyle and a spirituality that shape a resistance in the face of the advancing technocratic paradigm. To seek only a technical remedy for every environmental problem that arises, means to isolate things that are connected in reality, and to hide the true and deepest problems of the world system. TO BE CONTINUED

IT'S FISH FRY TIME

THIS FRIDAY MARCH 2 SERVING 5-7 PM (DRIVE THRU) ONLY

It's time to make plans for the best fish fry in the area. We will be serving carryout dinners $m{r}$ only. You can pick them up at our drive thru carryout. Price is the same as last year-\$14/dinner

ON THE MENU: Fried Fish Filets, German Potato Salad, Slaw, Baked Beans and Cornbread Our 8th grade students will also be offering special dessert cookies for sale as well.

COME HELP US PREPARE



WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1 **BEGINNING AT 1 PM**

We'll need help to cut up and prepareall the ingredients for the potato salad and slaw.

THURSDAY, MARCH 2 BEGIING AT 2 PM

We'll need help preparing our famous sweet/sour slaw and packaging it in containers

FRIDAY, MARCH 3 BEGINNING AT 3 PM

We will need help frying the fish and putting the carryout meals together for the carryout. We'll be working mostly in the meeting room. And we need help cleaning up after all the meals have been served. Check the emails for updates. You can also volunteer by calling Elisha Dewig (812-798-7098) or the parish office (812-963-3273).

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US FOR A GREAT DINNER

CAN YOU HELP? It's time to start planning for lawn mowing season in our It's time to start planning for parish. We're looking to add some people who can help mow the large areas of our campus with our riding mowers. And we are looking for folks who can join some of our existing lawn mowing crews. These crews mow the lawn around the rectory, church, school and convent and the cemetery. We provide all the equipment (self-propelled lawn mowers, riding lawn mower, weed eaters, and refreshments for the workers!).

We are adjusting some of the duties of the mowing crews, particularly those who operated our riding lawn mowers. Maybe you could be one of Call the parish office (812-963these people. 3273), Randy Fehrenbacher, (812-453-5397) or Randy Tenbarge (812-205-5139) to offer your help or for more information. Not only can you help the parish save money, but you can also help in keeping our grounds looking nice, and it's great exercise!

SUPPORTING BLACK AND NATIVE AMERICAN **PARISHES IN NEED** FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRURY 25-26

The Black and Indian Mission Collection exists to help local African American and Native



American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground. This collection is held annual on the First Sunday of Lent. For more information visit their website: www.blackandindianmission.org

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