



THE CARPENTER

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

6202 W. ST. JOSEPH ROAD EVANSVILLE, IN 47720

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CELEBRATING OUR 182ND YEAR

APRIL 2023



REBUILD MY CHURCH

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

"Rebuild my church." These were the words Francis of Assisi heard God speak to him. They might sound eerily familiar to us as we begin the process of repairing the damage to our church caused by the tornado that touched down here on March 3.

Word spread quickly that day. Did you hear? The whole roof of the church at St. Joe was torn off! When people saw pictures of the destruction that were posted on social media or saw television reports, many of them reported feeling "sick to my stomach," or just "speechless at the sight." I can't help but think that these feelings were just like those experienced by parishioners in 1886 when our first church was destroyed by fire.

If there was a common theme that emerged from people after they moved past the initial sense of shock, it was this: "I sure hope we can restore our church to the way it was." And that sentiment continues to guide our efforts today.

Looking back on that day, we were blessed in so many ways. First, because no one was hurt, especially all the children in our school. Second, because, outside of the damage to the roof of the church, nothing else on our parish campus was damaged. And third, because we have been blessed with so many people in the parish who have the knowledge and skills needed to repair our church.

Even as the winds were still swirling around that Friday afternoon, people were putting together a plan to make sure our church was safe. By Monday morning, a whole

host of workers, along with cranes, lifts, mobile scaffolding and large excavators were busy beginning the work of making sure our church was protected from rain and snow. Amazingly, in three short days this work was complete.

Now, working with our insurance adjusters and contractors we have begun to formulate a plan to restore our church so that it will look just like the way it did before the tornado hit. This work will take many months. But we are so blessed with the number of people

who have reached out to us to offer their help. The months ahead will require all of us to be flexible as we continue all the activities of our parish. We will be celebrating weekend mass in our gym which will also be the place we celebrate Confirmation, Holy Week and First Communion. And we will have weekday mass and Eucharistic Adoration in the chapel we have set up in the rectory. My dog, Kiska, is especially delighted to welcome everyone to the rectory and has already become a regular attendee at both weekday mass and Eucharistic Adoration.

Our church will be restored. It will take time, but we are blessed to have the building professionals, access to the needed materials and the financial wherewithal to accomplish this effort. And once again we will be able to see our church as the beacon on the hill that it has been for the past one hundred and thirty-five years.

But it occurs to me that this event can be more than just physically rebuilding our church. Francis of Assisi began to realize that it wasn't really the physical rebuilding of the church that God was speaking about. Rather, it was rebuilding the people, renewing their commitment to be witnesses of faith in the world. That kind of renewal touched the hearts of many people at the time and their efforts brought new life to the world.

Notwithstanding all the challenges that are involved, rebuilding the physical structure of a church building is relatively easy. You can see what needs to be done to put a new roof on the church and fix the things that were destroyed. And then you can step back and see the actual results of your work.

The renewal of our hearts and minds is a whole different challenge. Sometimes it is hard to see if we have made any progress. And what is more, the great signs of growing in our faith that our spiritual fathers and mothers teach us, look nothing like the signs we might look for to judge the physical rebuilding of a church. These spiritual leaders speak about things like "seeing failure as an important part of the our faith journey." And they speak about "letting go," "surrendering," and "allowing." None of these words would be words that building contractors would use to describe their efforts.

But transforming our hearts and minds to be the heart and mind of Christ in the world is what we are all about. Buildings are important of course. They provide us with a place to mark special moments in our faith journey—things like baptisms, marriages, deaths and even weekly gatherings for prayer and support at Mass. But Jesus didn't call us to just build nice buildings. He called us

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REMEMBERING

Rick Dile

February 21, 1954 - February 27, 2023

Rick was born on February 24, 1954, one of two children born to Buddy and Mary (Alton) Dile. His sister, Kathleen, was there to welcome him.

His family grew up near Chandler, Indiana and were members of St. Clement Parish in Boonville, where Rick attended grade school. His family moved to the east side of Evansville and Rick attended Harrison High School and then took two years of T & I classes at North high School.

After graduating from North, Rick hoped to join the Air Force but his poor eyesight prevented this. He graduated from the Nashville Auto Diesel School, a natural for him because of his love of cars, tools and all things mechanical. He worked at several jobs before beginning a forty year career working at Alcoa.

Rick was a long time member of the McCutchanville Fire Department, joining forces with his long time friend and fellow fireman, Tom Baumgart. He also served on the fire brigade at Alcoa for many years.

Rick was introduced to the love of his life, Sherry (Baumgart) in February of 1974 at a dance at Lamey's Grove. He was introduced to her by his good friend Keith Fox who happened to be dating Sherry's long time friend Rita. Through the years Rick and Sherry spent many wonderful times with their friends Rita and Keith.

Rick was a proud father of Ricky and Andy Dile and later their wives Tosha. and Haley and his three grandchildren, Mason, Charlotte and Riley.

In his own unique way, Rick has been a teacher to his family and friends. Here are some of the things he taught.

- If she can't really swim, you can still convince you wife to learn to scuba dive -and she'll love it.
- If you have tools or guns, you can ALWAYS use more.
- If you go near any coast on vacation, you eat seafood .
- If you crawl through a muddy cave on your belly, it's supposed to be fun
- If you miss your exit on the interstate, you can just back up on the shoulder and take the exit you just missed
- If you buy that expensive "unbreakable" kayak paddle, you actually can break it.
- If there's a blizzard causing a state of emergency, you hop in your new, red Dodge 4x4 truck to haul doctors and nurses to the hospital.
- If you have sons that are really good at breaking stuff, you teach them how to fix it themselves because you don't pay for someone to do things when it's a good excuse to buy more tools.
- If there's a big hole in the ground known as a pit cave, you hike to it, carrying a bunch of gear and rappel into it, only to climb back up the rope like a monkey on a string. Then you let your young sons do it too.
- If you fall for a guy who loves Harleys, you may become a reluctant motorcycle momma. You just might find yourself road tripping across Route 66 to California, or down the Atlantic Coast to Key West, or circling the Great Lakes or seeing all the sights of South Dakota all from the back of his Harley. Then you might find that you love it as much as he does and make friends who feel like family.
- If you get sick with swine flu, you end up fighting for your life but bounce back over and over again. Then you might be told you can have two different cancers to fight off, too.
- If you have a dog, you might talk to them sweeter than you do

to most humans.

- If you get layed off from your job and you're not married quite yet, you go stay with your future brother-in-law to help on the farm. In the evening, you may even sit around his old farm house in your underwear, shooting mice with a BB gun while chatting with your future bride on the phone.
- If you spend the evening spot lighting rabbits from the truck in southern Illinois and get caught by the friendly local game warden, he might make you dig a trench the next night at the school for your penance.
- If you are buying your first house, you meet the realtor to check out houses but only allow your wife to see the ones with good garages.
- If you have sons, you are unbearably happy and proud of, you change to a shift that allows them to spend as little time at daycare as possible.
- If one of those sons does something really dumb, you get really mad but then cool off when your wife reminds you of something stupid you once did.
- When you enjoy a sport, the whole family gets all the best gear so you can enjoy this sport together
- If you're cutting down a dead tree in the yard, and your 5-year-old son is suddenly in the path of the nearly falling tree, you get so "EXCITED" that you yell "MOVE YOU ASS DUMB!"
- if you enjoy caving and need gear, you buy two industrial sewing machines and make some -for yourself, your sons, your friends and even sell some to random strangers you met in a cave.
- If you're on the Fire Brigade at work and they start rope rescue training, you teach your fellow fire-fighters all the specialized knots and rigging to do it safely.
- if your sons show an interest in learning to whitewater kayak, you enroll them in a class in Chattanooga. Then you spend the next couple summers hauling them to rivers throughout the Smoky Mountains so they can enjoy their sport. You even build a huge rack for the top of your not-so-mini van so you can shuttle a dozen or so kayaks for the whole group.
- If you have chemo treatments, you can continue to work, hardly missing a beat.
- If your sons leave the nest, you complain about their choices to your wife all the while being quietly proud as you watch them follow their dreams.
- If you have a soft heart that gets bruised easily, you hide it with a gruff exterior only to have it completely melt when grandkids arrive.
- if you love someone, show them with what you do, not just with what you say.

Although Rick's life was cut short by the battle he waged with cancer, Rick certainly left a lasting impression on his family and his friends. We give thanks for the gift he was and pray now that he will know the fullness of God's peace in heaven.

BLESSING FOR ALL WHO WORK THE LAND

Creator God, you formed the human in your image to be partner with you. You have blessed us by calling us to work with the land and its creatures, providing nourishment and health for all. Let your word now take root in our hearts and lives, to produce a rich harvest of justice for all creation. Let all who work with the land be blessed with dignity, their homes blessed with health, and their labor blessed with safety.



We gratefully acknowledge the following contributions that were given in memory of these loved ones. Let us remember the gift they have been in our life.

**THE HAITI GIFTS OF
COMPASSION FUND**
Tom Elsner

IN MEMORY OF
Mr. & Mrs.
Walter Knapp,
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Hall
& Connie Goedde
Roger & Kathy Hall

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
IN MEMORY OF**
Stan Schapker
Jane Mossberger
Ray & Charlene Schapker
Larry & Hennie Happe
Becky & Steve Jung
Todd & Babs Niemeier
Pat & Matt Mulherin
Dean & Laura Happe
Mark & Debbie
Fehrenbacher
Barbara Mooney & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gerteisen
Susan Helmer

IN MEMORY OF
Willie Nieten
The Tom Wolf Family
Andrew Thacker at
Ameriprise Financial
Members of the Evansville
Athletic Club
Joseph Nieten
Steven & Mary
Helen Gerteisen
Martha Reitz Steckler
Kenneth & Elizabeth
Schenk
Darryl & Donna Schmitt

IN MEMORY OF
Delores Strupp
Dianna Fox
Don & Barbie Hopgood
Emily Gaddie
Mr. & Mrs. Hardin
Elmer Boeke
Steven & Rebecca Deutsch
Bud & Sis Jarboe
Bob & Marilyn Mossberger
Mike & Joyce Elpers
Dennis & Donna Niemeier
Daryl & Carolyn Lipper
Lorraine Blanford
Kent & GERALYN RUMINER
Dan & Kathy Schenk
Butch & Linda Feulner
Anna Mae Gries
Tony & Alma Scheller

Terry Drone
Morgan & Beth Jones
Glen & Debbie Seibert
Sr. Bridget Arnold
Tom & Donna Blythe
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Mahrenholz Family
Terry & Diana Kulenkamp
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Todd & Trista Thomas
Diane Wire
Allen Koester
Richard, Mary
& Nick Bieber
Michael & Elizabeth
Adler Family
Tom & Kathy Verkamp
Keith Kinney
Mary Graff
Mary George
Mark & Ronda Corbett
Kent & Missy Rexing
Dan Kercher Family
John & Della Stock
Ray & Nancy Pritchett
Clerio Schmitt
Tom & Elaine Michl

**ST. JOSEPH PARISH
ENDOWMENT
IN HONOR OF**
Gregg Kroeger
The Marlon & Ella
Kroeger Estate

**HORAK-DOSSETT
LITURGY ENDOWMENT
IN MEMORY OF**
Nancy Ann
Weinzapfel
Neal & Peggy Dossett

**LEROY & ROSE WEISS CEMETERY
ENDOWMENT
IN MEMORY OF**
Carol Linz
Mrs. Rose C. Weiss

IN MEMORY OF
Robert A. Schmitt
Mrs. Rose C. Weiss

**THANK
YOU!**

LITURGICAL MINISTERS April 29, 2023--May 21, 2023

NOTE: We will once again offer the opportunity for people to receive BOTH THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST. For the time being we will have two ministers of the Body of Christ and two ministers of the cup. So we will have three Eucharistic Ministers assigned for each mass. Please feel free to come forward to help if the ministers of communion are not able to be there for their assigned times.

Saturday April 29, 2023 5 PM	Butch and Linda Feulner Diane Woods	Sis Jarboe
Sunday April 30, 2023 8 AM	Michael Elpers Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher	Tom Blythe
Sunday April 30, 2023 10:30 AM	First Communion Mass	First Communion Mass
Saturday, May 6, 2023 5 pm	Eric Reffett Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher	Mike Reffett
Sunday May 7, 2023 8 AM	Chick Duncan Brian and Ann Craney	Terry Drone
Sunday May 7, 2023 10:30 AM	Jena Wessel Steve Jung Angie Will	Shane Wessel
May 13, 2023 5 PM	Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson Donald Werner	Toni Askins
May 14, 2023 8 AM	Terry Drone Rodney and Paula Baehl	Donna Blankenberger
May 14, 2023 10:30 AM	Diane Bassemier Darlene Appler Danielle Welledge	Many Elpers
May 20, 2023 5 PM	Ron & Margaret Angermeier Lee Askins	Sis Jarboe
May 21, 2023 8 AM	Marcia Frey Dave and Betty Fehrenbacher	Dave Schmitt
May 21, 2023 10:30 AM	Doris Taylor Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch	Jane Scheller

RUMMAGEis on for June 9-10. We are inviting you to save your gently used items for the rummage sale.

SALE

Rule of thumb—if you wouldn't buy it at a rummage sale, then don't bring it. We regret that we cannot accept electronic items, old computers, TV's and the like. There just has not been a big demand for these items at our past rummage sales.

More information to be coming in the weeks ahead. Got any suggestions or questions? Contact Imogene (812) 963-5221. Thanks for your continued support!

COMING FRIDAY JUNE 9--SATURDAY JUNE 10

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Up Close and Personal INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Ian Bonds-Keever

When you meet Ian, it becomes clear pretty fast that this is a thoughtful young man. He is a senior at Mater Dei. He lives with his step-father, Dave Conaway at Dave's grandfather's homestead on Highway 65. His mother, Cindy Bonds-Conaway died this August 31. He has two brothers, Michael and John. There is a military theme that runs through Ian's family. His mom was in the Marines where she met his step-father, Dave who was a Marine

Corps Pilot. His brothers, Michael and John have also served in the military, Michael with the Army Rangers and John who is still serving in the Navy.

Ian was born in Florida. Shortly afterwards, he moved to Evansville with his mom and step-father to live on the farm that belonged to his step-grandfather Conaway. Ian attended St. Joseph Grade School and graduated in 2019. Ian then moved on to Mater Dei High School.

"I think moving from St. Joe to Mater Dei was pretty significant for me. One of the challenging things for me going to grade school was trying to figure out how I belonged. All the people in my class were good people, but I often felt a bit like a fish out of water there. I found that my interests were not the interests that were shared by many of my classmates. Coming to Mater Dei, which was bigger, gave me a chance to develop friendships with people who shared more of my interests. I think my freshman year was the best year of my whole school career, even though the year ended with the covid-pandemic. High school really helped me come into my own as a person. Sometimes people tell you that high school will be difficult so you better work hard and be prepared. But actually I found the transition to be quite easy."

On the whole, school has been a challenge for Ian. "Some people can do very well in the class structure that most schools operate under. But I've discovered that my brain doesn't really work that way. It's not that what they do in school is bad. It's just that I have found that this is not the best way for me to learn." Ian has a wide range of interests. Sit and talk with him and the subject matter is likely to range from current political issues, to drama and literature to history. And conversations about history can range from the roots of the depression and it's effect on the economy, to a discussion on World War I and the effects that has had on the history of Eastern Europe and the Middle East, to discussions about the Cold War.

It's not surprising that Ian would find qualities in world leaders that he admires. "I think about President Franklin Roosevelt who helped lead our country out the depression and through World War II, all the while being an invalid tied to a wheelchair. I admire President Kennedy because I think he helped us to dream about who we could be as a country. And I admire the courage of someone like Mikhail Gorbachev who was able to have a different vision for Russia."

One of the highlights of his high school career was being introduced to the world of acting and drama. "Working on plays and trying out for different roles really helped me to get in touch with my artistic side." This year, Ian will be playing one of the leading roles in Mater Dei's spring musical production.

"Mrs. Roberson, our drama teacher, has been one of the teachers that has had the biggest influence on me. She be-

lieved in me and my ability as an actor, which gave me a lot of confidence. She asked me once 'have you ever thought about going into theater full time?' That really opened my eyes to all kinds of new possibilities in life." Perhaps as a result of this prodding, Ian plans on attending the University of Evansville to pursue a degree in theater. Most recently, he and his step-father attended a theater fundraiser with Matt Williams, a U of E theater graduate and now TV writer and producer.

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think the biggest thing I have learned in life is not to let things that happen to you determine what you do in life. One of the biggest challenges I have faced in my life is learning to deal with people who are suffering from addiction issues. One great lesson I have learned is that you can't take responsibility for another person's addictive behaviors. Sometimes, especially with people you care about, you can feel like you are responsible for the difficult things that happen in their lives because of their addictions. I tell myself that even though things might be bad today, this day will end and tomorrow will come. I try to remember that there is a lot of goodness in the world. Even in difficult times, there are people who care about you. I really admire my step-father because he reminds me of this all the time."

Ava Elpers

A quick smile and bright eyes greet you when you sit down to talk with Ava. She is the daughter of Laura and Craig Elpers and the younger sister to Alexa and Ayden Elpers. Ava is a senior at Reitz and is looking forward to graduation this spring.

Ava started school at West Terrace and then moved to Cynthia Heights to complete her elementary school years. She then attended Helfrich Park Middle School. One of the highlights of her time at Helfrich Park was getting to be a part of the Land Between the Lakes gathering. At first Ava was reluctant to go on this weekend experience. She got a lot of encouragement from her Uncle, Glenn Givens, who has served as one of the adult leaders of this program. But the thing that got her to finally agree to go is that her grandpa, Gene Elpers, promised to go with her. It turned out to be a great experience. She smiled when recalling some of the crazy things her Uncle Glenn would get all the students to do.

After graduating from Helfrich Park, Ava moved on to Reitz High School. When asked about her teachers, Ava has a quick response: "They were nice." She talked about reading different books in her English class and learning how to use different cooking utensils in her Cooking and Nutrition Classes. She shared her "knife" skills at home by preparing vegetables. Her mother recalled that seeing Ave wield her knife chopping vegetables for the first time and doing it with such ease took a little getting used to. It was no big deal for Ava. "It's how they taught us in the class!"

Next year, Ava is hoping to attend "Traces (Transitional Resources to Achieve Career and Education Success)," which is a EVSC transition program in partnership with the University of Evansville. This program is located on the campus of UE. It is intended that when the TRACES students leave the program, they



can ride the city bus independently, use their cell phone for communication and have secured a paid community job.

Family life is a big reason for Ava's success and well being. And she has one word to describe the people of her family: "They are funny." It is an expression of the joy she finds in being around them. "My mom and I have done a lot of things together. She gets me where I need to go and she is always there to help me. My dad is fun to be around. I like hanging out with him."

Probably the ones that Ava really likes hanging out with are her older sister and brother. It's pretty apparent that both of them take their role as Ava's younger sister pretty seriously. "Ayden lets me hangout with a bunch of his friends." No doubt she is the center of attention at these gatherings. A recent highlight was visiting Ayden in college to celebrate his birthday.

And Ava has a special relationship with her older sister, Alexa. One of the things she especially likes doing is going to lunch with her where they can imbibe in their favorite food—sushi. Ava has been a big supporter of Alexa's tennis career both at Mater Dei and at Marian University where Alexa is soon to graduate. Ava could always be found cheering mightily for her then greeting her at the end of the each match with the words: "Did you win?"

Alexa's love of tennis has rubbed off on Ava in other ways as well. This year, Ave is looking forward to being part of the Girls Tennis Team at Reitz. Future opponents, don't be fooled by her sweet smile. She can be pretty competitive!

Ava's love of family extends to the special relationships she has with her grandparents, Larry and Jackie Schenk and Gene and Earlene Elpers. She has shared some special time with her Grandmother Jackie especially at Christmas time when they bake cookies together. And she's on the phone everyday with her Grandpa Larry sharing her most recent jokes. If they can't talk in person, they usually text their jokes to each other. Her Granma Earlene is always good for some great treats as well and helps Ava get to know all her Goedde cousins. She and her Grandpa Gene have also had a lot of great adventures through the years.

Ava has a great love for animals especially her cat Luna. And if you come by in the summer time, you'll likely find her relaxing in the family swimming pool.

When her family talks about her they speak about her friendly way with people. She's the kind of person that enjoys socializing

with others. But perhaps the greatest gift she offers is that helping people to see things from a different perspective.

Ansley Singer

Ansley is the daughter of Matt and Missy (Muensterman) Singer and the younger sister of Iric Singer. She is a senior at North Posey High School. If you talk with Ansley for any amount of time, you'll soon discover that one of her great passions is delving into the world of art and drama.

"Lots of folks think of North Posey as a school reflecting the farming background of many of its students. And while this is true, there is also a thriving arts and drama scene at the school as well." Ansley has been a member of the choir since her junior high years at North Posey. Being in the choir has also meant being involved in their yearly musical productions. In the past they have done *Music Man*, *Moma*



Mia and How To Succeed in Business Without Really Trying. This year they have taken on their biggest challenge of putting on the musical *Bye Bye Birdie*. Being a small school, it takes everyone's effort to pull this off.

Ansley has also been part of a vocal ensemble group that has competed in numerous state tournaments through the years. She has won several silver and gold medals in the solo and ensemble competitions. "I've been a soprano all my life and have had to learn how to sing well. Learning to sing well is all about learning how to develop your diaphragm muscles. It's all about learning how to breathe through your diaphragm which most folks don't really

Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

Love the quick profit, the annual raise,
vacation with pay. Want more
of everything ready-made. Be afraid
to know your neighbors and to die.
And you will have a window in your head.
Not even your future will be a mystery
any more. Your mind will be punched in a
card and shut away in a little drawer.
When they want you to buy something
they will call you. When they want you
to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something
that won't compute. Love the Lord.
Love the world. Work for nothing.
Take all that you have and be poor.
Love someone who does not deserve it.
Denounce the government and embrace
the flag. Hope to live in that free
republic for which it stands.

Give your approval to all you cannot
understand. Praise ignorance, for what man
has not encountered he has not destroyed.
Ask the questions that have no answers.
Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.
Say that your main crop is the forest
that you did not plant,
that you will not live to harvest.
Say that the leaves are harvested
when they have rotted into the mold.
Call that profit. Prophesy such returns.

Put your faith in the two inches of humus
that will build under the trees
every thousand years.

Listen to carrion - put your ear
close, and hear the faint chattering
of the songs that are to come.

Expect the end of the world. Laugh.
Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful
though you have considered all the facts.
So long as women do not go cheap
for power, please women more than men.

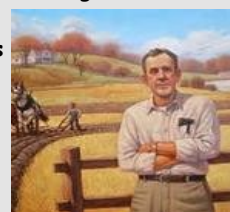
Ask yourself: Will this satisfy
a woman satisfied to bear a child?
Will this disturb the sleep
of a woman near to giving birth?

Go with your love to the fields.
Lie down in the shade. Rest your head
in her lap. Swear allegiance
to what is highest your thoughts.

As soon as the generals and the politicians
can predict the motions of your mind,
lose it. Leave it as a sign
to mark the false trail,
the way you didn't go.

Be like the fox
who makes more tracks
than necessary,
some in the
wrong direction.
Practice resurrection.

—Wendell Barry



do."

Ansley has also taken several art classes. It's probably no surprise that one of the teachers she admires the most at North Posey is her art teacher, Mr. Wilson. She's taken some classes in 3-D art and this year has been focusing on ceramics. She's been learning how to "throw clay" and then form it into

(Continued from page 5)

different shapes and then fire it in the kiln. “It takes a lot of practice to learn how to do this well.” She’s also learned how to make stoneware clay and what kinds of material are safe to use around food, if you are making things like bowls and pictures. “We each made of bust of our own head which was also an interesting experience. I like to work on projects that are more realistic.” One of her art projects this year is making a ceramic rolled up bathroom towel. It’s been good enough that she is one of one hundred twenty students in the Vanderburgh and Posey County who have been invited to display their works of art at their annual Art Show.

Ansley has also found time to play tennis, one of her other big interests. She’s been playing tennis since her seventh grade year. “Playing tennis has taught me how important it is to stay focused on what you are doing. You have to learn how to keep your emotions in check and you can’t let a bad shot ruin your whole game. I’ve got a ritual I follow each time I get ready to serve the ball. Stay calm, take a deep breath, get in the correct posture, and look at the spot where you want your serve to land. You’ve got to be in good physical shape if you want to do well in tennis but even more important is the mental aspect of the game. Tennis has allowed me to have an outlet for my competitive energy.”

Ansley is also busy taking the necessary classes to graduate. I like the fact that our classes are held everyday rather than a block schedule. It’s easier for me to stay focus for a fifty minute class rather than an hour and a half class.” Among her most interesting classes are personal finance and taxes and an English class where there are reading the novel *The Kite Runner*. She’s looking forward to her graduation in May where she and her good friend Molly will be singing “Connected” as part of the graduation ceremony.

Ansley is still formulating her plans for next year. She might be going to college to pursue a degree in graphic arts or she may be learning the art of tattooing. “I designed a tattoo for my grandmother Muensterman and I like doing this sort of thing.” So you might find her learning the trade by working with a tattoo artist in the area. Stay tuned!

A big part of Ansley’s life is her family. “My dad and I share the same kind of temperament in life. I think I get a lot of my drive and determination from him. He’s also got a lot of creative energy as well. My mom and I look a lot alike and we have the same kind of taste in clothes and fashions. I like hanging out with my brother Iric. He’s not just a protective older brother but a good friend and confident as well.”

One of the memorable family gatherings for Ansley was a several week long trip our west. Most recently, she and her mom traveled to New York. “My mom’s friend was having an art show which was the reason for our trip. During our stay

we got to see *Phantom of the Opera* and we got to tour the 9/11 memorial. That was quite an emotional experience. Being in New York gives you a much bigger experience of life. Just traveling in the subway will introduce you to many different people speaking many different languages.”

WORDS OF WISDOM: “I think it is important to try new things. Don’t be afraid to follow your passions in life. And don’t get discouraged if people don’t always see what you see. Some of the best things that have happened to me have been because I was able to tap into my determination and drive energy. I think what I have also learned is that every person has different styles of learning. I enjoy being around people but I know that after a while I need to be by myself to get reenergized. Working on art projects has also helped me learn how to be patient with myself. Learning this skill will come in handy in all sorts of ways in life. I think having an appreciation for family is important as well. I really enjoy the time I have had with my grandparents and great grandparents. I like learning about our family history, especially viewing pictures of members of the family and seeing how I look like many of my ancestors.”



Kayla Gerth

It’s been a busy four years for Kayla who is a senior at Mater Dei. Kayla is the daughter of Brian and Aimee (Dupont) Gerth. Her older sister, Taylor, is pursuing a degree in education at USI.

Sports and academics have been the two things that she has focused most on. Kayla’s hard work in academics is reflected in her being chosen to be a member of the National Honor Society for the past two years. She’s also been a member of the Spanish Club and one of their functions this past year was having a taco bar before a Mater Dei basketball game. She has also been a member of the Pep Club. Last year she was part of the group that helped to set up for the Junior-Senior Prom.

Kayla has had a lot of good teachers through her career. Some of the best teachers are the ones who challenge her the most. She’s found that true especially with her AP Calculus teacher, Mrs. McDurmond. “She may be a tough teacher but she really wants you to succeed.” She has appreciated taking her Theology Class with Mr. Schaefer. “He makes it so you really want to learn more about God and our faith tradition.” One of the other classes she has enjoyed is her film literature class, learning all about how different films are made. One of the films they are studying this year is *Schindler’s List*.

As a gifted athlete, Kayla has spent many hours playing volleyball, basketball and softball. This year, Mater Dei got moved up to a higher class for all these sports which has made the going a lot more challenging. The made it to the final game in the volleyball sectional before falling to their big rival, Memorial. “We beat them during the regular season but came up short in the sectional.”

Kayla has been the starting guard on girls basketball team these past few years. They had a pretty decent year and won their first game in the sectional tourney before falling in the second game.

As we spoke, Kayla was getting ready for the upcoming softball season. She has been the starting catcher. “We’ve got a lot of good players and the competition for starting positions makes the team a lot stronger.”

All these sports have taught Kayla about the importance of teamwork and determination. “You have to be in good shape to



Diocesan policy: Report and inform

The Diocese of Evansville has in place a policy that requires that any allegation of child abuse must be reported to civil authorities. If an allegation involves the sexual abuse of a minor by diocesan personnel, the Victims Assistance Coordinator must also be informed. Report child abuse

Every allegation of child abuse must be reported to Child Protection Services, an agency of Indiana state government.
CPS Toll-free: (800) 800-5556 Local law enforcement: 9-1-1

Report and inform

In the event of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor (a person under 18) by diocesan personnel, report the allegation to authorities, and inform the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the diocese: Toll-free: (866) 200-3004 Local: (812) 490-9565

CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE

Applying the teachings of Jesus Christ for the betterment of rural America

There was a time when our parish was primarily a rural parish with most of its members living and working on farms. Now we have only a few people who are still involved in farming. But we are all still connected to the land and we need to live in harmony with the world around us. Farmers and consumers need to be in solidarity. We need to once again know and understand who we are as a people of God.

All of us can help steward the landscape by an *ethics of eating*. We should choose those foods that are grown and processed in a responsible, sustainable and just way. Once we grow or produce the kinds of foods that are good for the earth, then we can eat and share what is good to grow. By our ethical food choices, we can shape the countryside in a sustainable way for all. Eating is a moral act!

Let us seek God's guidance in finding ways to better utilize the goods of the earth that farming can become more sustainable for all who find their vocation on the land.



play well, but the biggest thing is developing a good mental attitude. Things don't always go the way you want them to go and you can easily get down on yourself. That's where a good mental attitude comes into play. During our freshman year, our whole softball season got cancelled because of the Covid pandemic. Then, during my sophomore year, I was quarantined twice during the basketball season."

Next year Kayla plans on attending USI where she wants to pursue a degree in engineering. "I'm not sure what field of engineering, maybe something to do with manufacturing. Long term? "It would be nice to find a job around here and be able to raise a family."

Kayla graduated from St. Joseph Grade School. Of course there are memories of good teachers, especially her middle school teachers, Mrs. Elpers, Mrs. Daugherty and Mrs. Netewo. "We had a great class and everyone got along great together. I got the chance to play a lot of different sports. School lunches were great, especially the super nachos! And I remember times we went to mass each week. I remember being a family leader in my eighth grade year and helping to lead some of the different prayer services we had."

Family life has been a big part of Kayla's life. "My dad's parents live right next door to us so we get to spend a lot of time with them. A lot of times I will go with my grandparents to weekend mass at Holy Redeemer. My dad is serving as the County Auditor so I've gotten introduced to the whole world of politics and public service. I've gone on some campaign outings with my dad and been to some of his campaign fundraisers. There is an awful lot of work that goes into these kind of jobs. During all my growing up years, I've spent a lot of time with my dad since he was the coach for most of my different teams."

"My mom has been one of my biggest supporters all through my athletic games. She's really been supportive of all the things that I have done. The thing that I treasure the most in our relationship is that she is a person I can always talk to. She's taught me a lot about being a good listener. I know she always wants the best for me."

"We try to get together to do things as a family. That was easier when my sister and I were younger, but now we all have a lot of different things going on in our lives so we don't have as much time as did before to do things together. I still enjoy the times we visit with my grandparents in Tell City. Lots of great memories of baking cookies for the holidays and the great Easter egg hunts we had."

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I am a big believer in adversity making you stronger. That's probably one of the biggest lessons I have learned by participating in sports. No one likes it when things are hard or they don't go the way you want them to go. But if you are willing to stick with things and keep doing your best, I think it will make you a better person. What I have learned is that you don't want to take things for granted. And you have to be willing to put yourself out there and take risks, even if that means you might sometimes fail. Failure can be a big teacher in your life. Everyone wants to have good friends, but the only way you really can benefit from friendship is if you are willing to seek other people out. Good friends can be your greatest support but you have to put the time and effort into working at friendships for this to happen."

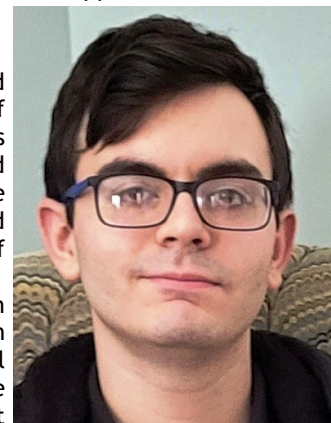
Chase Gerteisen

"I'm ready for graduation and moving on to the next phase of my life." That's how Chase puts it. He is the son of Jason and Tricia (Owen) Gerteisen and the older brother of Troy, Jacie and Wyatt and younger brother of Caitlyn.

Chase has a definite plan for his future. "I'm planning on joining the Indiana National Guard which means I will leave in July to do my basic training at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma. After that I will be taking some job specific training. I'm hoping that will be with army intelligence working with computers. If things go as planned I will complete that training and then begin my monthly service with the National Guard working out of the local unit. That will also allow me to go to college to pursue a degree in the field of computer science and mechanical engineering. I'm not sure where that will be, but one place I am looking at is Purdue. Being part of the National Guard will also make me eligible to receive money toward my college degree."

In the meantime, Chase is completing his senior year at Mater Dei. During his time at Mater Dei he has been on the Robotics Team and has been a member of the Archery Team. He can tell you a lot about the sport of archery. Things like the scoring system which includes shooting five arrows for six rounds and then tallying up your score. The best score for each shot is 10 and for one round of shooting the maximum score is 300. He's done pretty well, with his highest score being a 273 out of 300. So far the team has done very well this season. They have placed second overall in the state which means they will go on to state and national competitions.

Chase has been competing in archery since the sixth grade. "There are a lot of things you can learn from this sport. There is a certain amount of physical training involved but a whole lot of success or failure comes from the mental preparation. There are a lot of little things that can throw you off, things like gripping the bow too tightly or getting distracted by something else that is happening. You really have to stay focused and stay in the moment. One bad shot can throw you off for



(Continued on page 8)

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the whole round. But these things happen and you have to work at not letting one shot ruin the whole match for you. Sometimes there are things that happen that are out of your control—the bow you are using work right or the arrows you are using have a defect in them. Sometimes you can do everything right and still not get the arrow on the target. That is when it is really important to keep your focus on the next thing you have to do. You can't dwell on what has happened in the past, especially if it is something that wasn't to your benefit."

Chase's high school years have had some great moments and some challenging moments. Dealing with the covid pandemic was difficult. "I think I do much better with 'in person' learning than 'on line' instruction. I found that I could easily get distracted in this kind of environment. I do much better in a class setting."

Chase has had some good teachers that has helped him along the way. "I really liked my Computer Science teacher, Mrs. Roberson. She's the one who got me interested in computer coding and all the different applications that come from this. I like my English teacher, Mrs. Berger mostly because she has such an upbeat presence. She is fun to be around and brings a smile to my face especially on the days that I would rather not be in school. I like Mrs. Lefler who teaches economics. I've learned a lot of things in her class that have some real life applications—like understanding the world of investments and learning how to budget your money."

Chase attended several schools during his grade school years—Highland Elementary, St. Wendel, Cynthia Heights before graduating from St. Joe. "I remember being in Mrs. Elpers science class and watching her feed the snake she kept in the room. And the food was great, especially the super nachos."

Family has been central to Chase's life—his own immediate family and his extended family. "I loved spending time with my Grandpa Owen, my mom's dad. We did a lot of interesting things together. One of the saddest days in my life was when he died a couple of years ago. Chase's paternal grandparents, Steve and Mary Helen Gerteisen have also played a big role in their life. "We've lived in the same house with them for the last few years. My grandma has been one of the people that has really pushed me in life to do what I say I am going to do. My grandpa has a great engineering and science background so we share a love of the a lot of the same things. He has also taught me the value of doing what you say you are going to do. Of course my mom and dad are the people that have had the biggest influence on. I think I get my sense of determination from him. Sometimes it can come out as stubbornness. My mom is the one who has helped me get in touch with my artistic side."

WORDS OF WISDOM: Sometimes the hardest thing in life is just doing what you say you are going to do. If I had to do my high school years over again, I think I would take more risks and try new things. I have a tendency to over think things. Sometimes the best thing is just to give things a shot and see how they go. If things don't work out, you just move on. You really don't know if you could have done something unless you are willing to try. I think learning how to manage

your time is pretty important. There are a lot of distractions that you can get involved in and all of us sudden you realize you have spent the whole day on something that really doesn't help you that much. Following through on what you say you are going to do is important too. Sometimes just learning to start is the biggest hurdle to overcome. Just do it is a good model to follow. Having good friends to surround you is pretty important. Good friends help you make it through. Being around them on a daily basis is one of the things I am going to miss from high school.

(Continued from page 1)

REBUILD MY CHURCH (cont.)

"enter through the narrow gate," "cast your net into the deep," "take up your cross and follow me," "rend your hearts, not your garments."

This is hard work. Perhaps even harder than repairing a building. But there are people who have been on this journey and who can show us how to do it. One such person is Teresa of Avila. I've been reading lately about her life. She is truly one of the our great spiritual mothers. Our church recognizes the wisdom of her teachings by naming her a "Doctor of the Church."



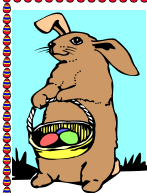
Megan Don wrote this in her biography of Teresa. *At the age of twenty, after much deliberation, she chose to enter the Carmelite Monastery in Ávila. She did not make this choice because of a vocational "calling" but because Teresa understood it to be a favorable alternative to marriage.*

Her fascination with the world continued while she lived in the monastery, since it was not an enclosed order, and a stream of visitors occupied much of her time. Prayers were ordered and recited by rote, which left her soul dry and uninspired. She attempted to enter her own "prayer of quiet," but finding the thoughts in her head far too noisy and disturbing, she gave up any attempt to develop a more meaningful way to pray. Her relationship with the Beloved [God] at this time was fairly superficial.

For twenty years she lived a divided life. On the one hand her ego desired worldly attachments, while on the other her spirit was calling her to a deeper communion with the divine. At the age of forty, Teresa finally surrendered completely to the Beloved (her name for God). Her real life and work had begun. She returned to her prayer of quiet, allowing God to lead her, no longer relying on her own techniques. Meditation became essential to Teresa in establishing a clear and firm foundation with the divine, and, as she walked further on her spiritual pathway, she came to understand that this external Beloved also



(Continued on page 12)



EASTER EGG HUNT SATURDAY

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a sea of indifference.

Pope Francis

Not all of us can do great things,
but we can do small things with great
love. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*

HAITI MISSION TRIP REPORT

Five people made a trip to Haiti this past February 4-9. It was a great trip and the area we travelled to was safe and everything was calm. We made a couple of trips into Cap-Haitien and also ventured to other areas outside of Plain du Nord.

The most important item on our agenda was to observe the children in school and interview all of them. It was great to see all the children back in school which has had its difficulties the past few years. Not only did they have to endure through the covid pandemic, they had to do this without any opportunity for virtual learning. More than 80% of the population does not have any electricity and the 20% that does have to endure constant power failures.

Our student sponsorship program continues to grow from 20 students in 2007 to over 250 students in 2023. Aside from enabling the children to go to school, this program all helps offset other operations costs for St. James Parish.



For those who are sponsoring students that are getting ready to graduate from high school, we try to encourage them to look for trade schools in addition to supporting those who go to study at a university. Just like here in our country, going to university is not for everyone. There is a need for a skilled work force to keep their country moving. We have been learning more about some of the trade schools. The more we learn, the more we will be able to support our students.

We are always looking for more people who might be willing to be part of our student sponsorship program. And we are encouraging people to get more involved with our Haiti ministry efforts. Here are some ways you can get involved.

1. Attend some of our Monthly Outreach Meetings. They are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month in our meeting room.
2. Go on a Mission Trip. It is an incredible experience that you will never forget. We have a lot of You can ask any of the people who have been on mission trips for their first hand experience. They'll be happy to tell you about it.
3. Help support a Microfinance Project. We are trying to get more of our graduating students to come up with a small business plan and apply for a microfinance loan to help start their business.
4. Pray for the people of Haiti. We know that the children and the people of St. James Parish are praying for us. When we put our prayer into action and let God be in charge, all things are possible.

THIS MONTH'S SPECIAL COLLECTION THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS

This month we are invited to join with our brothers and sisters throughout the United States in supporting a special collection for mission parishes in the United States and its Pacific and Caribbean dependencies. This appeal strengthens the Church at home by supporting Catholic communities in need. It assists dioceses that serve the pastoral needs of Hispanics and other ethnic groups. It enables Catholic parishes in poor and remote communities to provide Mass, the sacraments and religious education for their people. Once again we have a chance to respond to God's call to love our neighbor. Please be as generous as you can. Get more information on line at www.usccb.org/hm/



Do you enjoy fresh, chemical-free produce? If so, Seton Harvest, a community-supported agricultural initiative sponsored by the Daughters of Charity, would like to invite you to become a shareholder in our Certified Naturally Grown vegetable farm. For more information, contact Julie Dietz, Community Outreach Manager, at 812.963.7692 or Julie.Dietz@doc.org.

In the past, in a year's time, Seton Harvest harvested 44,284 pounds of produce with 8,877 pounds of produce donated to many shelters, food banks, and church pantries. A portion of each week's harvest goes directly to nearly a dozen different charities serving the poor and hungry including:

- Ozanam Family Shelter
- St. Vincent Day Care
- Evansville Christian Life Center
- Many others

Since our first growing season in 2006, Seton Harvest has donated more than 111,640 pounds of fresh, naturally grown produce. To find out more at Seton Harvest visit their website at www.setonharvest.org



**SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS MONTH
TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF
SEMINARIANS AT MARY, MOTHER
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MAKE RECYCLING A WAY OF LIFE**



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APRIL 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<div>EACH WEEKEND WE ARE COLLECTING FOOD FOR THE ST. VINCENT DePAUL FOOD PANTRY</div>					<div>Let Everyone Who Suffers Have A Day Off Mary Oliver</div>		1 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm Mass 5 pm College Care Packages Due Back
2 MASS 8 & 10:30 Coffee & Donuts after 8 am Mass RCIA Family Religious Ed 9 AM Haiti and Food Pantry Collection	3 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm	4 7:30 am Mass Chrism Mass with Bishop Siegel 5:30 pm at St. Benedict	5 7:30 am Parish Staff Meeting 12-2pm	6 HOLY THURSDAY Children's Service 9 am Holy Thursday Mass 7 pm	7 GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN SERVICES 8, 9, 10 Good Friday Service 7 pm	8 HOLY SATURDAY Easter Egg Hunt 10 am HOLY SATURDAY MASS AT NIGHT 7 PM	
9 EASTER SUNDAY MASS 8 & 10:30 Food Pantry Collection	10 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm Knights of St. John Meeting 7 pm	11 7:30 AM Mass	12 7:30 Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm First Reconciliation Service 7 pm	13 No Mass Altar Society Meeting 6:30 pm	14 Children's Celebration of Easter 7:30 am Senior Citizens Gathering 1 pm	15 Food Pantry Collection 5 pm Mass	
16 Mass at 8 & 10:30 am Food Pantry Collection RCIA & Family Religion Class 9am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 am	17 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm Men's Club	18 7:30 am Mass West Side Nut Club Dinner 6 pm PRAYER DAY FOR VOCATIONS TUESDAY 6 AM-WEDNESDAY 6 AM	19 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm	20 NO MASS	21 7:30 AM Mass	22 Food Pantry Collection Mass 5 pm	
23 Mass at 8 & 10:30 am Food Pantry Collection RCIA & Family Religion Class 9am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 am	24 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration School Board 6 pm Mass 6:30 pm	25 7:30 am Mass School Spring Musical 6 pm	26 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm	27 NO MASS	28 7:30 am Mass School Children	29 Food Pantry Collection Mass 5 pm	
30 Mass 8 & 10:30 am FIRST COMMUNION MASS 10:30 AM	<div>COME SEE WHAT ST. JOE SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER TO YOUR CHILD WE ARE ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-K and GRADES K- 12 For information contact our Principal Mr. Nathan Winstead 812-963-3335</div> <div>Find us on Facebook St. Joseph School Vanderburgh County</div>						

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 Coordinator of Religious Education

WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday 5pm Sunday 8 and 10 am

(Continued from page 8)

REBUILD MY CHURCH (cont.)

"rests within." It was to this place that she would constantly return to receive guidance, love, and a feeling of deep peace that she could not find elsewhere.

From that place of peace and inner authority, Teresa worked to return the Carmelite order to its original emphasis on prayer, poverty, and simplicity, going on to found seventeen new convents and monasteries. Don continues:

Contrary to popular belief, the pinnacle of the mystical life is often lived in the world, even though it is not of the world. Having come into a full consciousness of the reality of existence, the mystic is now returned to society, displaying an extraordinary energy for the work required. This energy is none other than the divine force working in and through this willing worker of the Beloved, and it far surpasses anything we human beings can do alone. Teresa's life is one such example of a person in and through whom God worked, and throughout her life she reiterated that the ultimate purpose of her relation with God is to give birth to good works in the world.

As we see the physical structure of our church building being repaired over the next months, may we also commit ourselves to the renewal of our hearts and minds. Teresa knew all about this. May her example inspire us in this journey. I have no doubt that she will be praying with us and for us as we go about this most holy work.

LET NOTHING DISTURB YOU.
LET NOTHING FRIGHTEN YOU.
EVERYTHING PASSES AWAY
EXCEPT GOD.
GOD ALONE IS SUFFICIENT.

St. Teresa of Avila



HOLY WEEK **COME CELEBRATE WITH US**

PALM SUNDAY APRIL 1-2

Blessings of Palms Proclamation of the Passion from the Gospel of Matthew

PALM SUNDAY MASSES

Saturday, April 1 5 pm

Sunday, April 2 8 & 10:30 am



HOLY THURSDAY APRIL 6

Commitment to Service,

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION 9 AM

HOLY THURSDAY MASS 7 PM



GOOD FRIDAY APRIL 7

Proclamation of the Passion from the Gospel of John

Adoration of the Cross Holy Communion

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION

8, 9 AND 10 AM

PARISH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 pm



EASTER CELEBRATION AT NIGHT

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 7 PM

Easter Proclamation, Readings, Baptism, Eucharist

EASTER SUNDAY

SUNDAY, APRIL 9 8 & 10:30 AM

CHILDREN'S CELEBRATION OF EASTER Friday, April 14 7:30 am

