

THE CARPENTER

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

6202 W. ST. JOSEPH ROAD EVANSVILLE, IN 47720

CELEBRATING OUR 181ST YEAR

AUGUST 2022

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WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH

Fr.. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

"I'd like to become a member of the parish? What do I have to do? " These are questions I have often heard. There is an old saying that goes like this: "I am a real Catholic.

I get collection envelopes!" All kidding aside, at this time with many things different from what they used to be, gaining clarity on some fundamental points regarding parish membership may help us to navigate our world a little better. I think there are three fundamental actions that are central to being a member of our parish:

Praying together at Mass

Embracing Service by participating in the life of the Parish

Supporting the Parish financially

These are the three things that all of us who call ourselves members of our parish try to embrace in our lives and call each other to do so as well.



COMING TO PRAY WITH US AT MASS

This idea has its roots in the ten commandments of the Old Testament: Remember to keep holy the Sabbath. Over the years, in our Catholic tradition, this notion has come to mean coming to Mass each Sunday. Now there are many good reasons for such a commitment. But it is equally true that fewer folks seem to be coming to pray with us at Mass. The reasons for this, I suspect, are as varied as there are people. One thing I know is that I miss seeing people at Mass. Even more than missing them, I know how important their presence is for me to continue to do the work I do as a priest. I can't live without it.

So why is it important to come and pray together each week at Mass? For me, two things are important. First, we need good anchors in our life and second, we were made to live in community and not by ourselves. We need each other.

Let's face it. There are all kinds of things happening now that can throw even the best person into a tizzy—challenges with children, stress related issues on the job, getting pulled from one issue to another and wondering whether you'll have the strength and wherewithal to deal with the next thing. And if

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READY TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR

Mr. Nathan Winstead
PRINCIPAL

We are gearing up to begin another school year here at St. Joe—our 148th since the Sisters of St. Francis came to establish our school in 1874. As part of getting everything prepared for our students and staff to start this school year off with our best foot forward we have

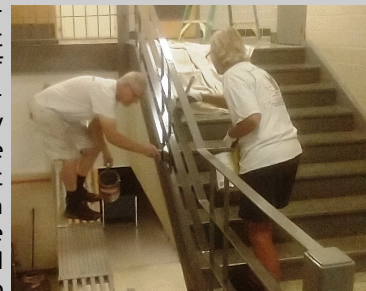


undertaken several improvements to our school building. Here are just a few that we have been working on.

With the help of our PTO we have purchased and installed new lockers in the upstairs hallway. These lockers will be used by our 4th through 8th grade students.

Also with the help of our PTO we have painted all the trim along our stairwells and around all the door frames. The PTO provided a majority of the money needed for this project. We hired Larry Niemeier Painting to do this work and he, with the able help of his dad, Charlie, did a great job with this project, bringing an updated feel to our school entry ways.

We also did a major upgrade to the school kitchen. We replaced and enlarged the two islands in the kitchen and built three enclosed carts for use in the kitchen. Fehrenbacher Cabinets manufactured and installed the new cabinets. We also built and installed a new pot rack above the island to finish off the area. To fund this project we used the money that was donated in memory of Katie Schiff. It was the family's desire that this money be used for a project in the school. Katie spent a great deal of her time working with our cafeteria ladies, we thought this would be a good use of these funds and to renew an area that she was so fond of visiting every chance she was in the school building.



We also built a new cabinet and office space for Keri Hartz, our Cafeteria Manager. Her office is in the old "boiler room." We call it the "old" boiler room, because now it is more a "mechanical" room that has all the hardware and central wiring for our internet, phone system and camera security system. The floors in this room were also updated with an epoxy coating.

Technology is also an area that we continue to make strides in each year. We began upgrading teacher smart touch panels last year and we were able to finish up the last eight

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Living the Faith, Together A year of Faith Filled Opportunities for the Whole Family

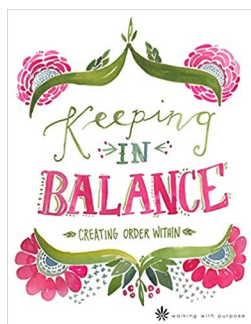
SUNDAY MORNING RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Sunday Morning Religious Education or "Family Class" will begin on September 12th at 9:00 am. We will meet two Sundays a month for instruction and quarterly for a service opportunity. Classes are for students in grades K-12 and for adult parents. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff to register. Registration will take place on Sunday, August 7th from 8 am - 1:00 pm



WOMEN'S BOOK STUDY GROUP

Women's Book Study: three discussion gatherings at St. Joe Inn; September 29th, October 27th, and December 1st; all on Thursday's at 6:00 pm. We will be reading Walking with Purpose by Lisa Brenninkmeyer. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff to reserve a free copy (until they run out). If you aren't interested in the meetings, but still want the book, just let me know and I can save one for you!



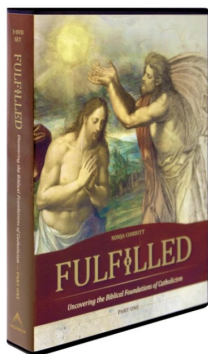
THAT MAN IS YOU

Men, mark your calendars. *That Man Is You!* begins this September. *That Man Is You!* combines scripture, solid secular research, and a little fun to address the pressures and temptations facing men in our modern culture. It seeks to form authentic leaders who will be capable of transforming homes and society. See the parish bulletin for more information in the coming weeks, or contact Rodney Baehl, Steve Jung, or Andy Reckelhoff if you are interested in being part of the planning and leading team!



BIBLE STUDY GATHERING

Bible Study; we will be studying "Fulfilled: Uncovering the Biblical Foundations of Catholicism Part I and II" (Part II will follow in January 2023) beginning on Wednesday, September 21st and continuing for seven weeks; ending on Wednesday, November 9th. There will be two opportunities for Bible Study; Wednesdays from 8:00-9:15 am in the parish meeting room led by Jessica Reckelhoff, or Wednesdays from 6:00-7:30 pm in the school meeting room led by Paula Baehl. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff to register and order a workbook. "Fulfilled...is an apologetic approach to



sharing the Catholic Faith using the Old Testament Tabernacle as a blueprint for God's plan. Fulfilled will reignite your love of Scripture and help you share and defend the Catholic Faith with the Word of God."

ADVENT MINI RETREAT

Prepare your heart and mind for Christ's birth with our second annual mini Advent Retreat. Saturday, November 3rd from 3:00-5:00 pm at St. Joe Church. Adoration, a guest speaker, reflective music, rosary, confession; concluding with Mass at 5:00 pm. What a great way to enter into the busy Advent season. You are welcome to come and pray for as long as you can. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff for information and/or to register.



Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff
Religious Education Coordinator
email jreckelhoff@evdio.org
812-598-1151 CELL
812-963-3273 OFFICE

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

These sessions, also known as RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) are open to those who want to learn more about our Catholic Faith tradition. They are also open to folks who are already catholic but would like to learn more about our faith tradition

What am I looking for?
How can I become part of something bigger than myself?
What is the meaning of my life?
How can I be a better person?
Does God have something to say to me?
What is the right path for me in life?
How can I make a difference in this world?
What can I do about the loneliness I feel?
How can I come to know God's love?

If you are asking these questions or questions like them, or think you may be interested... join us.

We will begin on Sunday, September 18th at 9:00 in the school meeting room. If you want to just come and inquire, please feel free to join us on the 18th to see what RCIA is all about. Contact Fr. Gene Schroeder, (812-499-9074), Tom Blythe (812 440-3563), Sr. Bridget Arnold, or Jessica Reckelhoff for more information.



JOIN US FOR
SOULCORE: PRAYER
and EXERCISE

Soul Core Rosary one Saturday a month beginning in August at 7:00 am. August 13th, September 17th, October 15th, November 12th, December 10th, Core strengthening exercise alongside the rosary! Bring an exercise mat and a bottle of water. Meet on the school playground, or, if the weather is unfavorable, we will be in the school gym. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff if you are interested.

PRAYING THE ROSARY

We have a long standing tradition of praying the rosary before the 8:00 Sunday morning Mass...expanding on this during the months of October and May, the rosary will be prayed before each Weekend Mass; for the 5:00 Saturday Mass rosary will begin at 4:40, for the 8:00 am Sunday Mass, rosary will begin at 7:40, and for the 10:30 am Sunday Mass, rosary will begin at 10:10. If you would like to lead one of the rosaries before Mass, contact Jessica Reckelhoff!



CONFIRMATION

Confirmation: Students entering their sophomore year of high school can begin attending Confirmation Classes leading up to the Rite of Confirmation on March 21st, 2023. **There will be a parent meeting on Sunday, August 14th from 9:00-9:45 in the St. Joe School meeting room.** Class information will be discussed at this meeting. Please contact Jessica Reckelhoff if you have any questions.



MAKE A CURSILLO WEEKEND

Cursillo is a lay movement for spiritual life within the Church to make the world more Christ-like. The method of the movement is to form small groups of Christians who meet in a friendship group to share their lives as Christians. A four-day encounter is a part of the movement that prepares the Christian to live out his or her faith. There are two Cursillo weekends for Men and Women coming up.

MEN'S WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 8-11
WOMEN'S WEEKEND OCTOBER 20-23

St. Joseph is blessed to have a large number of individuals and married couples who have made a Cursillo weekend. They are happy to share their experiences with you. Call the Parish Office (812-963-3273) for more information.



TEC (TEENS ENCOUNTER CHRIST) WEEKEND



TEC weekends have begun again. TEC is a three-day retreat experience for High School Juniors through age 21. It is an opportunity to make new friends, experience your faith in a different way, and have some fun. Find out what everyone is talking about. Contact Jessica Reckelhoff or anyone who has made a TEC weekend.



FAMILY FUN EVENTS

There will be many opportunities for Family Events this Year, beginning with a Fall Family Chili Cook Off, put on by the PTO, on Saturday, November 5th after the 5:00 pm Mass; on Saturday, December 17th, the coveted "Parents Night Out" will take place from 6:00-9:30 pm in the school gym; on January 6th and February 3rd, there will be a "Beat the Winter Blues Game Night" from 5:30-8:00 pm in the school cafeteria, BYO Game and Snack to share; and on Saturday, April 22nd there will be a Family Cooking and Movie Night in the school cafeteria and gym at 6:00 pm. Look for more information in the months to come, but for now, mark your calendars for these fun events!

RETREAT OPPORTUNITIES

There are many occasions for individual and couples' retreats through the parish. Individuals coordinate some and others are coordinated through the Parish. There are several retreat centers in our area that schedule retreats for groups and individuals. Among them are St. Meinrad Archabbey (www.saintmeinrad.org/retreats); Sisters of St Benedict at Ferdinand (www.thedome.org/spiritual-enrichment); the St. Louis Jesuit Retreat Center (www.whretreat.org) and the Sisters of Providence in Terre Haute (spsmw.org/spirituality-prayer). Check out any of these websites for more information.

ON-LINE RESOURCES

st.joeco.org/on-line-resources

Our parish website contains an incredible amount of information for people to access. You can, of course, access our parish website through your desktop or laptop computer. But more and more, people access information from websites through their smart phone. And our website is designed to work well with smart phones. Here are some things you can find our parish website.

You can find information about Pope Francis. A simple click on our website and you can listen to the sermons he gives each morning. You can also access the official website of the Vatican where you can read the talks and letters Pope Francis gives including his weekly audiences. You can also be a part of Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.



What's Happening with Pope Francis

You can pray the rosary, have access to reflections on the readings at Mass each Sunday through the Word Among Us and First Impressions from Fr. Jude Siciliano.

theWORD among us®
The Spirit of Catholic Living

FOR YOUR MARRIAGE

life and parenting.

You also have the chance to access Franciscan Media. There you will find daily meditations, saint of the day reflections as well as resources for children and family.

You can also find reflections from Fr. Ron Rohlheiser, Philip Gulley, Sr.



You can also access **FOR YOUR MARRIAGE** where you will find information about dating and being engaged, married life and family



Joan Chittister, and Fr. Richard Rohr. Through such invitations as "Monasteries of the Heart," an online movement sharing Benedictine Spirituality with contemporary seekers, the Center for Action and Contemplation With each of these you

will have the access to weekly and daily meditations, reflections on scripture readings, various online retreats, study groups, and seminars and various podcasts on different subjects relating to our spiritual journey.

All this is a kind of spiritual smorgasbord. We are all at different places on our spiritual journey. There are things listed here that will appeal to some folks and not to others. But there is sure to be something for everyone here. Check it out: stjoeco.org/on-line-resources



REMEMBERING

*Ella Mae Kroeger***July 3, 1926 - June 17, 2022**

Ella Mae Kroeger, along with Anna Mae Gries and Rose Weiss, were our oldest parishioners, having been born in 1926. She was a just a few weeks shy of being 96. Ella Mae was one of eight children born to Ed and Carrie Helfrich. Her sisters Dolores Kiesel, Doris Peach and Bernice Schile and her brothers, Melvin Edward Helfrich, Jr. preceded her in death and her sisters, Julitta

Flick and Mary Bittner survive her.

As a young girl, Ella Mae attended grade school at St. Wendel. But much of her education came from growing up on the family farm off Nesbit Road in northern Vanderburgh County. There were always jobs to be done and much of that work centered on gardening, cooking, canning, butchering and all the household chores of daily life. Hard work and thriftiness became ingrained in her from the beginning. Although Ella Mae was known to be quite a good cook, she would not have thought of herself as being a gifted chef. Cooking and canning were just the things you did.

As a young girl, she caught the eye of a young man named Marlon Kroeger. He grew up in Evansville and worked as a tool and die maker throughout his life. Ella Mae and Marlon were married in 1948 at Sacred Heart Church. Their friend Fr. Roman Vollmer witnessed the marriage.

Ella Mae and Marlon first built a house on Cynthiana Road just north of our parish. Rolling up their sleeves, they did much of the work of building the house. They lived there for only a short while, however. As Ella Mae recalled, "I told Marlon the house was on a hill and I didn't want to live on hill, but he didn't listen to me!" Apparently Marlon did listen, however, because soon they were building another home just a half mile north on Cynthiana Road. And once again, they rolled up their sleeves and built a second home. Marlon laid the brick for the new home and Ella Mae made the cement and carried the bricks for Marlon. This house would become their home for the next seventy years and it was the place that they raised their two sons, Paul and Mike.

There was enough ground at this home site for a big garden which was used to grow all manner of vegetables which Ella Mae was able to make some pretty great meals for the family. And she was able to sell much of the produce to others. In addition to vegetables, Ella Mae also grew many different varieties of flowers which she also sold. Over the years, she had some very loyal customers who came to appreciate what Ella Mae had to offer.

Ella Mae enjoyed her role as mother and homemaker. Those were skills she passed on to her two sons, Paul and Mike. She and Marlon would also pass on to them the value of hard work, especially helping their sons get their initial jobs working in the local orchards. Show up, do what they ask you to do, and be responsible. These were values that both Paul and Mike made a part of their lives.

Ella Mae would also share with them her competitiveness, especially when it came to playing cards. Playing clabber was something she learned early and enjoyed all her life. In her later years she would spend time playing games of solitaire. She would share her love for card games with her grandchildren as well. For them it was a real treat to come on Saturday to enjoy playing cards and feast on some great hamburgers.

Through the years, Ella Mae would share her talents helping out at our summer social. While they were able, Ella Mae and Marlon could always be found at our Saturday evening Mass. Weekly routines were a big part of Ella Mae's life, especially in her later years. Every Friday, she and Marlon would make their weekly trip to go to the bank, get some groceries, and then finish it off by having a fish dinner at Long John Silver's. They got to be such regular customers that the folks at Long John Silver's would just escort them to their table and bring them their dinners.

Other than this weekly journey, Ella Mae did not venture far from home. But even if she didn't get out much, she had a way of knowing most of the things that were happening in the parish. Keeping in contact with her friends, Estelle Schneider, Marion Fehrenbacher, and Rose Weiss was a good way to find out what was happening.

We remember Ella Mae as a woman of great determination. She was a woman who had strong opinions about things and was not shy about sharing them with others. But behind her sometimes gruff appearance was a woman who cared about her husband, her sons, and her grandchildren. She and Marlon forged a partnership that lasted over seventy years until his death in 2021. His death, as well as the death of her son Paul in 2015, left her often wondering why she was still around. With the help of her son Mike and his wife Lori, Ella Mae was able to stay in her own home until her death on June 17, something she really valued. We pray now that she and Marlon will be able to now experience the fullness of life with God in the kingdom that has been prepared for them.



REMEMBERING

*Barb Gerteisen***February 1, 1955 - June 25, 2022**

Barb Gerteisen was born on February 1, 1955, one of two children born to William and Joyce Leonard Nietsen. Her brother Joe was there to welcome her when she came on the scene. She grew up near Deaconess Hospital and attended St. Anthony Parish where she went to grade school. She attended Rex Mundi High School until it closed and then graduated from Central High School. Later Barb graduated from the University of Evansville.

Barb was proud of her professional career of over 36 years with Bristol-Myers Squibb. The majority of her career, she managed the facility needs of the Mt. Vernon site, and in this capacity, she worked with countless maintenance technicians, contractors, and engineers. During her tenure, she was a mentor to many and built relationships which positively impacted many people's lives. Through her work Barb became a member of the American Business Women's Association.

Twenty-five years ago, Barb was introduced to Cyril Gerteisen. That meeting would lead to a great friendship and marriage. He became her life long companion and best friend. They transformed what was once a dance hall known as the White Aragon, located on St. Joe Road just east of our parish. This became their home which welcomed family and friends through the years. They would also convert a part of the building into an apartment for Barb's parent's, William and Joyce. One of the things that Barb especially enjoyed was hosting her annual Christmas party for her many friends from Bristol Meyers Squibb. Barb was a great cook and anyone who came to these parties was sure to enjoy her many tasty hors d'oeuvres, home-made pickles, jelly, candy, and her zesty crackers. True to her generous nature, Barb would use these occasions as an opportunity for her

guests to contribute to a local charity.

One of the things that Barb and Cyril enjoyed was travelling. They made many annual trips to Las Vegas, Sarasota, and Gulf Shores. They also enjoyed visiting Hawaii and Alaska. One of the special trips they enjoyed was traveling to Italy on one of the many trips organized by Fr. Joe Ziliak.

Barb loved gardening and transformed the area around her home into a beautiful flower garden. She was truly a master gardener and was especially thrilled to welcome folks to her home as part of the Master Gardener's Flower Show. She volunteered over 2000 hours and served as the Publicity Chair for many years. In 2021, she was awarded the Master Gardener Volunteer of the Year. Barb was an active member of the American Horticulture Society, National Wildlife Federation, and the Southwestern Indiana Master Gardener Association.

Barb was quick to offer her help in the community. During her retirement, she enjoyed her involvement as a Director of the St. Joe City Cemetery Board, and as a Director of the German Township Water District Board. She embodied a real spirit of helping others, and was involved in many philanthropic activities, going out of her way to give to others when the opportunity arose. To all of these, she brought her positive energy and seeing life from the perspective of the glass being half full.

Barb's life took a very unexpected turn when she was diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. For a while it looked like she might still have some quality years ahead of her but that was not to be. Barb died on June 25 after a short stay at the Heart to Heart Hospice Center. We give thanks for Barb's life and we pray that her example of generosity might inspire all of us to offer what we have for the good of others.

*Look for me in the people
I've known and loved.
Let me live in your hearts*

REMEMBERING

Michael Lawrence Niemeier
June 21, 2022 — June 21, 2022

In the same week that we buried one of our oldest parishioners, we also buried our youngest parishioner, Michael Lawrence Niemeier, the son of Ali (Raben) and Ryan Niemeier. Ryan and Ali were excited to know that they would be welcoming a new baby into their family, but during the pregnancy, they discovered that their baby was diagnosed with trisomy 13, a rare genetic disorder that happened by chance.



They named their son, Michael Lawrence, after his two grandfathers. No doubt he was welcomed into heaven by his grandmother, Barbara Raben and his uncle Josh Raben, who

was also an early pregnancy loss.

Michael Lawrence was laid to rest in a special section of our cemetery reserved for the burials of small children. No doubt these little lambs were also there to welcome Michael Lawrence. Michael Lawrence's death reminds us about the preciousness of all life. There are no feet too small that cannot leave an imprint on this world.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions made to St. Joseph Parish in memory of these loved ones. Let us continue to remember the gift they have been in our lives

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH IN MEMORY OF

Bettye Logel

Donna Kress

Jennifer Meyne

Mary Jo Hoefling Borst

IN MEMORY OF

Ann Glaser

St. Philip's Men's Club

Mike & Ann Ennis

Leona Englert

IN MEMORY OF

Ella Mae Kroeger

Bryan & Ann Craney

Lorraine Blanford

Vernie & Connie Gries

THE HORAK-DOSSETT LITURGY ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF

Helen Gibson

Peggy & Neal Dossett

LEROY & ROSE WEISS CEMETERY ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF

Harold C. Bender

Mrs. Rose C. Weiss

HAITI HIGHER EDUCATION FUND IN MEMORY OF:

Esther Petrig

Haiti Outreach Commission

CYRIL & BARB GERTEISEN LANDSCAPE ENDOWMENT

IN MEMORY OF:

Barb Gerteisen

Michael & Doris Niemeier

Andy & Andrea Jarboe

Alma & Tony Scheller

Tom & Donna Blythe

Susan E. Blakeslee

Larry & Sue Paul

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Gerteisen

Michael J. Stewart

Carol A. Russler

Pam Ricketts

Harry & Donna Lincoln

Ron & Sara Luigs

Wally & Anne Cottrell

Luella Wagner

Cindy Williams

Tim & Gigi Render

Jane Mossberger

Gary & Patty Mueller

Paul & Charlene Gerteisen

Linda Dennis

Laval & Diane Emmerson

Connie Parker

Tom & Darlene Wolf

Pat Singer

Allen Koester

Donna Mayes

Ken & Beth Schenk

Darryl & Donna Schmitt

Mickey & Mary Ann Ball

Jim & Susan Helmer

A. Wayne & Mary Jude

Gerteisen

Lynde Wilhelmus

Thank You

BE A PART OF WELCOMING A NEW BABY....

Do you enjoy providing good, healthy meals for your family and friends? Would you be willing to put your talent of cooking to use for new parents in need? We all know the challenge of bringing a new baby home and then trying to continue to put a hot meal on the table for the rest of the family.

If you enjoy cooking, and want to help with this ministry of providing a few hot meals for new parents, please contact Jessica Reckelhoff. She will put you on a list of people to contact when the need arises for meal preparation and delivery.



EIGHT GOOD REASONS WHY YOU NEED A WILL

Having a will is arguably one of the most important things you can do for yourself and your family. A will can legally protect your spouse, children, and assets. It can also spell out exactly how you would like things handled after you have passed on. Here are some specific ways that having a will can ensure your wishes are followed.

1. You decide how your estate will be distributed. A will is a legally binding document that lets you determine how your would like your estate to be handled upon your death. If you died without a will, there is no guarantee that your intended desires will be carried out. Having a will helps minimize any arguments about our estate, and it determines the “who, what and when” for distribution. If you don’t specify your own plan for your estates, your state of residence will impose its plans.

2. You decide who will take care of your minor children. A will allows you to make an informed decision about who should take care of your minor children. In the absence of a will, the court will take it upon itself to choose among family members or a state-appointed guardian. Having a will allows you to appoint the person you want to raise your children.

3. Probate? Contrary to popular belief, all estates must go through the probate process, with or without a will. Having a will speeds up the probate process and informs the court how you’d like your estate divided. Probate courts “administer your estate,” and should you die without a will, the court will decide how to divide the estate without your input, which can cause long, unnecessary delays.

4. You can minimize estate taxes. Another reason to have a will is because it allows you to minimize your estate taxes. The value of what you give away to family members or charity will reduce the value of your estate when it’s time to pay estate taxes.

5. You decide who will wind up the affairs of your estate. Executors make sure all your affairs are in order, including paying off bills, canceling your credit cards, etc. Because executors play the biggest role in the administration of your estate, you’ll want to be sure to appoint someone who is honest, trustworthy, and organized (which may not always be a family member).

6. You can make donations to causes you believe in. The

ability to make donations is a good reason to have a will because it allows your legacy to live on and reflect your personal values and interests. In addition, certain gifts are excluded from estate tax, so you’re also increasing the value of your estate for your heirs and beneficiaries to enjoy.

7. You can avoid greater legal challenges. If you die without a will, part or all of your estate may pass to someone you did not intend, or the estate passes as intended but is contested by someone who you would not have wanted to receive an inheritance. For example, one case involved the estate of a deceased son who was awarded over \$1 million from a wrongful death lawsuit. When the son died, the son’s father—who had not been a part of his son’s life for over 12 years, stood to inherit the entire estate, leaving close relatives and siblings out of the picture!

8. Because you can change your mind if your life circumstances change. You can change your will at any time while you are still alive. Life changes, such as births, deaths and divorce, can create circumstances where changing your will is necessary.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS AUGUST 27, 2022 -- SEPTEMBER 18, 2022

As we continue to navigate through this coronavirus pandemic, the liturgical ministers we need for our weekend masses are limited to our lectors and one Eucharistic minister.

Saturday August 27, 2022 5 PM	Volunteers	Sis Jarboe
Sunday August 28, 2022 8 AM	Volunteers	Marcia Frey
Sunday August 28, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteers	Shane Wessel
Saturday September 3, 2022 5 pm	Volunteers	Mike Reffett
Sunday September 4, 2022 8 AM	Volunteers	Tom Folz
Sunday, September 4, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteers	Jane Scheller
Saturday September 10, 2022 5 PM	Volunteers	Jessica Reckelhoff
Sunday September 11, 2022 8 AM	Volunteers	Tom Blythe
Sunday, September 11, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteers	Many Elpers
Saturday, September 17, 2022 5 PM	Volunteers	Toni Askins
Sunday, September 18, 2022 8 AM	Volunteers	Terry Drone
Sunday, September 18, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteers	Jane Scheller



MISSION OUTREACH



Be an island of mercy in
a sea of indifference.

Pope Francis

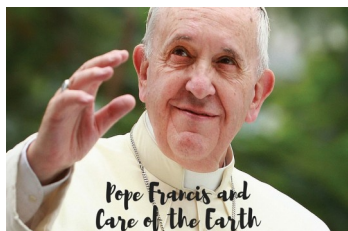
Not all of us can do great things,
but we can do small things with great
love. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*



**NEXT PARISH
BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY, AUG. 21
8 am--Noon
in the school gym**



CARING FOR THE EARTH BY DEVELOPING A RECYCLE CONSCIOUSNESS



Pope Francis challenges all of us to take care of our earth, our common home. That's a big challenge and the best way to do something practical in this regard is to think small. So here at St. Joe we are encouraging people to develop a "Recycling Conscious-

ness." We've encouraged our school children to be conscious about recycling cardboard, plastic, tin cans, and aluminum cans. And we have invited people to bring their aluminum cans to our recycle trailer.

But we are also encouraging people to develop a recycle consciousness at home. So the next time you are cleaning up after an event at your home, before you throw things in the trash, take an extra look and ask "Can any of the things I am throwing away be recycled?" Not only are we caring for our earth, we are saving money by hauling less trash to the landfill.



Thank You....so much for your faithful support of the St.

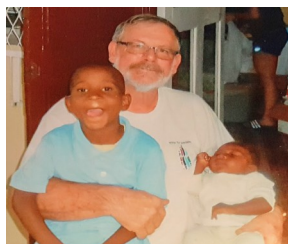
Vincent dePaul Food Pantry! Each week Terry Drone, Martha Baehl, Ruth Burk and Delores Folz bring multiple bags of groceries from your weekend food collection when they come to volunteer. We also received several donations of cash many of whom send donations on a regular basis. We are very grateful for your generosity and care for others. The number of those

coming for food assistance has soared these past weeks due to various factors—high food & gas prices, decrease in the amount of SNAP benefits being given, kids being out of school and eating more meals at home, etc. We are blessed to have so many dedicated partners in this SVDP Food Pantry ministry. Without donations, food collections and volunteers, this ministry simply would not happen. Someone said "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." Thank you for seizing these small opportunities each day to partner with us in our SVDP Food pantry ministry.

Sr. Donna Marie Herr Manager



WE'RE LOOKING FOR PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SPONSOR A CHILD'S EDUCATION IN HAITI

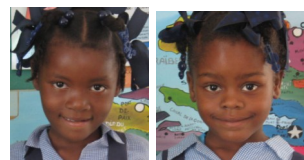


Each year our Haiti Outreach Committee seeks new sponsors to join our group of generous people who are sponsoring a child's education in Haiti. As often happens, some of our previous sponsors have died, while others have found they cannot continue to give at the level they did in the past. So we are always looking for new people to match up with the children in St. James Parish in Haiti. Each year Fr. Dubois gives us a list of the children who are in most financial need and we try to match a sponsor with them, to give them the help they need to attend school.

We will be happy to share with you a short bio and picture of students who need sponsors. We invite you to let your heart be changed by reaching out to sponsor your special student.

A person or family can sponsor a student for an annual cost of \$360, or just \$30 per month. This fee helps pay for their tuition, provide a stipend for uniforms and books, helps fund the daily food program and allows the students to have access to the parish clinic. With your help and the help of many of our other friends in the community, we currently sponsor approximately 200 students at St. Jacques elementary and high school. Their sponsorships help their sponsored child receive an education and provide their student a daily lunch at school (for some it may be the only meal for the day).

If you would like more information, you can contact Eric Reffett, the coordinator of our student sponsorship program. (812-618-5945) or email him at ereffett@sbcgobl.net



WHAT IT HAS MEANT TO SPONSOR A CHILD IN HAITI



Shari Kempf

What does it mean to sponsor one of God's children in Haiti? It means we care enough to bring two entirely different worlds together as one! It means we love them enough to share a little bit of the many gifts that we have been blessed with!

My son Brad and I were fortunate enough to be able to go to Haiti a few years ago with our St. Joe Haiti team. What an eye opener it was for both of us. No doubt the world would be a better place if each and every one of us would take advantage of the opportunities we have to travel to poor areas all around the world. You can't help but come away with a very deep appreciation for the many blessings we are so fortunate to have.

We were so fortunate to be able to visit our sponsor child Jean's home and meet her whole entire family. They were so proud to show us their home. The homes there are about 1/2 the size of most of our laundry rooms. They have one bed so they have to take turns sleeping. There is no power, which means no refrigeration, no windows, no doors, no bathrooms, etc. Yet they were so proud to show us their beautiful home. They made us feel like royalty but, no doubt they were the ones that were a blessing to us. They even mailed us a thank you gift after we got home. It brings me to tears to think about how happy they are with so little. WHAT ARE WE MISSING!

(Continued from page 1) **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A MEMBER OF OUR PARISH (cont)**

this is not enough, each day we face an onslaught of news stories about people shooting each other, rising food and gas prices and other things that seem beyond your control. How do we stay centered in this midst of all this onslaught? We need a place that nourishes us and we need to be surrounded by folks who support us. We need people whose lives model a different way of being in the world. That is why coming to Mass each week is important. We gather with like-minded folks who share the same concerns we do and we get a sense that we are not alone. There is something powerful that happens when we come together. We see the good news of Jesus being reflected in the lives of people around us and we are strengthened to do the same in our lives.

Coming to mass is one of the most important anchors we need in life. When everything around us feels out of control, the opportunity to come and pray with others and to be nourished with communion, can be the very thing that helps us take a deep breath and begin again. It becomes an anchor in our life that keeps us centered so that things don't fall apart for us. I have heard people say "I just feel better when I come to mass." I think what they are picking up on is the power that comes from gathering together in prayer.

Over the years that I have been a priest I have had many occasions to be with families in very tragic situations. And, let's face it, we all experience tragedies at one time or another in our life. Almost without fail, it is the families who come to mass that seem to have a better time coping with the tragedies in their life. I believe this happens because they have something that anchors them in life so that when a terrible thing happens, they don't fall apart.

And I have also witnessed the opposite as well. There are many things that cause stress in family lives: issues related to money, jobs, extended family, raising children, even issues related to practicing our faith or living out our sexual lives, can all be sources of stress. What is more, an unexpected illness or the death of a loved one can come along and lives can quickly fall apart, marriages can end, and lives are changed forever. My experience is that this happens all the more frequently for those who do not have an anchor like coming to mass.

We also need to come together to pray at mass because we need one another. That may be hard for some to believe because we live in a world that puts individual needs and wants above all else. So we look at things like going to mass and we ask—"what is in it for me? I don't go to mass because I don't get anything out of it." Young people are especially inclined to ask these kinds of questions. And that is pretty normal because our early lives are all about me. But growing up in our faith means moving from a "me" consciousness to a "we" consciousness.

When people talk to me about going to Mass or, more to the point, about not going to Mass, I invite them to think about what impact their presence at Mass might have on someone else. Many people rarely think about this. And if they do, they conclude that their presence means pretty much nothing to others. It's hard for many of us to think that our presence really matters to others or has an impact upon others.

But we are communal people. We were meant to be together. We need each other if we are to grow in our faith. There is such a strong impulse in the human heart to seek out a person to journey with as a partner. That's why people get married. God reveals himself to us primarily through the journey and bonding process that happens in marriage, in community, in friendships and in church communities. This is what we come to know and understand as we come together to pray at Mass.

For so many people we tend to see religion as being such an individual thing. It is about me being good so I can go to heaven. But being Catholic is really not a "me" thing, it is really a "we" thing. We are all in this together. We cannot go it alone. We need one another.

BEING PART OF THE LIFE OF THE PARISH

If I am a member of the parish, it follows that I want to be part of the life of that community. It means putting my gifts at the service of others. I've seen countless examples of that when parents and their children have come to work at various parish events. By their actions they show to their children that service to the parish holds an honored place in their lives.

Now that doesn't mean we always like being around others or working with them.

Sometimes these interaction can be challenging to say the least. People can drive us nuts, makes us pull out our hair and perhaps drive us to drink. But it is in the give and take of being with others that we learn things like forgiveness, compassion, tolerance, and even love. And we learn this important lesson: We are not the center of the world. The world does not revolve around me and the things that are important to me. Once again, growing up in our faith moves us from a "me" centered world to a "we" centered world. And oh how important it is for us to live this lesson in our lives.

Being a part of the life of the parish also gives us practical ways for us to "own" our parish. One of the great legacies of our parish is to see generation after generation take real ownership in the parish. The buildings we have on our parish campus and the ministries that have been central to our life as a parish, give witness to this sense of ownership. I have heard

(Continued on page 9)



***Unless life is lived for others,
it is not worth living.
Mother Teresa***

(Continued from page 8)

people say many times: “the folks who came before gave us these buildings and these ministries, and now it is up to us to take care of them so that we can pass them on to the next generation.

Being part of the life of the parish takes on many different forms: serving in one of liturgical roles at Mass, teaching in our Religious Education Programs, volunteering in one of the countless activities connected with our school, being part of a mowing crew, helping out at our summer social or fish fries, helping with the activities of our various parish groups. Sometimes this involves being a part of various outreach efforts: working with our brothers and sisters in Haiti, working at the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry, being part of the work of Habitat. The ways to engage in service are as varied and numerous as the people in our parish. All of these efforts echo the truth of the words of Mother Teresa “Unless life is lived for others, it is not worth living.

SUPPORTING THE PARISH FINANCIALLY

Being a member of our parish also means helping to own

the financial responsibility we have of providing the money needed to do the work of our parish. Here again, there is a very practical element to this but it is likewise rooted in a sense of stewardship.

What we do with my money says a great deal

about what we truly value and believe in. When we start out in life, we tend to think that ‘our money is our money. We worked for it. We earned it and we are the ones who should have the say in how it is spent.’

Growing in our faith challenges us to see that what I have, including my financial resources, is really a gift given to me. It challenges us even more to ask ourselves “how is that we are supposed to use this gift?” Our faith tradition, with deep roots in the Bible, calls us to give of our money as an expression of our faith. We hear Jesus tell us “give, and it will be given to you; good measure, crushed down, full and running over, they will give to you. For in the same measure as you give, it will be given to you again.” (Luke 6:8).

We spoke about growing in faith being a movement that is “me” centered to a “we” centered world. And that is certainly true with money. Money is very close to us. It reflects in a very real and concrete way what we really value in life. We tend to live in a financial world that sees money as a means of paying for the things we want. And we are the sole person who should decide how these transactions happen.

Seeing our money as a part of our stewardship response takes a great deal of courage. It means believing that we are sons and daughters of God and, because of this, we live in a place of abundance. Those are hard things to hear. We live in a world full of fear. And now there is much chatter about

HOW AM I LIVING UP TO MY COMMITMENTS AS A PARISHIONER?

inflation and rising prices. In the face of this, we often shrink back into fear and the belief that we have to rely on our own resources. And living in this kind of energy makes it hard for us to embrace the notion that being part of the parish means supporting the parish financially.

Every generation of parishioners, since the beginning of our parish in 1841 faced challenges like this. My experience as a pastor for over forty

years, bears out the reality of the 80-20 rule of parish life. 80% of the work of the parish is primarily done by 20% of the parishioners, and 20% of the parishioners provide 80% of the financial resources that a parish needs.

Now it is equally true that in each generation, most people really wanted to do their part. What has sustained each generation is that the faith of the 20% has inspired and encouraged the other 80% to a greater faith commitment. What was true in the past is true today.

So, being a member of our parish means supporting our parish financially. Our expectation is that people will contribute in our weekly collection. It also means supporting the financial efforts of our parish by buying/selling a packet of raffle tickets for our summer social.

In addition, our expectation is that people will join in doing their part to share in the responsibility we have as a parish to provide the money needed to do the work of the Diocese of Evansville by making a pledge to our annual Catholic Parishes Campaign.

One ideal that many people try to embrace is to tithe (Old Testament term that meant giving the first 10%), by sharing our money in the following way: 5% to our parish, 1% to the CPC and 4% to other charities.

So what does it mean to be a member of our parish? Come and pray with us at Mass, be a part of the life of the parish, and support our parish financially. These are the things all of us who claim membership in our parish, try to embrace. We try to hold each other accountable to them. And we challenge those who want to become members of our parish to embrace in their lives.

So now might be a very good time to for each of us to ask how well we are doing in our commitment as members of the parish. In doing so, we need to remember that we are not a perfect parish. We don’t always live up to the ideals we set before us. Sometimes our efforts are far from the ideal. Sometimes we get discouraged and wonder if any of our efforts matter. And sometimes what we do or don’t do leaves folks wondering if they want to be part of church.

What we are, in the end, are imperfect people who have fallen in love with a perfect God. Each day we try our best to imitate the one we have fallen in love with. Even when we don’t do things completely or perfectly, we make the effort. And when we make the effort, we become better people. And God takes the efforts we put forth and does great things with them, greater than we can ask or even imagine.



AUGUST 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 Religious Ed. Registrations Sunday, August 8 8:00 am – 10:30 am school registration	1 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration NO MASS	2 NO Mass	3 NO Mass School Faculty Meeting 9 am Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon	4 NO MASS School Faculty Meeting 8:30 am	5 NO MASS Communion to the Homebound	6 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass HAITI & Food Pantry COLLECTION
7 8 & 10:30 Masses HAITI AND FOOD PANTRY COLLETON SCHOOL & RELIGIOUS ED REGISTRATION 8 AM – 10:30 AM	8 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass BACK TO SCHOOL BASH 5:30-6:30 PM 7 pm Knights of St. John	9 7:30 am Mass DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TUESDAY 6 AM–WEDNESDAY 6AM	10 7:30 am Mass FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL Pre-K Begins Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon	11 No Mass Pre- School Begins	12 7:30 Mass Communion to the Homebound Senior Citizens Mtg 1 PM	13 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection
14 8 & 10:30 Masses Food Pantry Collection Confirmation Parent-Student Mtg 9 am First Communion/ Reconciliation Parent Meeting 11:30 am	15 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Men's Club Meeting 7 pm	16 Mass 7:30 am WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL	17 Mass 7:30 am Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon	18 NO MASS Haiti Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm	19 7:30 am School Mass Communion to the Homebound	20 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection
21 8 & 10:30 Masses Food Pantry Collection BLOOD DRIVE 8-NOON GIVE BLOOD GIVE LIFE	22 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration School Board Meeting 6 pm 6:30 pm Mass	23 Mass 7:30 am Prayer Service KN- 2 8:30 am Make Recycling a Way of Life	24 Mass 7:30 am Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon	25 NO MASS	26 7:30 am Mass Communion to the Homebound	27 4pm Sacrament of Reconciliation 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection
28 8 & 10:30 Masses Food Pantry Collection Family Religion Class 9 am Confirmation Session 1 11:30 – 1 pm	29 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass	30 Mass 7:30 am Prayer Service KN- 2 8:30 am Faithlink Connecting Faith and Life Check out these on line resource www.stjoeco.org/On-Line-Reources	31 Mass 7:30 am Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon	RENEW YOUR HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIP  BECOME A HAITI STUDENT SPONSOR		

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WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 5 PM

SUNDAY 8 AM & 10:30 AM

Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor

E-mail gschroeder@evdio.org

Ms. Kristan Gilles—Director of Liturgy

E-mail kgilles@evdio.org

Mr. Nathan Winstead—Principal

E-mail nwinstead@evdio.org

Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary

E-mail jkempf@evdio.org

Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff

E-mail jreckelhoff@evdio.org

Religious Education Coordinator



St. Joseph Vanderburgh County

(Continued from page 1)

READY TO BEGIN A NEW YEAR (cont)

classrooms this summer so that all our staff have top of the line touch boards along with 1 to 1 devices for our students in the classroom.

Each member in our community helped make these changes possible, so come by and see the new look in our school. I think you'll be happy with what you see and all the wonderful changes that we have made to improve our building!

We've also had a few changes in our school faculty. We bid farewell to Jennifer Hickey, our Art Teacher who is moving to Florida and to Devyn Haas, our music teacher who has taken a job at Mater Dei. Mallory Hoefling, our current PE Teacher will also be the new art teacher coming into our building full time. We are still looking for a new music teacher who will fit in with our staff as we share this position with Holy Redeemer Parish.

Please pray for our students and staff along with our St. Joe community as we start this new school year. With Christ as our focal point, pray that we may we do all that we can to create, to create a better world for all.




Sunday, August 7 8:00 am -- 10:30 am in the gym



5:30 -- 7:30 pm Monday August 8

SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL AND GET AN INDIANA TAX CREDIT

Here is an exciting opportunity that can benefit you as well as needy families in our parish and ultimately our parish school. The State of Indiana now enables you to reduce your state tax liability while at the same time helping low and middle income families send their children to our school.

Donors are eligible to take advantage of a 50% credit against their state tax liability for contributions made to Choice Scholarship. If you make a contribution of \$100 you can take \$50 off your state taxes. There is no minimum necessary contribution. In addition your full contribution can also be deducted for federal tax persons. Contributions that are made to an SCO can be designated for a specific school (in our case St. Joseph School). That way the money you contribute will definitely go to providing a grant for a needy family here at St. Joseph. You can donate online by checking out the website <http://www.iqed.org/sgo/donors>

The great thing about this opportunity is that it can be a win/win for everyone involved. If you would like more information about this opportunity call Fr. Schroeder (812-963-3273).

