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Celebrating 183 Years 1841-2024

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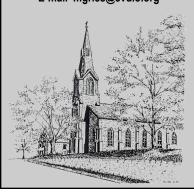
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WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE Saturday—5 PM Sunday-8 & 10:30 AM **SACRAMENT OF** RECONCILATION SATURDAY 4-4:30 PM

PARISH OFFICE 6202 W. Saint Joseph Road Evansville, IN 47720 SCHOOL 6130 W. Saint Joseph Road Evansville IN 47720

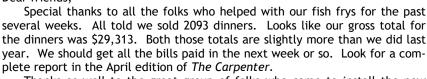
Parish Office: (812) 963-3273 School: (812) 963-3335 School Fax: (812) 963-3335 Prayer Requests: (812) 963-3149

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



MARCH 17, 2024 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

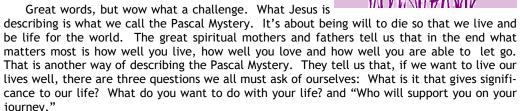
Dear friends,



Thanks as well to the great group of folks who came to install the new kneelers in the church pews last Monday. We thought it might take a couple of days, but they were able to complete the task on Monday. They were literally on their

knees doing the installation work. That should get you a special place in heaven.

I've been sitting with the readings for this Sunday. We hear some beautiful words from the Prophet Jeremiah. "The Lords says, this is the covenant I will make with my people. I will place my law within them and I will write it on their hearts. I will be their God and they shall be my people." In the gospel reading we get a sense of what the Lord is writing on our hearts, and it is a pretty big challenge. "Unless the grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies it remains just a grain of wheat, but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life will have to lose it. Whoever serves me must follow me...and God honors all who serve him."



It may be easy to talk about dying and rising, learning how to forgive and letting go, but that doesn't mean it is easy. Dying, forgiving and letting go all speak about being vulnerable in life. Scientists who have studied how our brain works talk about how we are almost hardwired to avoid any kind of vulnerability in life. But that is what has to happen if we are going to be like the grain of wheat that dies.

The letting go's in life come very often in unexpected and unwanted ways. The job we liked ends, our health takes a turn we had not expected, a dear friend dies, the project we had put so much time and energy goes unappreciated or worse, simply tossed aside and ignored by those who follow us. Then we are invited not just to let go, but trust that that what

we have invested our time and energy will be the stuff that will give life to other. That's the other half of the letting go. The grain of wheat that dies goes on to produce good fruit.

I think Jesus understood the challenge of what he was asking of his disciples. He was living it out in his life. We can hear the anguish he must have felt and he prays to the Father: "I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? Father save me from this hour? But it was for this purpose that I have come." We take courage in the fact that our God has walked this path of human life and now shows us the way to go forward.

Leaning into the journey of life

Fr. Gene Schroeder

LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES

Join us this Wednesday, March 20th at 7 pm and Friday, March 22 at 11 am for our Lenten Penance Services. During these services we will use share a reflection on , the Stations of the Cross as our examination of conscience.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also celebrated each Saturday from 4:00-4:40 pm Also anytime upon request. Call Fr. Gene (812-499-9074) to arrange a time



In a life properly lived, you are a river. You touch things lightly or deeply. You move along because life moves along and you can't stop it. You can't figure out a banal game plan applicable to all situations. You just have to go with the "beingness" of life, as the poet Rilke would have it. The art of life is learning to see what forms the bends, the turns and the eddys, the patterns that are shared yet diverse across human experiences. James Harrison

Unless the grain of wheat falls

on the ground and dies, it

remains a single grain, but if it

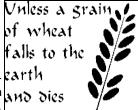
dies it bears much fruit' (Jn 12:24).



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, MARCH 16 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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 (2001) & Scottie Pace (2001)

SUNDAY, MARCH 17 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM: Kevin Frey, Eileen Vogler, 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)

MONDAY, MARCH 18 LENTEN WEEKDAY

6:30 PM: Regina Ochsner (1870), Paul Buehner (1982), Marianna (2013) & Joe Elpers

TUESDAY, MARCH 19



SAINT JOSEPH PATRON OF OUR PARISH 7:30 AM: Agatha Ziegler (1872), Henry Angermeyer (1920), Joseph (1986) & Josephine Goebel, Cecilia (1988) & Peter Reising (1988), Olen (1994) & Betty Metz

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20 LENTEN WEEKDAY 8, 9 & 10 AM CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES THURSDAY, MARCH 21 LENTEN WEEKDAY

NO MASS: Infant Beckerle (1869), Anna Oshsner (1880), Maria Werner (1882), Maria (1907) & Paul Kissel

FRIDAY, MARCH 22 LENTEN WEEKDAY

7:30 AM: Laurentius Denninger (1865), Caspar (1934) & Magdalena Hillenbrand (1934), George (198) & Betty Duncan, Clarence (2000) & Reinildis Botzum (2000), Harold (2019) & Esther Niemeier (2019)

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

5:00 PM: Hieronimus Fehrenbacher, Doug, Stan, Charlotte (2016) & Elmer Schapker

SUNDAY, MARCH 24

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

8:00 AM: Linda Elpers, Frank Will, Malinda Paul, David Emge, John Reckelhoff, Edith & George Baehl, Thelma Seib, Lila Rose Simon, Virginia Wilzbacher, Alberta Elpers and Sr. Elizabeth Ann, Alvin, Linus, Merle & Elmer Koberstein.



1030 AM: For the People of the Parish, Infant Rexing (1884), Dennis February

ish, Infant Rexing (1884), Dennis Fehrenbacher (2017), Theodore Kares, Sr. (2019), Keith Jones (2023)

Now that all the pews are back in church, our Monday Eucharistic Adoration (7 am Adoration



6 pm) will be held in church. Our 24 Hour Day of

Prayer for Vocations this coming Tuesday & Wednesday will also be held in church.

WEEKDAY MASS: We will continue to have weekday mass in our chapel in the rectory.

STEWARDSHIP: The Lord's Way

Like St. Paul in the second reading, the good steward can say, "I do all that I do for the sake of the gospel in hope of having a share in its blessings."



March 10, 2024	\$ 6,581.37
March 15, 2024 (Auto Debit Collection)	\$ 10,809.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 14,650.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 561,428.37
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 542,050.00
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	\$ 30.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	\$ 5.00

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:
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OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI COLLECTION	Ş	332.00
HAITI STUDENTS/HIGHER EDUCATION	\$	2,084.00
HAITI FOOD FUND	\$	10.00
HAITI SEWING PROGRAM	\$	25.00
ST. VINCENT DEPAUL FOOD PANTRY	\$	5.00
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION	\$	185.00

REBUILDING OUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN

TOTAL PLEDGED \$ 806,372.00 RECEIVED TO DATE \$ 552,539.00

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

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

MAR. 17: Dax Brown, Joshua Clem, Karen Hellenberg, Russell Jansen, Abby Stratman, Shane Wessel

MAR. 18: Katelyn Mochau, Rachel Refenes, Charles Voelker

MAR. 19: Matt Bishop, George David, Don Kiesel,

Jane Scheller, Emily Seger MAR. 20: Lindsey Mehringer, Remington Rexing

MAR. 21: Mandy Elpers, Shiann Gumbel, Shari Kempf, Kate Raben, Lesa Raben, Monica Voelker

MAR. 22: Joe Deweese

MAR. 23: Bryce Baumgart, Penelope Collins,
Sarah Fischer, Rick Heldt, Christine Roemke



HAPPY

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 March 24. The names will be published in the Easter Bulletin.



MONDAY, MARCH 18 ST. JOE MEN'S CLUB MEETING 7 PM IN THE CAFETRIA. NEW MEMBRS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

What Is The Purpose Of Life?



Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB

Everyone has hard days. For all of us, there are those dark periods of life from which it seems like there is no liberation: A husband becomes sick and there is no cure; a child starts down a life path that is dangerous to themselves, unexplainable to

friends, unacceptable to family; a wife chafes at the narrowness of her horizons; a friend betrays a trust.

But all of those things, difficult as they may be, are redeemable. A second marriage, we find, can be wonderfully happy; life itself teaches children to settle down and begin again; we come to realize that we can spend ourselves in different, more fulfilling ways, good not only for us but, as a result, good for the people around us as well; new and better friends come to rebuild our sense of security. No, such things as these are not the stopping points of life. They are simply part and parcel of it all, milestones along the way to growth and understanding and fullness.

There is one point, however, at which all life stands to sink precariously into the pit, comes to a crossroads, demands a resolution. If, all of a sudden, we discover that life has lost its sense of purpose for us, the dark closes in, smothers our hearts, blinds our steps, leaves us swimming in a sea of uselessness. Getting up in the morning takes all the energy we have. Going to work becomes a grind. Putting up with the family irritates to the bone. Caring about what we cared about before this comes to a full stop. Why? we ask. Why anything? Why everything?

The ancients were well-acquainted with the problem. They called it acedia, listlessness, a poisoning of the will. And they had two answers to it. The first is reflected in a Zen saying, "O marvel of marvels," the disciple recites. "I chop wood; I draw water from the well." It is, in other words, in the daily, the ordinary, the regular, and the necessary that the soul grows and the heart expands. It is by doing what we must, consequently, that we come to enlightenment in life, seeing it for what it is and giving ourselves to make it better.

The second is a story from the Talmud. Rabbi Akiba, the Talmud tells, in the midst of a long journey, stopped at a town to lodge along the way. None of the townspeople, however, would give him room. So Akiba took his only three possessions-a lamp, a rooster, and a donkey-to a field outside of town and settled down for the night. While he slept, the wind blew out his lamp, a cat devoured his rooster, and a lion ate his donkey. Now, he had no light for the night, no food for the journey and no way to complete the trip. Undeterred, Akiba said, "Whatever the Merciful One does, it is done for the best."

That very night, a band of thieves raided the town and carried off half the population to sell to the caravans. "I am sad for them," he said, "but their turning me away from the town simply proves even further that whatever the Merciful One does, it is done for the best. And, had the light been burning, and the rooster crowing and the donkey braying, could also have been abducted as well."

Life is about coming to an awareness of the eternal demands of the ordinary and learning to trust the loving presence of God in what we too often regard as burdens. Then, we will indeed have life and have it abundantly.

-from the March 2024 issue of The Monastic Way, by Joan Chittister. If you do not subscribe to the FREE Monastic Way, go to https://joanchittister.org/content/monastic-waysubscription?mc_cid=9827bc2a0e&mc_eid=00187451f6 to begin receiving an email with a link to download each month's issue.



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
WEEKEND OF MARCH 23-24 5 PM MASS: L: SPECIAL READERS, EM: Eric & Karen

McDonald, Butch & Linda Feulner 8 AM MASS: L: SPECIAL READERS, EM: Imogene Baehl, Michael Elpers, Rodney & Paula Baehl 10:30 AM MASS: L. SPECIAL READERS EM: Paul Hillenbrand, Al Debes, Jena & Shane Wessel

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

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.

EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY

MARCH 30 at 10 am Rain or Shine PRIZES, CANDY AND A SPECIAL APPEARANCE BY THE EASTER BUNNY

Open to children in 3rd grade and younger. Come join the fun!!

EGE STUDENT CARE-PACKAGES



Join us as we support our college students by preparing a care package for them as they prepare for semester exams. College Care Packages are available in church this weekend for pick up. Please return the care packages no later that Sunday, April 14. Thank you for your continued support of this project. Let's keep all of our college youth in prayer through their final exams.

MARCH 19 FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH



We come to you, O blessed Joseph, asking you to pray with and for us. We see the courage you exhibited when you took Mary into your home as your wife. We see that courage again as you led Mary and Jesus to the safety of a far away land after his birth. And we see that courage lived out in your daily life as you helped Jesus grow in wisdom and grace. We confidently invoke your pa-

tronage so that we too might have that same kind of courage as we face the challenges of our life. May your example enable us to acknowledge our fears and at the same time walk confidently in faith. May the example of your unassuming presence help us to know that the ordinariness of our lives is an opportunity for us to grow in wisdom and grace. As you were an example for Jesus so too may we be an example of faith for (INSCRIBED ON THE CORNERSTONE ABOVE THE FRONT DOOR OF OUR CHURCH)

TO THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF SAINT JOSPEH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1888

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