## ST. JOSEPH PARJSH

#### Celebrating 183 Years 1841-2024

## 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.



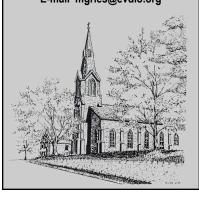
Like us on Facebook "St. Joseph Vanderburgh County"

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



#### MARCH 10, 2024 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Dear friends,



Today in our gospel reading we encounter Nicodemus, a prominent member of the Jewish community, who is coming to Jesus because he wants to understand. Nicodemus displays one of the central traits of being a disciple—a desire to learn but even more a desire to be transformed, and that transformation will lead people to learn how to embrace mystery. Jesus is talking

about some pretty heady stuff— "the son of man must be

lifted up so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life." Just how does one come to understand, let alone appreciate what Jesus was talking about?

It got me to thinking about my own faith journey and how that begin. I would not even have identified it as a faith journey. In so many ways, the way I saw religion was pretty simple, in the same way I saw life as pretty simple and literal. I remember, for example, hearing the



term "corned beef" and wondering just what that was. I knew what "beef" was and I knew what "corn" was but, for the life of me I couldn't understand what was so attractive about "corned beef." I didn't know anything about the culinary delights of a Ruben sandwich. We never went out to eat. The only sandwiches I knew was a baloney and egg sandwich or a hamburger or hotdog. My world was pretty small and my understanding of life was pretty simple.

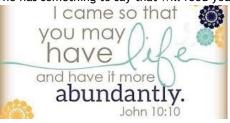
I think my understanding of religion would have remained pretty simple and pretty literal had their not been people along the way that invited me to see things in a different light. Like so many other people, I tended to see religion almost entirely in intellectual terms. And I learned at an early age, that the religious people of my time, mostly priests and nuns, (all very good people), used religious language that tended to make no sense to me. No one seemed to connect the things that I was feeling or experienced with faith. Being Catholic was mostly a matter of learning how to do all the rituals in the right way. And I excelled in that. I knew what to do and how to do going to mass, or making your confession or whatever the ritual happened to be and I could even tell others how to do these things as well.

I remember that my mother's youngest sister, who was a member of the Passionist Community of nuns, used to write letters to the family about once a year. She had beautiful handwriting and would send letters that were four pages and even longer. 90% of it was just a lot of religious words which didn't make a whole lot of sense to me. So we quickly overlooked that and went to the last part of the letter where she talked about what was happening in the community.

During my time in seminary, when talking about religion, I too learned how to use all kinds of high sounding words in the papers I wrote. Looking back, the best comment I ever got from a teacher came from Brandon Scott, who taught Scripture in the School of Theology. He wrote on what I thought was a theological masterpiece, "you need a brick for your soaring theological balloon." And he was absolutely right.

But the real faith journey is not an intellectual journey, but a journey of the heart. And all the high sounding religious words used over the centuries by so many theologians is merely a way of trying to talk about transforming our hearts—or as Jesus put it, "rend your hearts, not your garments."

I think that is what Nicodemus was seeking. He was a prominent member of the Jewish religious community. He was a secret follower of Jesus, no doubt because of the prominent place he had in the community. Yet something in him was intrigued by what Jesus was saying. Perhaps it was in the depths of his heart that he heard a voice that said "listen to this person, he has something to say that will feed your soul."



I think Jesus must have sensed this in Nicodemus as well. He doesn't give Nicodemus simple answers or different kinds of rituals to perform, but he invites him to enter into a much deeper reflection on life. He talks to him about the need to be "born from above." He talked about God coming into the world to bring light and freedom to people, not to condemn them, to help them understand that when they trusted that God was part of their life,

then they too would bring light to the world.

That had to be lot for Nicodemus to comprehend. I think he came to understand that it was not just a matter of believing something in his head, but actually letting his heart and his whole life be transformed. In trusting his heart, Nicodemus was being led to a much deeper faith journey. His journey is really our journey as well.

Leaning into the journey of life

Fr. Gene Schroeder

## CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, MARCH 9 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT** 

5:00 PM: For the People of the Parish, Margaret Fisher (1857), Adam Meister (1877), Nicolas Mossberger (1996), Robert Angermeier (2019)

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 10 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

8:00 AM: Marcellus & Valeria

Elpers Family, Marilyn, Henry & Pauline Deig, Steve, Patty, Bonnie, Kate, Marge & Max Bruggenschmidt, Mike Brothers, Craig Hummel, Joe & Winnie Schu

1030 AM: June Weiss, John Straub, Paul D. Curtis, Cleo Spitzer (1865), Maria Sebastian (1865), Ludovicus Urich (1866), Lee Ann Heidt (1968), Jonathan Koester (1993)

#### MONDAY, MARCH 11 LENTEN WEEKDAY

6:30 PM: Maria Hoefling (1877), Carolina Zeggling (1899), Tom (2014), Ron, Bill Jr., Janice, James, Leoda & Bill Kempf, Barbara Ritzert

#### TUESDAY, MARCH 12 LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:30 AM: Ferdinand Baehl (1860), Margaret Urich (1881), Dionysius Mayer (1910), Infant Macke (1916), Frances (1972) & Sebastian Weiss, William (1977) & Alice Pfister

#### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13 LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:30 AM: John Bernhard (1878), Francis (2007) & Tina Voelker, Tony (2013) & Eileen Ruminer

#### THURSDAY, MARCH 14 LENTEN WEEKDAY

NO MASS: George Brack (1880), Mary Schmidt (1980), Kate (2009) & Al Schmitt

#### FRIDAY, MARCH 15 LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:30 AM: CHILDREN'S HOLY THURSDAY PRAYER SERVICE Valentin Effinger (1875), Joseph Baumgart (1881), Anna Baumgart (1883), Henry Bender (1916)

#### SATURDAY, MARCH 16 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Unless a grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies

5:00 PM: For the People of the Parish, Maria Fischer (1878), Anna Urich (1881), Herman Tenhumberg (1960), Pete Sauer (1995), Violet (2000) & Tony Weiss (2000), Valada Pace (2001)

#### SUNDAY, MARCH 17 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

■8:00 AM: Kevin Frey, Eileen Vo-

gler, Robert & Margie Harpenau, Dean Trowbridge, Francis & Naomi Niehaus, Bernie Niehaus, Fr. Fred Niehaus

1030 AM: Frank, Ruth, Mike, Janice and Bill Marks, Mary Rexing, Henry Happe (1873), Bernard Moutoux (1880) Thelma Schell (1972)

Now that all the pews are back in church, Cuchariscic our Monday Eucharistic Adoration ( 7 am Adoration 6 pm) will be held in church. Our 24



Hour Day of Prayer for Vocations will also be held in church. (Our next 24 Day of Prayer will be March 19 & 20.)

WEEKDAY MASS: For the time being, we will continue to have weekday mass in our chapel in the rectory.

#### STEWARDSHIP: The Lord's Way

All that we have and all that we are comes from the Lord. "We are truly his handiwork," says St. Paul in the second reading, "created in

Christ Jesus to lead the life of good deeds which God prepared for us in advance."

22,968.00 March 3, 2024 WEEKLY BUDGET 14,650.00 TOTAL INCOME TO DATE 544,038.00 **BUDGET TO DATE** 527,400.00 MAINTENANCE COLLECTION 60.00 CHILDREN'S COLLECTION 4.00

#### Thanks to our young stewards:

Beatrice, Peter, Paul, Bernadette and John Reckelhoff 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

#### **OUTREACH MINISTRIES**

HAITI COLLECTION	\$	405.00
HAITI FOOD FUND	\$	350.00
HAITI SEWING PROGRAM	\$	300.00
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL FOOD PANTRY	\$	5.00
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION	\$	5.00
HOLY LAND COLLECTION	ς	30.00

#### REBUILDING OUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN

**TOTAL PLEDGED** \$806,372.00 **RECEIVED TO DATE** \$ 551,317.00

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: Rose Weiss, Mandy Elpers (Rehabilitation Unit)

EVANSVILLE PROTESTANT HOME: Mary Lou Davis UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE: Jack Fleeger

ST. VINCENT: Eddie Luigs

John Reckelhoff on HAPPY OOPS! Sorry we missed you: March 7, hope you had a very happy 3rd birthday!! MAR. 10: Justin Allison, Jake Collins, Hayden Schnaus BIRTHDAY

MAR. 11: Ava Cody, Vernie Gries, Austin Jones,

Donald Maurer, Tony Moore, Tom Raben, Don Werner

MAR. 12: Evan Freeman, Chris Moutoux

MAR. 13: Leif Beckwith, Amelia Hartz, Carolyn Lipper, Sheila McGehee

MAR. 14: Chick Duncan, Cyril Gerteisen, Selene Gumbel, Mitchell Karcher, Kyla Kares, Carol Klenck, Jenna Klueh

MAR. 15: Lea Elliott, Brad Elpers, Brittney Hollingsworth, Ella Weber

MAR. 16: Barbara Angermeier, Tom Angermeier,

Carol Fechtmeister, Reigns Straus, Sterling Straus

MAR. 11: Chuck & Theresa Roberts

EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS Once again we are inviting you to remember your loved ones at Easter. Send your contribution along with the names of the people you want to remember to the parish office (through the collection or through the mail) by April 3rd. The names will be published in the Easter Bulletin.





## After The Bloom Has Left The Rose

Fr. Ronald Rohlheiser OMI (Oblates of Mary Immaculate)

What is our deepest center? Normally we take that to mean the deepest part of our heart, the deepest part of our soul, our affective center, our moral center, that place inside of us which Thomas Merton called le pointe vierge. And that is a good way of imagining it. But there's an-



The classical mystic John of the Cross saw things differently. For him, the deepest center of anything is the furthest point attainable by that object's being and power and force of operation and movement. What does he mean by that? In essence, this is what he is saying: The deepest center of anything, be it a flower or a human being, is the furthest point to which can grow before it

Take a flower for example: It begins as a seed, then grows into a tiny bud that sprouts into a young plant. That plant eventually bursts forth in a beautiful bloom. That bloom lasts for a while and then begins to dry out and wither. Eventually, what was once the substance of a beautiful bloom turns into seeds, and then in its very act of dying, the flower gives off those seeds to leave new

Thus, for John of the Cross, the deepest center for a flower is not its moment of spectacular beauty, its bloom, but its last moment when its bloom has turned to seed and it is able to give off that seed in its very act of dying.

There's a lesson in which goes against how we commonly assess things. When are we the most generative potentially? When do we have the greatest capacity to use our lives to give off the seeds for new life? What is our deepest center of growth?

Normally, of course, we think of the deepest center as the bloom, namely, that period or moment in our lives when a combination of good health, physical attractiveness, talent, achievement, and influence make us someone who is admired and perhaps envied. This is the time in our lives when we look our best and, as they say, are at the peak of our game. This is our bloom! The best we will ever look!

John of the Cross wouldn't denigrate that moment in our lives. Indeed, he would challenge us to be in that moment, to enjoy it, be grateful to God for it, and to try to use the advantages and privileges that come with that to help others. But, he wouldn't say this is the peak moment of our generativity, that this is the moment or period of our lives when we are giving off the most seeds for new life. No, like a flower that gives off its seeds in its very act of dying, we too are potentially most generative after the bloom has given way to the grey of age and our achievements have given way to a different kind of fruit-

Imagine a young woman who is beautiful and talented and becomes a famous movie actor. At the height of her career, she is in full bloom and is given the gaze of admiration. Indeed, she is adulated. Moreover, in her life outside of the movies she may be a generous person, a wonderful wife, a dedicated mother, and a trusted friend. However, that bloom is not her furthest point of growth, her deepest center, that time in her life when she is giving off the most vis-a-vis generating new life. Instead, when she is an aged grandmother, struggling with health issues, her physical looks diminished, facing the prospect of assisted living and imminent death that, potentially, like the flower whose bloom has dried and turned to seed, she can give her life away in a manner that helps create new life in a way she couldn't do when she was young, attractive, admired, envied, and in full bloom.

A similar case might be made for a star male athlete. At the height of his career, winning a championship, becoming a household name, his envied youthful athletic image seen everywhere in ads and on billboards, he is in full bloom; but at that time, he is not optimally generative in terms of his life giving off seeds to bring about new life. That can happen later, in his old age, when his achievements no longer define him, and he, like everyone else, with his hair graying, is facing physical diminishment, marginalization, and imminent death. It's then, after the bloom has left the rose, that in his dying he can give off seeds to create new life. We tend to identify a spectacular bloom with powerful generativity. Fair enough, that bloom has its own importance, legitimate purpose, and value. Indeed, one of our challenges is to give that bloom the gaze of admiration without envy. Not easy to do, and something we often don't do well. The bigger challenge however is to learn what we ourselves are called to do after the bloom has left the rose.

WEEKEND OF MARCH 9-10 5 PM MASS: L: Toni Askins, EM: Donald & Brandon Werner, Mary Kay Fe-

hrenbacher, Donna Niemeier 8 AM MASS: L: Dave Schmitt, EM: Bryan & Ann Craney, Chick Duncan, Lisa Cook 10:30 AM MASS: L Shane Wessel, EM: Al Debes, Kitty Deig, Doris Taylor, Cecilia Koch WEEKEND OF MARCH 16-17 5 PM MASS: L: Toni Askins, EM: Donald & Brandon Werner, Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier 8 AM MASS: L: Josh Baehl, EM: Kylie Frey, Stephanie Frey, Tom Folz, Dolores Folz 10:30 AM MASS: L: Shane Wessel, EM: Angie Will, Jane Scheller, Diane Bassemier, Danielle Welage

#### HELP US GET OUR CEMETERY READY FOR THE LAWN MOWING SEASON

To help us get ready for our lawn mowing season, we ask that you remove any decorations around your cemetery tombstones that might get in the way of our lawn mowing crews.

Thanks for your help in keeping our cemetery a place of honor and respect as well as a safe place for our lawn mowing crews.

We're still looking for people to join our lawn mowing crews, especially our big mower



crews. Maybe you could be one of these people. Call Randy Tenbarge (812-205-5139) to offer your help or for more information. You'll help our parish save money, and you'll help keep our grounds looking nice.

continuing this Mon-Dance Classes... day, March 11 and next Monday, March 18. Learn the Fox Trot and Jitterbug Great Exercise Meet new friends

Classes designed for beginners. Cost: \$30 donation with proceeds going to St. Joe Church Ministries. Questions? Call Kathy Weber (812 -449-0745).

#### COMING THIS WEEK......

Knights of St. John Meeting Monday, March 11 at 7 pm in the cafeteria St. Anne Altar Society Meeting Thursday, March, 14 6:30 pm in the meeting room St. Joe Senior Citizens Friday, March 15 1 pm in the meeting room

New Members are most welcome to join in any of these gathering

Thanks...over women participated in these days of prayer and relaxation. Special thanks to Jessica Re-



ceklhoff and Rachel Schnaus and all the members of their committee for their hard work. Thanks as well to the Men's Club, Altar Society and PTO for helping to provide food for the re-



The Diocese of Evansville will host a listening session for the ongoing preparation for the Synod gathering that will happen in October 2024. This will be a time of prayer, a time of

listening and an opportunity to reflect on how the Church impacts your life. Thursday, March 21, 2024 6 -7:30 pm at the Catholic Center you plan to attend, please use this link RSVP: https://forms.gle/yY3bLNTGa5hp3Vr98

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



(812) 457-5609 TOM GOEDDE Parishioner



# CONSTRUCTION

BRICK - BLOCK -STONE FIREPLACES - CONSTRUCTION 812-963-5123



4851 W. LLOYD EXPY 812-423-7556

Heating or AC Repair

o

Incomplete the combined with any other discounts and does not apply to previous service.



PAUL SCHAPKER

## **BUILDING CONTRACTOR Custom Homes and Remodeling**

"Since 1979"

812-963-9112

812-479-6338



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 crip:ions -- Free Delivery Perscriptions



9500 BIG CYNTHIANA RD 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



COMMERCIAL - INDUSTRIAL ROOFING PROFESSIONALS 812-426-1111

Gene Elper President Dexterous Mold and Tool, Inc.
Injection and Compres
Mold Repair and Eng

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



812-424-1479 812-424-3865

**Save \$35** 

812-425-8435

# OFFICE 812-477-1515

EAST CHAPEL 800 S. HEBRON AVE NORTH CHAPEL 6300 FIRST AVE CENTRAL CHAPEL 626 FIRST AVE

**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



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

**RUMMAGE SALE JUNE 7 (4-7 PM)** JUNE 8 (7-NOON) SUMMER SOCIAL CHICKEN DINNER **JULY 28 10-1** 





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

#### Freeman, Will,

Niemeier & Heston, LLC Personal, Property & Commercial Insurance 1919 W. Franklin 812 437-3933 Ethan Freeman Jordan Raben

TRUCKING - EXCAVATING - FARMS CONCRETE

eme 812-459-5053

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



German American Bank

Banking | Insurance | Investments germanamerican.com

(812)962-2265

### JOIN THE Carpenter Society

Remember St. Joseph Parish in your will



Evansville, IN 47725 Randy Folz (812) 760-4120

# Olsen & White, LLP

-Attorneys at Law -

123 Locust Street 812-423-3143

March PHOTOGRAPHY

12820 Cynthiana Rd • Evansville, IN 47720 812.963.5014

SENIORS - CHILDREN - FAMILIES - WEDDINGS - PEIS www.straubphotography.com

Evansville Dentist Creating Beautiful Smiles Jason 9-L Kuester, DDS, LLC

W. Boonville-New Harmony Road • Evansville, IN 47772 phone 812.867.6428 • fax 812.867.7494





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



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



St. Joe Mini-Mart



JODI FEHRENBACHER 812.480.8886

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

Patrick Freeman P. Evan Freemar



DRY CLEANING & LAUNDRY



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



Jim Werner-812-550-3138

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



Every life has a story to be told (812) 425-2896

Donut Bank

esus is Key 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 FEHRENBACHER MOLDINGS - DOORS -STAIRS 8920 HIGHWAY 65 812-963-9414

EVANSVILLE, IN FAX 812-963-8978

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

Uebelhor

BUICK TOYOTA DICURDIET ISUZU ENT

uebolhor.com Vincennes

Call us for generations to come

= INC.

to the rescue! 428-COOL



Toro - Ariens - Gravely - Stihl - Sales & Service www.strauboutdoorpower.com 14101 Highway 65 (812) 963-5024 Evansville, IN 47720 Fax (812) 963-8381