



THE CARPENTER

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

6202 W. ST. JOSEPH ROAD EVANSVILLE, IN 47720

CELEBRATING OUR 181ST YEAR

DECEMBER—2022

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LEARNING THE ART OF DISCERNMENT

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

Every Wednesday Pope Francis holds an audience to meet ordinary people from all over the world. He has used this time to teach us about living life as a Catholic in this day and age. One of the many gifts of Pope Francis is that he can write and speak in a way that most people can understand and relate to.

Recently, Pope Francis has been talking about discernment. What is he talking about? Here's a way to understand it. All of us are trying to find meaning and purpose in our lives and the lives of those we care about. Each day, as you and I live in this world, we encounter many different people and many different voices that compete for our attention. All of these voices are telling us "listen to me, do what I am telling you because this is what you are looking for. This is what will give meaning to your life." So, each day we are making choices about how we will be in this his world. What voices do we pay attention to? Which events get our attention? Which ones go by without us even being aware of them?

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH POPE FRANCIS

You can find all the teachings of Pope Francis, as well as his sermons, and letters on the Vatican's website www.vatican.va. There are links to the teachings, letters and sermons from all the previous popes as well.



You can also find out what is happening with Pope Francis and the church throughout the world by visiting the website

www.vaticannews.va.

In a world full of fake news and disinformation, both of these websites can be relied upon for speaking truthfully about the Catholic church. They are well worth looking at. Check it out. You can find both of these links on our parish website www.stjoeco.org.

All of us, whether we are conscious of it or not, are making decisions that we believe will give meaning and direction to our lives. For all of us who claim to be disciples of Jesus, we are trying to make choices that are based upon the teachings of Jesus. We are doing this because we believe that Jesus' teachings will give us the meaning and purpose we desire. We take Jesus at his word when he said, "I have come so that my joy may be in

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ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES DECEMBER 14th and 16th

It is good for us to come together as a community to celebrate the forgiveness and peace that God alone can bring. It is important that we pray with each other and for each other. To help us do this, we will have two Communal Penance Services during the Season of Advent—Wednesday, December 14th at 7:00 pm and Friday, December 16th at 11:00 am.



I hope that you take this opportunity to come together in prayer. Please take the time to invite your friends and neighbors to come as well.

I will also be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation privately for those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. If these times are not convenient, please call/text (812.499.9074) and I will make a time available to you that is convenient.

Fr. Gene Schroeder



CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

SATURDAY DECEMBER 24

4 PM MASS WITH CHILDREN

9 PM CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY DECEMBER 25

MASS AT 9:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE SATURDAY, DEC. 31

MASS AT 5 PM

NEW YEAR'S DAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

MASS AT 8 & 10:30 A.M.



HAVE YOU MADE YOUR PLEDGE TO THE CPC?

PARISH GOAL	\$ 125,235.00
PLEDGED TO DATE	\$ 111,227.00
NUMBER OF PLEDGES:	306
AVERAGE PLEDGE	\$ 363.49

We're 92% of the way to our goal.
Can you help us get over the top?

Thank you...

CPC '22





REMEMBERING

*Jim Collins***March 25, 1953 - October 8, 2022**

Jim was born on March 25, 1953, one of three children born to William and Ruth (Rose) Collins. He has a sister Sharon and a brother Joseph. Jim attended St. Joseph (city) Grade School and when he graduated from there he began attending North High School where he could pursue his interest in machines and all things mechanical.

Jim met Debbie Helfrich through their involvement in the CYA Youth Group. They were married on June 4, 1983 at Resurrection Catholic Church. In time they welcomed their son, Chris, into their family. Later they would welcome their grandson Allen James, (AJ,) and still later, step grandchildren Drew, Jace and Rylee.

Jim's life could be described by the many interests that he engaged in—being a mechanic, love of cars, love of the outdoors and hunting, appreciation for guns and using his skills at spot shoots, love of music and love of boating.

Jim was, by nature, a great one to tinker with things. He developed a great reputation as a mechanic. During his high school years Jim worked at all sorts of jobs to earn money to buy his first car, a Ford Mustang. He achieved this goal even before he was able to get his driver's license.

Jim worked at Hocker Brakes and then began a long career working at the Evansville Courier where he kept their fleet of delivery vehicles in good working order. He also worked as a mechanic with Home City Ice, the Evansville METS Bus Depot, and Meisler Trucking. At each of these places, people recognized Jim's skills as a mechanic.

Jim's skills as a mechanic were a big help in another of his great loves—boating. Jim loved to tinker with boats and engines and he was reluctant to throw things away. There would always be a use for it somewhere down the road. Boating on the Ohio River and spending time at the family's river camps were big priorities for Jim. These were times filled with lots of good food and great parties. Jim's love of boats extended to owning his own RV as well. The RV gave his family a chance to travel to Tennessee and West Virginia on some great camping trips.

Jim had a great love for music that began early when he played with the folk group at Mass at St. Joseph Parish, (city). He was part of a group that Fr. Kenny Herr brought together to play. Jim's love of music extended beyond religious music. He had his own sound equipment and an endless collection of CD's that he used to provide music for wedding celebrations and other family gatherings.

Jim's love of the outdoors began at an early age when he would go hunting for deer. His love of hunting led to another great passion—going to shooting matches where he could demonstrate his marksmanship skills. If there was a spot shoot in the area, you were likely to find Jim in attendance. Over the years,

THANKS.... Every year I am amazed by the generosity of our parishioners towards our college students! This year, with your help we were able to fill 70 packages for our college students. I know they will be very excited to receive the gifts and use them to fuel their efforts for final exams. Thanks also for the money you gave to help cover mailing costs for those that we mail.

-Jessica Reckelhoff



Jim collected a wide assortment of guns as well. Some of them he used for shooting matches, but mostly he appreciated the craftsmanship that went into making the guns. His interest in guns led him to attend many different gun shows and auctions.

Jim also had an appreciation for Native American cultures and rituals. He was part of Tipton Lodge in Tipton, Indiana where he was able to participate in various cultural rituals, drumming circles and camping events.

Jim valued good friendships and he was a good friend to many. Jim had an easy going manner and a willingness to offer his help to others. Over the years, he got to know lots of people through his work, going to shooting matches and even his weekly Sunday breakfast at Denny's.

We are grateful for Jim's appreciation of nature and his appreciation for craftsmanship that went into all things mechanical. He taught us that everything has value, even things that at first glance, appear to have no value. And he showed us the value of friendship and gathering together with those we care about. Although Jim dealt with some health issues in his life, his sudden death was still a surprise. We pray now that he will come to know the fullness of God's life in the Kingdom prepared for him.

HERE'S A CHANCE TO GET A BREAK ON YOUR INDIANA STATE TAXES and HELP OUR SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME



The State of Indiana now enables you to reduce your state tax liability while at the same time helping 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, (SGO). If you make a contribution of \$100 to this SGO, you can take \$50 off your state taxes. There is no minimum necessary contribution. However much you give, half of that amount can be deducted from your state taxes. In addition, your full contribution can also be deducted for federal tax purposes. You can also make a donation of stock which will enable you to avoid paying capital gains tax.

Contributions that are made to our SGO are designated for St. Joseph School, so the money you contribute will definitely go to providing a grant for a needy family here in our parish..

You can make your contribution on line. Simply go to the website <http://www.i4qed.org/sgo>. Click on "donate online" and follow the simple directions. Be sure to designate "St. Joseph Evansville" as the school so that your gift will directly benefit us.

For more information about this opportunity call Fr. Gene Schroeder (812-963-3273).



SNOW REMOVAL CREWS: We're looking for people to help with snow removal. If you are willing to be part of this group and/or have some equipment that could be used to clear snow, call the parish office (812-963-3273) or (812-499-9074). We'll get a list together and then, when we know it might snow, we can call folks and coordinate our snow removal efforts. Every little bit helps!



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Brendan Elpers

Brendan is the son of Mandy and Brian Elpers, and the younger brother of Addison and Jordan Elpers. He is a senior at Mater Dei. "It's hard to believe that I'm getting ready to finish high school." The biggest thing that Brendan remembers from his high school years is all the new friends he has been able to make these past four years. Lots of them have come through his participation as a member of the wrestling and baseball teams.

High school years are also filled with memories of going to dances, attending sporting events and other student activities. "I think we have all learned to appreciate how important these gatherings are. Our freshman and sophomore years were spent dealing with all kinds of covid restrictions, so having the chance to have some "back to normal" years has been really nice."

Right now, Brendan has been training for the upcoming wrestling season. He will be wrestling at the 132 lb level. Over the years, he has spent a lot of time honing his wrestling skills. He started wrestling when he was six years old.

"Wrestling takes lots of time and you have to really be dedicated if you are going to do well. It takes a lot of discipline to practice everyday and to make your weight category." It's not surprising that when asked about people who have had a lot of influence on him, Brendan points to his wrestling coaches, Greg Schaefer and Jeremy Goebel. "They were good teachers in the classroom. You knew they cared about you. And when it came to wrestling they pushed you to do your best."

Brendan has also been a member of the baseball team where he played as an outfielder and as a pitcher. "Baseball is much more of a team sport than wrestling, which tends to be much more of an individual sport. Both sports require a lot of mental preparation. When you are wrestling you have to believe that you can win. If not, you have lost before the match starts. In baseball, especially when you are pitching, you have to keep your focus on what you are doing. The coaches are always telling us to eliminate all the distractions in life. If not, you can easily lose your focus. When you lose your focus you can get down on yourself and then you won't be very good at competing in wrestling or being a baseball pitcher."

Of course, aside from sports, much of high school has been taken up with classes. He's taken a lot of different classes and had some good teachers. "Junior year seemed to me to be the hardest year. Next year, Brendan is considering going to Vin-

cennes University to pursue a degree in business. In the future, that might include joining his dad and uncle in the tool and die business that his Grandma and Grandpa Elpers began.

Brendan spent his grade school years here at St. Joe. "I remember all the teachers I had. They cared a lot about you and wanted you to do your best." One of the best memories of grade school is enjoying lunch. "The lunch ladies were great and I can't think of anything that they made that wasn't good to eat." It was at St. Joe that Brendan started wrestling and playing baseball. And it was at St. Joe that he developed some good friendships which have continued through high school.

Brendan talks fondly of his family. He's the youngest in the family and the only one living at home with his parents. His older sisters Addison and Jordan are now living on their own pursuing their careers. But they still find time to gather as a family. One of those special times is Sunday fun day, so named by his dad. It's a chance to do some "grilling and chilling." There's good food and a chance to watch some sporting events on TV, a passion Brendan shares especially with his dad. "We're big fans of the Miami Dolphins Football team and the St. Louis Cardinal Baseball team."

Brendan also spoke about family gatherings for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. "We usually gather with Mom's side of the family for Thanksgiving. "My mom's side of the family is smaller especially when compared to the relatives on the dad's side of the family. "It's fun to gather with my Elper's grandparents. My grandma is a really good cook. But just recently Grandpa Elpers got a new grill and he's become pretty good at using it." Gathering with the larger Elpers and Goedde family is a whole other experience. "I don't really know all my extended cousins. What helped when we gathered was that we all wore nametags."

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED IN LIFE: "Being involved in sports has taught me a lot about the value of hard work and dedication. It has also taught me about how important it is to have a focus in life. You have to develop a lot of mental toughness especially when it comes to pushing through adversities in life. I've learned also about how important it is to have friends in life. They are the ones who will support you and who will also be honest with you. They are also the ones who can help you not to take life so seriously. You have to learn how to laugh in life."

Tess Freeman

Tess is the daughter of Stephanie (Helfrich) and Evan Freeman and younger sister of Ella, Dane and Alec Freeman. She is a senior at Mater Dei High School.

When we sat down to talk with Tess, she had just ended her high school soccer season with a tough 1-0 loss in the girls semi-state championship game. It was a tough loss, to be sure, but for Tess, soccer "has been a great ride." Soccer has been a big part of



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IT'S LOTTERY TIME

48 CHANCES TO WIN \$16,200

St. Joe Monthly Lottery Tickets are now available. \$16,200.00 to be given away next year. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Cost is \$75.

Look for your ticket in the mail or from your ticket seller. If you haven't purchased a ticket in the past and would like to do so this year, contact the parish office. (812-963-3273). Tickets are now on sale for the Mater Dei/Memorial annual "Buy a Ticket for the Tradition" Lottery. Monthly prizes are \$10,000, \$1500, \$1000 and \$500. Each ticket is \$100. For tickets call the parish office (812-963-3273)



The TRADITION
EVANSVILLE CATHOLIC INTERPAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS

St. Joseph Newsletter 6302 W. Saint Joseph Road, Evansville, IN 47720 December 1, 2022 Vol. 31 No. 12 Published monthly by St. Joseph Catholic Parish Publisher: Fr. Gene Schroeder, Deadline: 15th of each month TO SUBMIT ARTICLES Contact the rectory (812-963-3273) or email gschroeder@evdio.org

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Tess's life. "My older sister, Ella, played soccer and that inspired me to get involved as well. She's played soccer since her grade school days. During her freshman year, as a member of the soccer team, they won the state championship.

Soccer has been good for Tess. Understandably, many of her close friends are members of the soccer team. They get to spend a lot of time together at practice and games throughout the season. It's also been an opportunity to see good leadership skills as an underclassman and then a chance to provide good leadership as an upperclassman. This year she served as one of the three captains of the team.

"I've learned that you need to really push yourself to do your best for the team. When you have teammates to support you, it helps you push through the hard times and even helps you do what you don't always think you can do."

You have to get yourself in pretty good shape to play soccer. "I've learned how important it is to keep well hydrated to prevent getting a lot of cramps. That can happen when you are running for the whole game. One of the great things we do is to share in a pre-game meal that parents provide for the team. The meal always has some kind of pasta, bread sticks and dirt pudding for dessert. Good friendships come easily from such shared experiences.

Aside from soccer, Tess's high school years have been filled with other activities as well. She has taken a full load of classes including classes in forensics and advanced health. Next year, she's leaning toward pursuing a degree in health care. "My sister, Ella is currently in medical school and that has definitely influenced me to see some profession in this area. She'd like me to go to DePaul where she graduated. But my brother Alec, who is going to IU, is pushing hard for me to go there. I'm also interested in going to Butler. I'd like to pursue a degree in biology or kinesiology which would allow me to pursue a career in physical therapy. Right now, I think after completing my undergraduate work, I might come back home to go to U of E in their physical therapy program." We'll have to wait and see how this all plays out."

Tess has also been involved in the Pep Club and German Club at Mater Dei. She is also a member of the National Honor Society. She's been trained to be part of a peer mediation team at Mater Dei and also serves in student government as a police officer.

Tess is also giving her time to be part of the team to restart the Dance Marathon benefit for Riley Hospital. "We haven't been able to have the dance marathon the past couple of years because of the covid pandemic and we're really excited about getting things going again."

Tess counts her family as having a big influence in her life. "I've always looked up to my big sister, Ella. Her hard work and determination have always been an inspiration to me. My two brothers, Dane and Alec, have always been supportive of the things I have been involved in. I think my mom is our big-

ST. ANNE'S IS SELLING RADA KNIVES These are all American made, with a life time guarantee and are very reasonably priced. We have starter sets that make nice gifts for Christmas, weddings and bridal showers, and of course are great for your own personal use! There are catalogs at the front doors of the church with a complete listing of RADA products. For further information or to order, call Imogene (812-963-5221). Thanks!



gest cheerleader. She's very creative and works hard. I could always hear her voice at soccer games cheering me on. My Dad is the same way. They both have strong work ethics. He deals with numbers in his job and his ability to be analytical has helped me to think things through. Both my parents really want us to succeed at the things we do and they have taught us how important it is to set high standards and work hard to achieve them."

WHAT I HAVE LEARNED IN LIFE: "Playing sports has taught me lots about being mentally tough. You need people to help you have confidence in yourself and, as a team member, you can help give others confidence. Playing sports has also taught me how to deal with stress. Sometimes you can get all worried about things and then you need to learn how to let things go. One of my favorite prayers is "Let Go and Let God." Going through all the things we did with covid during our freshman and sophomore years also helped me to not take things for granted. But challenging times like this can help you grow and make you stronger. I think it has helped me to appreciate even more the friends I have and all the experiences we shared together."

Katelyn Happe

Katelyn is the youngest daughter of Ray and Angie (Schiff) Happe and the younger sister of Elyssa and Cole Happe. Elyssa has completed her degree in accounting and now works for Foncannon Accounting. Cole is continuing to pursue his degree in business management at USI and working with his dad at Happe and Dubord Construction. Katelyn is a senior at Mater Dei.



When we sat down to talk, Katelyn had just finished her senior soccer season with a tough 1-0 loss to Indianapolis Park Tudor in the semi state final. "It was a tough loss, but they were rated the #1 team in our division. We were rated #2." Soccer has been a big part of Katelyn's life since back in her kindergarten days in grade school. Understandably, a lot of her close friendships in high school revolve around soccer. "We spend a lot of time together with practices and games, spending time on the road and enjoying pre-game meals together. Soccer has taught me a lot about being mentally strong. You've got to learn how to stay in the present moment and not get frustrated by a bad play or a missed call. You've got to be in good shape physically to play soccer but I think the mental preparation is even more important. You learn how to support your teammates in the good times and the tough times."

High school years have been filled with more than soccer for Katelyn. She's been taking a lot of science and math courses, among them have been AP Calculus and AP Chemistry. "They are hard courses but you get dual credits for them, both for high school and college. I've had a lot of good teachers at Mater Dei so they have made the classes easier."

Katelyn is also a member of the National Honor Society and the German Club and is going to be helping out at the German Christmas Market this year. She is also a member of the Pep

TUITION ASSISTANCE AT MATER DEI

Applications are now available for parents wishing to apply for Mater Dei High School Tuition assistance for the 2023-2024 school year. Hard copies of applications will be available at Mater Dei and at our school. To download and complete the application online at www.materdeiwildcats.com; select "Enrollment", then "Tuition and Financial Assistance". The priority deadline for applying this year is March 1, 2023. Contact Jill Seiler at Mater Dei (812-426-2258, ext. 322 email jseiler@evdio.org)



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Club. "Most of my friends are also involved in the Pep Club. One of the big projects in decorating the senior hallways in school. Each year we come up with a theme. This year's theme is "Plowing through Senior Year."

Katelyn also serves as a Police Office for the Mater Dei Student Government. Most of that work is making sure everyone gets their parking permit for the year. She is also offering her help to getting the Dance Marathon Fund raiser for Riley Hospital going again this year. It's been on hold the past couple of years because of the covid pandemic.

Katelyn attended grade school here at St. Joe since she was in pre-school. "I have a lot of great memories of grade school. I'm still friends with so many of my grade school classmates. I remember all the teachers I had. They worked hard to prepare us well for high school. I remember especially Mrs. Elpers and Mrs. Daugherty. And I remember all the great lunches we had. The lunch ladies were the best and the food was great. And I remember playing volleyball against the teachers in our eighth grade year and the school dances we had."

Family is a big part of Katelyn's life. "For a short time, I was the only one at home because my older sister and brother were away at school, but now they have all come back home. We enjoy each other's company, so that makes time at home a good thing. My mom and dad are both hard working people and they have taught us the importance of good working habits. They have been our biggest supporters through the years. My mom is a pretty determined person and very well organized. She works as a nurse at Select Specialty Hospital and also takes care of all the book keeping for my dad's construction business. My dad has a good sense of humor and he has taught me to not take things too seriously in life."

During the summer months, the family enjoys traveling to the Schiff lake house on Barkley Lake. "We like to go boating and enjoy being around the water." Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter times you'll find Katelyn gathering with her extended Happe and Schiff family members, where there is always a lot of good food to enjoy. "The family is getting bigger but I still know most of my cousins, but as they get married and families of their own, it gets difficult to know everyone's name."

In her free time, Katelyn enjoys working out at Bob's Gym or running the loop around Mater Dei High School. She especially enjoys taking part in some hot yoga classes. "They are quite a work out." She can go home and reward herself by baking her favorite chocolate chip cookies or enjoying

some homemade puppy chow!

Next year Katelyn wants to pursue a degree in science leading to a career as a dental hygienist. "I'm looking at IU or USI and a lot of it will depend upon what kind of scholarship offers I get."

WHAT HAVE I LEARNED IN LIFE: "I think one of the biggest challenges I have faced was going to high school in the midst of the covid pandemic. That had a big impact on the simple things you look forward to in high school like gathering with your friends. A lot of things that normally happened during the year, like May Day Celebrations, couldn't be held because of covid restrictions. Going through these experiences has helped me learn how not to take life so seriously. Things happen in life and you have to learn how to deal with them. Having a good family to support you is pretty important. Learning to appreciate the things you have and to appreciate the friendships you have is also pretty important. Sometimes you can take things for granted and you don't know how much they mean to you until you don't have them anymore."

---SALUTING OUR YOUTH---



- Congratulations to **Bailey Barkley** who was named Student of the month at Helfrich Park

- **Tess freeman, Katelyn Happe, and Katelyn Bishop** helped lead the Mater Dei Girls Soccer Team to the semi-state championship game



- **Jacob Scheller and Kurt Denning** were honored at the Tomorrows Workforce Luncheon sponsored by Memorial and Mater Dei High Schools

- **Nick Couch and Katelyn Happe** were selected by their peers as King and Queen for the Mater Dei Football Homecoming Court



- **Kurt Forcum and Samantha Gibbs** helped lead the Reitz Marching Band to a 9th place finish in the state band competition.



- **Zoe Schell, Kim Thacker and Heidi Forcum** helped lead the Mater Dei Marching Wildcats to the Class D state championship this year. The Mater Dei Band has made it to the state competition for a number of years but this is the first time they have won the state championship. Congratulations!

- **Taylor Vought** (Reitz High School) helped lead their cross country team to the semi state competition. **Addy Wilkinson**, a member of the Mater Dei Cross Country team made it all the way to the semi state competition.



- **Conner Frey** was selected to SIAC second team for tennis at Mater Dei

- **Katelyn Bishop, Brylee Delano, Josh Fenwick, Sierra Heldt, Katelyn Happe, Kylie Frey, Lillian Traylor, and Ben Gries** were inducted into the National Honor Society at Mater Dei. They joined **Tess Freeman, Kayla Gerth, Kurt Denning, Ethan Kissel, Lauren Voelker, Jacob Scheller, and Finley Fehrenbacher** who were inducted last year.



GOING CHRISTMAS SHOPPING?

Santa says "Give them SCRIP"



Christmas is only a few weeks away! Gift cards make great Christmas gifts, teacher's gifts and stocking stuffers! Purchase scrip cards for all

of your holiday shopping needs! Remember, it costs you nothing extra and it benefits St. Joe School and your family!



Christmas Shopping online? Don't forget that you can use scrip cards for your purchases.

For Scrip questions, contact the school office (812-963-3335)

**Join us Sunday
December 4
9 am --Noon**

JOIN US AFTER THE 8 AM MASS

ON THE MENU: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs,
Sausage, Coffee, Milk and Juice

Invite your family, friends and neighbors!

Proceeds benefit the St. Joe 8th Grade Class Project



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you and your joy may be complete.” (Jn 15:11). “I have come so that you may have life and have it to the fullest.” (Jn 10:10). Now having a sense of joy and peace doesn’t just happen. We have to work at it. And that work involves making choices. And learning how to make good choices is what discernment is all about.

Practicing the art of discernment requires a lot of deliberate effort on our part. It requires us to be intentional in our life—about the things we pay attention to, about the people we choose to spend time with, about the words we use when we talk with others, and about the choices we make everyday. St. Paul tells us “whatever you do, whether in speech or in action,



do it in the name of the Lord Jesus.” (Col. 3:17). We say hundreds of things and perform hundreds of actions everyday. So many, in fact, that by the end of the day, that most of us can’t really remember all of them.

Discernment means trying to become aware of the things that impact our life and how we respond to them. Pope Francis describes this as understanding the “Book of our Life.” With all the distractions in life, many people don’t even take the time to open this book. The only way to do this is if we deliberately take some time to reflect upon what has happened in our life. Pope Francis tells us “it requires the capacity to stop, to deactivate the autopilot, to acquire awareness of our way of acting, of the feelings that dwell within us, of the recurrent thoughts that condition us, and often unconsciously.”

He speaks of doing an examination of conscience which he likens to the ability to listen to our heart. “What happened in

ADVENT MINI RETREAT SATURDAY, DEC. 3 2 - 5 pm

Looking for a great way to enter this Advent Season and the busy holidays? On *Saturday, December 3rd from 2 pm till Mass time at 5:00*, you are invited to attend a Mini Advent Retreat at St. Joe Church. During this time of retreat, the Church will be open for adoration, silent prayer, rosary, calming music, some reflections on the Eucharist, and a chance to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation all leading up to Mass at 5:00. Please come for all or as much of the retreat you can attend. You can register by November 30th *email or If you have any questions or need a breakdown of the retreat times, please text/call Jessica Reckelhoff at jrecekloff@evdio.org or 812-598-1151.



FIVE WAYS OF SEEING

Life is about learning to see what we’re looking at—if we actually see it at all. It takes a while, but eventually, the really perceptive soul discovers that there are actually five ways of seeing as we go through life.

At the first level of insight, we see only what’s in front of us. The immediate becomes the center of the world. We do not see beyond ourselves because we have drawn the circle of life too small, too close, too narrowly. The older next-door neighbor, the colleague with the sick child, the friend whose life is careening off the tracks are part of my consciousness—but not part of my heart. Their agendas do not compel me to action. Their lives do not really touch mine.

At the second level of insight, we see only the obvious, not what drives the obvious. Not what’s under the obvious. We come to see that the other has the same feelings we do and that, like ours, they need to be heeded. We see more of the world suddenly, but find it as lonely and confused as our own.

At the third level of insight, we see a broader world, but only from our own perspective. Everyone should live in a democracy, we decide. The whole world would be better off if everyone were like us. We are the acme of the universe, we know. Then, all of our efforts go into making the rest of the world like us. Except that never happens and we cannot for the life of us figure out why.

At the fourth level of insight, we see a changing canvas and realize suddenly that nothing is stable, all things are in flux. The question, of course, is whether we realize that we, too, are in the process of change now—because we have seen that nowhere does life stand still.

At the fifth level of insight, we learn to truly see beyond the center of the self and find that we are all alike, all trying to find one another, all wishing to be human together. At that point, of course, we see our differences and find that they are beautiful—and see our likenesses and discover that they are the stuff of our growth. We do not need to be anyone else now. Instead, we can be everyone else now, understanding them, learning from them—trusting that I can change and become even more myself at the same time.

The question, of course, is, at what level of insight are we now? What will it take to grow beyond ourselves and discover the rest of life?

--from *Two Dogs and a Parrot: What Our Animal Friends Can Teach Us About Life* by Joan Chittister (BlueBridge)

my heart during this day? What traces did they leave in my heart? This requires us to develop the good habit of calmly re-reading what happened during our day, learning to note in our evaluations and choices what we give most importance to, what we are looking for and why, and what we eventually find.

“Above all,” Pope Francis says, “it means learning to recognize what satisfies my heart. Only the Lord can give us confirmation of what we are worth. He tells us how precious we are in his eyes. There is no obstacle or failure that can prevent his tender embrace. The examination of conscience helps a great deal, because in this way we see that our heart is not a road where everything passes without us knowing about it. God is present in all the ordinary moments of our life.” Mother Teresa has reminded us of the same thing when she challenges us to see the face of Jesus in all the people we encounter and all things we that happen to us each day.

Using the image of computer passwords, Pope Francis tells us that it is important to “know the passwords of our heart, what we are most sensitive to, in order to protect ourselves from those who present themselves with persuasive words to manipulate us, but also to recognize what is truly important for

(Continued from page 6)

us, distinguishing it from current fads or flashy, superficial slogans.”

Pope Francis speaks about discernment as “a form of searching, and searching always stems from something which we lack but which we somehow know in our heart. Another way to talk about this is to speak about desire. If, for example, a young person wishes to become a doctor, he or she will have to embark on a course of study and work that will occupy several years of his or her life. Consequently, they will have to set *limits*, say “no” first of all to other courses of study, but also to possible diversions and distractions, especially during the most intense periods of study. However, the desire to give his or her life a direction and to reach that goal — to become a doctor— enables him or her to overcome these difficulties.

“Desire,” Pope Francis says, “makes you strong, it makes you courageous, it makes you keep going forward even when there are difficult things to deal with in life. All of us will experience difficult times. There will be moments when sadness seems to be overwhelming. There will be times when we want to give up.”

We would all like to have a life that is always filled with joy and fulfillment. But that does not happen. So, Pope Francis, tells us, it is important to be able “to read the signs

of sadness in our lives. When we can face the loneliness and desolation we feel with openness and awareness, we can emerge strengthened in human and spiritual terms. No trial is beyond our reach; no trial will be greater than what we can do. But do not flee from trials: see what this test means. Why am I sad? What does it mean that in this moment I want to quit and don’t believe I can go on?”

Pope Francis tells us that so many people in life suffer because they do not know what they really want out of life. If the Lord were to ask us, today, for example, the question he asked the blind man in Jericho: “What do you want me to do for you?” (Mk 10:51) — how would we answer?

Our God is a God of great love and compassion, God wants us to experience a deep sense of peace and joy in life. God wants the very best for us. Perhaps we could finally ask him to help us know His deepest desire, which God has placed in our heart.

God is present in all the events of our life and through each of them, continually invites us to open our hearts to the joy which the world cannot give but which he gives us freely. Even when we are unaware or have little interest in this message, God continues to be part of our lives. And God is unbelievably patient with us, never forcing himself upon us but always ready to give us life. All that is good to remember as

(Continued on page 12)

DARKNESS MAKES US THINK

her only child. My mother and I were more like sisters, more like friends, than we were like mother and daughter. She told me everything. I lied to her only once.

When my stepfather didn’t want me to start dating, I told them both that I was going to a movie with girlfriends and then met the boy on a corner somewhere. She figured it all out, however, and instead of cutting me out of the warm circle of her trust, let my stepfather know in no uncertain terms that insisting on unnatural absolutes was exactly what would “make a liar out of me.” After that, the rule became that boys were to come to the house first for the regular parental review. And she and I went back to telling one another the truth. About everything.

I expected we would have long and happy years together. I actually planned for them. When my stepfather died, leaving her a relatively young widow, I was sure we’d go places together now, and celebrate everything together, and work together on the projects that had become my concentration.

But, little by little, the relationship began to go awry. She got testy and irritated. She didn’t do the things she promised she would. I’d squeeze in a trip to take her to the bank and when we got there she didn’t have her bank book. Then one day, she began accusing me of making phone calls to her—and hanging up when she answered. We were strangers now.

It was years before they began to call it “Alzheimer’s disease.” By then I was full of anger. After that, I was full of guilt. She lived for twenty-eight years with the disease, and so did I. It was a long, dark time but, I began to realize later, it was not a useless time.

Darkness is that period of life when nothing seems to be going as expected. We find ourselves derailed in our journey to our dreams, not only by things we didn’t foresee but by things we simply could not have imagined. Darkness comes and envelops us. It also makes us look at life all over again. Whatever we once took for granted, darkness makes us rethink, reevaluate, relinquish.

The value of a dark time is that it insists that we become new, even to ourselves. I was no longer the darling daughter of a doting mother. I was alone in the world, at best, abandoned for nothing I could imagine. It was time to find within myself the resources that the once unalterable refuge of motherhood had provided. I began to redefine myself, to feel the strength that comes with knowing that you are enough for you.

Darkness is a time of beginning again. We are forced to determine a new way of being in the world. It is a frightening time—but a liberating time as well. It gives us the opportunity to make new choices about life, about relationships, about our dreams and our plans. It tells us that the old world has passed away and the new one is of our making.

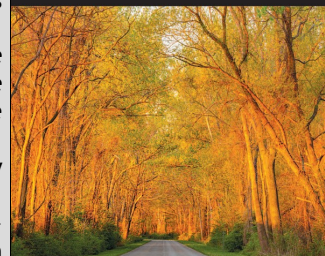
In a busy world, we seldom get the luxury of reviewing where we are. We simply get up every morning and go on. Yesterday becomes today and every day thereafter. It is a very spiritual time. It is a time that challenges us to recreate ourselves in the image of the Spirit who calls us to become everything we can be. The darkness that blocks us from becoming is the very womb of a new life.

The message in the darkness did not come immediately. But if we can possibly learn to trust darkness, to understand that life is a pattern of starts and stops, of celebrating the past, of coming to terms with the present, of believing the future to be kind, then we can come to understand that the dark parts are only those closing down moments, like flowers at night, till the sun shines once more.

—from [38 Personal Stories to Transform a Life](#), by Joan Chittister

Somewhere along the line, the woman I once adored left me. I was her star, her joy, her best companion, her confidante,

from the writings of
JOAN CHITTISTER



38 Personal Stories
to
TRANSFORM A LIFE

LET'S REMEMBER THEM AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a time for remembering the people in our family. It can be a lonely time for those who often find themselves away from family. So we'd like to invite you to join us in reaching out to two special groups of people in our parish this Christmas. The first group of people are the members of our parish who living in nursing homes and assisted living communities. We've listed their names and the address below.

GOOD SAMARITAN

601 N Boeke Rd
Evansville, Indiana 47711
Doris Head

NORTH PARK NURSING HOME

650 Fairway Dr
Evansville, IN 47710
Marie Gumbel
Carl Kempf

PREMIER NURSING HOME

251 Highway 66 (RM 214)
New Harmony, IN 47631
Betty Fischer

SOLARBRON ASSISTED LIVING

1501 McDowell Rd
Evansville, IN 47712
Margaret Kafel

**CYPRESS GROVE
REHABILITATION CENTER**

4255 Medwell
Newburgh, IN 47630
Steve Hasselbrinck

**HERITAGE HEALTHCARE
CENTER**

1201 W. Buena Vista Rd
Evansville, IN 47710
Brenda Koester
Mary Ruth Davis

BETHEL MANOR
6015 Kratzville Road
Evansville, Indiana 47720
Willie Nieten

The second group of people are the men and women in our parish who are on active duty serving in the different branches of our military. We've listed their names and addresses below:

Staff Sergeant Will Kirk

3000 Elizabeth Court
Clovis New Mexico 88101
*Will is serving at Cannon Air
Force base in Clovis, NM*

Senior Airman Scotty Kirk

3000 Elizabeth Court
Clovis New Mexico 88101
*Will is serving at Cannon Air
Force base in Clovis, NM*

Spc Nathan Werner

2012 Coach Drive
Killeen, Texas 76543
*Nathan is serving at
Fort Hood Texas*

Spc Gretchen Forcum

HNB, 1-163 FA
APO, AE 09316
*Gretchen is currently serving
in Northern Iraq*

2nd Lt. Katie Duncan

11621 SW 12th St
Yukon, OK 73099
*Katie serves as an
Air Battle Manager
at Tinker Air Force Base*

Colonel Daniel Werner

2208 Bedford Drive
J.B.Andrews, Maryland 20762
*Daniel is working at the
Pentagon in Washington,
D.C. with Homeland Security*

Captain Evan Collins

SHHC, 39BEB
2BCT, 101st ABN DIV
Unit 20076
APO AE 09749-7600
*Evan is serving in medical
administration in Romania
with units from other NATO
countries*

TURN OUT THE LIGHTS!

As we get into the winter months of the year, our parish facilities get used more and more...and that's a good thing. That is why we have them. But as we use our facilities we also want to use them in a responsible way. We spend a great deal of money on utility costs (over \$60,000 a year) so we need everyone's help to keep these costs as low as possible. Turning off lights, especially those in the bathrooms, making sure that the air conditioning is turned off, and all the doors are shut. Doing these simple things will be a big help to keep our utility costs down. And it is a great way for us to be responsible with and for others.

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS
December 17, 2022 -- January 15, 2023**

**PLEASE NOTE: We are once again scheduling
Eucharistic Ministers for each Mass**

Saturday December 17, 2022 5 PM	Ron & Margaret Angermeier	Toni Askins
Sunday December 18, 2022 8 am	Imogene Baehl Mike Elpers	Terry Drone
Sunday December 18, 2022 10:30 AM	Becky Doshier Steve Jung	Many Elpers
Saturday December 24, 2022 4 PM	Donald Werner Peter & Jodi Fehrenbacher	Special Readers
Saturday December 24, 2022 9 PM	Tom & Dolores Folz	Chick Duncan
Sunday December 25, 2022 9 AM	Al Debes Danielle Weledge	Jane Scheller
Saturday, December 31, 2022 5 AM	Donna Niemeier Lee Askins	Mike Reffett
Sunday January 1, 2023 8 AM	Brian & Ann Craney	Jalene Weber
Sunday January 1, 2023 10:30 AM	Doris Taylor Diane Bassemeier	Shane Wessel
Saturday January 7, 2023 5 PM	Eric & Karen McDonald	Sis Jarboe
Sunday January 8, 2023 8 AM	Randy & Kathy Fehrenbacher	Marcia Frey
Sunday January 8, 2023 10:30 AM	Al Debes Angie Will	Jane Scheller
Saturday January 14, 2023 5 PM	Diane Woods Mary Loehrlein	Toni Askins
Sunday January 15, 2023 8 AM	Dave & Betty Fehrenbacher	Dave Schmitt
Sunday January 15, 2023 10:30 AM	Jane Scheller Cecelia Koch	Shane Wessel

HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED IN OUR PARISH

Throughout the year, we get requests for helping families in our parish. These needs include such things as rent, utility bills, medical bills, food and gas.

Sometimes people want to do something for families at Christmas. One thing that families and individuals can do at Christmas or any time of the year is to make contributions to our Parish Needy Fund



MISSION OUTREACH



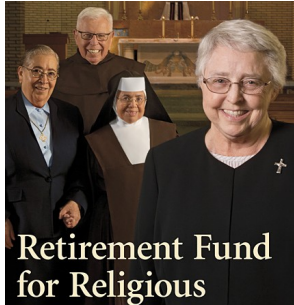
Be an island of mercy in
a sea of indifference.

Pope Francis

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS MONTH FOR THE RETIREMENT NEEDS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES

This month, Catholics throughout the United States are being invited to participate in the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious.



There was a time, in the history of our parish, when the Franciscan nuns who taught in our school, went several years without receiving any pay at all. Even when they were paid, the amount of money they received was very small—about \$350 a year. Yet, they came to teach and to serve us.

Much the same can be said about the Benedictine nuns who taught many of our parishioners at Mater Dei. Now many of these women are old and in need of much care. The cost for their care far exceeds their resources. That is why we are invited to give to this special collection. Together, as a Church, we can honor their faithfulness by being faithful—and generous—in return. There are special envelopes in your regular monthly packet of envelopes.

The best careers, the greatest achievements, the most prestigious titles and accolades, the accumulated riches and earthly gains—all will vanish in a moment....(what will last is) love and care for others, especially the poor and those usually discarded by society. God dwells among the most insignificant to the world.

We know what to do: love those who are on his priority list, those who can give us nothing back, those who do not attract us” and do so without expecting repayment.

Let's face it, we have gotten pretty good at compromising with the Gospel, saying, “Feeding the hungry yes, but the issue of hunger is complex, and I certainly can't solve it!” or “Welcoming migrants yes, but it is a complicated issue, it concerns politics.” With little objections we make life a compromise with the Gospel.

From simple disciples of the Master, we become teachers of complexity, who argue a lot and do little, who seek answers more in front of the computer than in front of the crucifix, on the internet rather than in the eyes of our brothers and sisters. Believers become experts who comment, debate and expound theories, but do not know even one poor person by name, have not visited a sick person for months, have never fed or clothed someone (and) have never befriended someone in need.

God waits for us among the poor and wounded of the world. And he is waiting to be caressed not with words but with deeds.

Pope Francis from his sermon on the Feast of All Souls



Dear friends at St. Joe,

Once again I am writing to thank you for the donations of canned food you continue to bring each week. And thanks for the donation of 200 lbs of sausage as well. The number of people who come to the Food Pantry continues to grow especially with inflation concerns and the coming winter months. This past October, with your help, we were able to provide a four day supply of food along with hygiene and cleaning items for 2,840 persons in 1,306 different households. Thanks for partnering with us.

Sr. Donna Herr, O.S.B. Food Pantry Director



LOOKING FOR A GIFT FOR THOSE "HARD TO BUY PERSONS" THIS CHRISTMAS?



**GIVE THE GIFT OF
FOOD TO OUR
BROTHERS AND
SISTERS IN HAITI**

Needing a gift this holiday season for the person who has it all? Honor them by giving the gift of food to the children at our sister parish, St. James Parish, located in Plaine du Nord, Haiti. Gifts ranging in price from \$5-\$100.

Here's how it works. Complete the order form found at the self-service station located in the front of church, or complete the order form below. Make checks payable to *St. Joseph Parish*. Place the order form and check in the collection basket, drop it by the parish office or mail it to *Haiti Gifts of Compassion St. Joseph Parish 6202 W. St. Joseph Rd. Evansville, IN 47720*. After your order form and check have been received a card describing your gift will be mailed to your address. The card can then be gifted to your recipient. Mail orders **MUST** be received by December 21, 2021

Questions? Please email Alison Martin at alison@twc.com



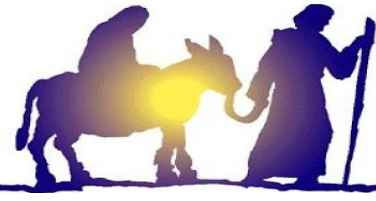




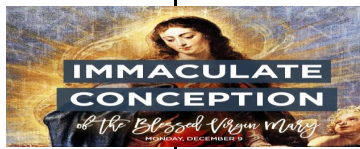









ITEM	QUANTITY	COST	TOTAL
Feed a Child for a month	_____ x	\$5.00	_____
Feed a Child for 2 months	_____ x	\$10.00	_____
Feed a Child for 6 months	_____ x	\$25.00	_____
Feed a Child for a year	_____ x	\$50.00	_____
Feed the entire school (600 students)	_____ x	\$100	_____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

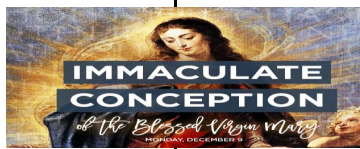
PHONE _____

In the end what matters most is how well you lived, how well you loved, and how well you learned to forgive.

<div>  <h1>December 2022</h1>  </div>						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p><i>Lead Us To Your Light Lead Us Out Of Darkness</i></p>			1 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Noon 	1 NO MASS Altar Society Christmas Party 6 pm 	2 7:30 am Mass with Children	3 ADVENT RETREAT 1-5 PM Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass St. Vincent dePaul Food Collection
4 8 & 10:30 Mass Family Religion Class RCIA 9 am Food Pantry Collection Confirmation Rite of Election 10:30 Mass  Breakfast with Santa 8 am – Noon	5 7am–6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm	6 7:30 AM Mass School Musical Program 6 pm 	7 Parish Staff 12 Noon Mass at 6:30 pm 	8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception Mass at 7:30 am	9 NO MASS Senior Citizen's Gathering—1 pm	10 Sacrament of Reconciliation 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass St. Vincent dePaul Food Collection 6-8:30 Meal and Godcast Discussion Group
11 8 & 10:30 Mass St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry Collection Family Class Penance Service RCIA 9 am	12 7am–6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm Knights of St. John 7 pm	13 7:30 am Mass DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOAGIONS TUESDAY 6 AM -- WEDNESDAY 6 AM	14 7:30 am MASS Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Advent Penance Service 7 pm	15 NO MASS	16 7:30 am Mass with school children LAST DAY OF SCHOOL Advent Penance Service 11 am	17 5 pm Mass St. Vincent dePaul Food Collection Parent's Night Out 6-9 pm
18 8 & 10:30 am Mass RCIA 	19 7am-6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30pm Men's Club 7 pm 	20 7:30am Mass 	21 7:30 am Mass 	22 NO MASS 	23 NO MASS 	24 4 pm Christmas Mass with Children 9 pm Christmas Mass at Night 
25 CHRISTMAS DAY MASS 9 AM 	26 7am–6:30pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm	27 7:30 Mass 	28 7:30 Mass	29 NO MASS	30 NO MASS	31 Haiti & St. Vincent dePaul Food Collection Regular Weekend Mass Schedule Sat. 5 pm Sunday 8 & 10:30



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FOR ST. JOE LOTTERY & MATER DE TRADITION?



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GIFT THIS CHRISTMAS
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 www.stjoeco.org



Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor
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 Coordinator of Religious Education

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 5pm
Sunday 8 and 10 am

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we go about our lives trying to discern the right thing to do and to discern the right path to follow. St. Augustine was fond of saying “our hearts are restless until they rest in you.” He said much the same thing in his famous poem “O Beauty Ever Ancient.”



So late did I love You,
 O Beauty, so ancient, and yet so new!
 So late did I love You!
 For behold, You were inside me,
 but I was outside,
 and sought you there.
 I, unlovely, rushed heedlessly
 among the things of beauty
 that You had made.
 You were with me,
 but I was not with You.
 Things kept me far from You,
 which would not have been,
 if they had not been in You.
 You called, and cried aloud,
 and broke open my deafness.
 You gleamed and shined,
 and chased away my blindness.
 You breathed out odors,
 and I drew in my breath,
 and now I breathe heavily for You.
 I tasted, and now I hunger and thirst.

You touched me, and I burned for Your peace.
Confessions of St. Augustine, Bishop of Hippo, North Africa

**REMEMBERING ST. JOSEPH PARISH WITH A
 CONTRIBUTION THROUGH THE CARPENTER SOCIETY**

St. Joseph Parish has been an integral part of each of our lives. Many of us come from families who have raised their children while experiencing the financial demands of life, and so we can fully appreciate the need for financial security. In pursuit of that goal, we invite each of you, to consider making a year-end gift to one of our parish endowments.

Our gifts to our parish endowments provide an increasing stream of income for our parish that goes on forever. We invite you, then, to share with our parish by making a year-end gift to one of our parish endowments. Currently there are twenty-nine different parish endowments and you can designate your contribution to any one them. Contact Fr. Gene Schroeder (812-963-3273) or (812-499-9074) for more information about making an end of the year contribution.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Again this year you are invited to remember your loved ones in a special way at Christmas by including their name (s) in the Christmas Flower Memorials. Please send the name or names of people you want to remember to the parish office along with your donation to the parish office by Dec. 18. The names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

