

THE CARPENTER

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

6202 W. ST. JOSEPH ROAD EVANSVILLE, IN 47720

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FEBRUARY—2022

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PRAYING FOR THE GRACE TO LIVE WITH WHAT IS

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

For these past months, as we have navigated our way through this covid pandemic, I think many of us were hoping that at some point we would get through all this and life would somehow return back to normal. There is no doubt that this has been an unsettling time, made even more so as we deal with the recent surge in covid cases due to the omicron variant. In the face of all these things that we can't seem to control there is a tendency to seek out those things we believe we can control and focus all our energies on them. We all do it. I've noticed my own almost obsession with trying to make sure the sand filter in our water treatment plant remains clog free! With all our modern technology I can now go to my computer each morning and check the latest image of our sand filter from one of the many security cameras we have installed throughout our parish campus!

But perhaps there is a lesson here for us. Instead of trying to avoid the messiness of what we are facing, maybe it is better if we just try to lean into this messiness. Maybe, instead of hoping for some kind of return to "what was normal" it is time for us to ask "what are we supposed to be learning from this experience." Certainly our sense of "normal" has been up-ended, and yet in the midst of it, God continues to invite us to deeper trusting love. A few weeks into the pandemic, some people even began to use the word "apocalyptic" to describe what was taking place. Often, this word is used to scare people into some kind of fearful, exclusive, or reactionary behavior, all in expectation of the "end times." But the word "apocalyptic," from the Greek *apokálypsis*, really just means "unveiling." When things are "unveiled," we stop taking a whole lot of things for granted. That's what major events like the COVID-19 pandemic do for us. They reframe reality in a radical way and offer us an invitation to greater depth and breadth—and compassion

Here's something I read from Fr. Richard Rohr that gives an insight into what we are experiencing.

The myths of modernism are dying all around us. Our sophistication and complexity are self-destructing. For several hundred years we were convinced in the West that progress, human reason, and higher technology would resolve human tragedy. They clearly have not. Without denying the gifts of mind and science, we now doubt their messianic prom-

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WALKING TOGETHER IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES

LETTER TO MARRIED COUPLES ON THE
OCCASION OF THE YEAR OF THE FAMILY

Pope Francis

I am writing to express my deep affection and closeness to you at this very special time. Families have always been in my thoughts and prayers, but especially so during the pandemic, which has severely tested everyone, especially the most vulnerable among us. The present situation has made me want to accompany with humility, affection and openness each individual, married couple and family in all those situations in which you find yourselves.

We are being asked to apply to ourselves the calling that Abraham received from the Lord to set out from his land and his father's home towards a foreign land that God himself would show him. We too have experienced uncertainty, loneliness, and the loss of loved ones. We too have been forced to leave behind our certainties, our "comfort zones", our familiar ways of doing things and our ambitions, and to work for the welfare of our families and that of society as a whole, which also depends on us and our actions.

Our relationship with God shapes us, accompanies us and sends us forth as individuals and, ultimately, helps us to "set out from our land", in many cases with a certain trepidation and even fear in the face of the unknown. Yet our Christian faith makes us realize that we are not alone, for God dwells in us, with us and among us: in our families, our neighborhoods, our workplaces and schools, in the cities where we live.

Like Abraham, all husbands and wives "set out" from their own land at the moment when, in response to the vocation to conjugal love, they decide to give themselves to each other without reserve. Becoming engaged already means setting out from

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your land, since it calls you to walk together along the road that leads to marriage. Different situations in life, the passage of time, the arrival of children, work and illness, all challenge couples to embrace anew their commitment to one another, to leave behind settled habits, certainties and security, and to set out towards the land that God promises: to be two in Christ, *two in one*. Your lives become a single life; you become a “we” in loving communion with Jesus, alive and present at every moment of your existence. God is always at your side; he loves you unconditionally. You are not alone!

Dear spouses, know that your children - especially the younger ones - watch you attentively; in you they seek the signs of a strong and reliable love. Children are always a gift; they change the history of every family. They are thirsty for love, gratitude, esteem and trust. Being parents calls you to pass on to your children the joy of realizing that they are God’s children, children of a Father who has always loved them tenderly and who takes them by the hand each new day. As they come to know this, your children will grow in faith and trust in God.

To be sure, raising children is no easy task. But let us not forget that they also “raise” us. The family remains the primary environment where education takes place, through small gestures that are more eloquent than words. To educate is above all to accompany the growth process, to be present to children in many different ways, to help them realize that they can always count on their parents. An educator is someone who spiritually “gives birth” to others and, above all, becomes personally engaged in their growth. For parents, it is important to relate to children with an authority that grows day by day. Children need a sense of security that can enable them to have confidence in you and in the beauty of your life together, and in the certainty that they will never be alone, whatever may come their way.

Marriage, as a vocation, calls you to steer a tiny boat - wave-tossed yet sturdy, thanks to the reality of the sacrament - across a sometimes stormy sea. How often do you want to say, or better, cry out, like the apostles: “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”. Let us never forget, though, that by virtue of the sacrament of matrimony, Jesus is present in that boat; he is concerned for you and he remains at your side amid the tempest. In another Gospel passage, as they rowed with difficulty, the disciples saw Jesus coming to them on the waters and welcomed him into their boat. Whenever you are buffeted by rough winds

and storms, do the same thing: welcome Jesus into your boat, for once he “got into the boat with them... the wind ceased”. It is important that, together, you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. Only in this way, will you find peace, overcome conflicts and discover solutions to many of your problems. Those



WORLD MARRIAGE DAY—FEBRUARY 13

A successful marriage requires falling in love many times, always with the same person.

Just because someone doesn’t love you the way you want them to, doesn’t mean they don’t love you with everything they have. What counts in making a happy marriage is not so much how compatible you are, but how you deal with incompatibility.

Being happy doesn’t mean that everything is perfect. It means that you’ve decided to look beyond the imperfections. One advantage of marriage is that, when you fall out of love with him or he falls out of love with you, it keeps you together until you fall in love again.



problems, of course, will not disappear, but you will be able to see them from a different perspective.

Only by abandoning yourselves into the Lord’s hands will you be able to do what may seem impossible. Recognize your own weakness and powerlessness in the face of so many situations all around you, but at the same time be certain that Christ’s power will thus be manifested in your weakness. It was precisely in the midst of the storm that the apostles learned to trust in him.

The pandemic has had many challenges. For some couples, the enforced living conditions during the quarantine were particularly difficult. Pre-existing problems were aggravated, creating conflicts that in some cases became almost unbearable. Many even experienced the breakup of a relationship that had to deal with a crisis that they found hard or impossible to manage. I would like them, too, to sense my closeness and my affection.

The breakdown of a marriage causes immense suffering, since many hopes are dashed, and misunderstandings can lead to arguments and hurts not easily healed. Children end up having to suffer the pain of seeing their parents no longer together. The Lord Jesus, in his infinite mercy, will inspire you to carry on amid your many difficulties and sorrows. Keep praying for his help, and seek in him a refuge and a light for the journey.

Remember also that forgiveness heals every wound. Mutual forgiveness is the fruit of an interior resolve that comes to maturity in prayer, in our relationship with God. It is a gift born of the grace poured out by Christ upon married couples whenever they turn to him and allow him to act. Christ “dwells” in your marriage and he is always waiting for you to open your hearts to him, so that he can sustain you, as he did the disciples in the boat, by the power of his love.

May Saint Joseph inspire in all families a creative courage, so essential for these times of epochal change. May Our Lady help you to foster in your married lives the culture of encounter that we so urgently need in order to face today’s problems and troubles. No amount of difficulty can take away the joy of those who know that they are walking with the Lord ever at their side. Live out your vocation with enthusiasm. Never allow your faces to grow sad or gloomy; your husband or wife needs your smile. Your children need your looks of encouragement. Your priests and other families need your presence and your joy: the joy that comes from the Lord!

I greet all of you with affection, and I encourage you to carry out the mission that Jesus has entrusted to us, persevering in prayer and in “the breaking of bread” (Acts 2:42). And please, do not forget to pray for me, even as I daily pray for you.

FEAR NOT
FOR I AM WITH YOU.

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CREATING AN AWARENESS FOR RECYCLING MEANS
LOOKING AT THE THINGS WE THROW AWAY
AND ASKING "CAN THIS BE RECYCLED?"





REMEMBERING

Anita Marie Rexing

April 28, 1920 - December 25, 2021

At the time of her death, Anita Marie, as she was known to her family, was our oldest parishioner. She was 101 years old. In many ways her life was a simple life focused on family. She was born, raised and lived her entire life in the same area near the intersection of Cynthia and Boonville-New Harmony Roads. Outside of her family, being a member of St. Joseph Parish and living out the yearly rhythms of parish life, was central to her life.

The association with St. Joseph parish began at her birth in 1920 when her parents, Henry and Otilla (Baumgart) Rexing brought her to be baptized. There were eight children in the Baehl family—Priscilla, Harold, Urban, Ed, Walter, Anita, Mildred and Mary Matthew, who later became a member of the Benedictine Sisters at Ferdinand. Anita grew up with her siblings on the Baehl family farm near what was then known as Armstrong, Indiana. By the standards of the day, theirs was a large farm, over 200 acres, which meant that everyone pitched in from a young age to help with the farming chores. Anita learned from a young age how to milk cows, feed the chickens and collect the eggs, plant and harvest all sorts of vegetables, learn how to butcher and preserve chicken, pork and beef, as well as learning how to cook and prepare nutritious meals.

Anita Marie would have been familiar with the yearly rituals of thrashing the wheat and butchering. These jobs became as much social events as much as they were necessary parts of farming life. Anita Marie learned all these skills well and over the years, became an expert at all of them. Today, people might see these skills as reflecting great skill and artistic talent. But to Anita Marie, and her siblings, it was just what you did. Life on the farm was not always easy. While food was plentiful, during the years of the great depression, it was difficult at times to come up with the money to pay the taxes. During one particularly hard year, the financial support from extended family was a big essential. But the family persevered.

Anita Marie attended St. Joseph Grade School where she graduated in from the eighth grade in 1934. One of her classmates, a young man named Joe Rexing, would play a prominent role in her life. But they would only discover this in time, as during these young years, no romantic sparks flew!

Anita Marie would continue her work on the farm and, in later years, began to work at Mead Johnson where she worked in the packaging division. It was after the end of the World War II that she began to take notice of that young man, Joe Rexing. Like many of the young people of her generation, they would go to local dances at places such as Hornville and Crystal Heights. Their romance blossomed and on September 9, 1947 Joe and Anita Marie were married at St. Joseph Church with Fr. Fred Niehaus witnessing the nuptials.

In short order, the young couple built a home near the intersection of Cynthia Road and Boonville New Harmony on some land given to them by Anita Marie's parents. As it happened, it was right next to the home of her sister, Mildred, who had also recently wed, to none other than Joe's brother Clarence. In time, Joe and Anita Marie would welcome seven children into their family: Karen, Matt, Dave, Chuck, Ernie, Mark and Clare. These two families formed a real bond through the years. For the kids it was like having two moms and two dads. The parents also developed a great way for everyone to get to church and still be able to watch the kids at home. For years, Joe and Mildred would go to one Mass on Sunday and then Clarence and

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Anita would go to another Mass. It took some real insight for the people in the parish to figure out just who was married to who!

Anita Marie delighted in being a wife and mother and she devoted her considerable talents and energy to these roles. As her children reflected, "Mom was truly a "muti-tasker." It became a necessity when, early in her life, she was caring for three young children, all of whom were in diapers—a formidable task in the days when there were no disposable diapers!

Her skills in raising and preserving meats and vegetables were put to good use in the family. With her husband Joe, she spent many hours providing for the family by raising a vegetable garden—beans, corn, tomatoes, potatoes, peas, lettuce—if you could grow it and eat it you'd probably find it in their garden. And of course they made willing (and even unwilling) coworkers out of his children! And Anita Marie was a master at turning these food stuffs into scrumptious and memorable meals—chicken and dumplings, roasts, pork dishes, endless varieties of vegetables dishes, jellies, jams and her famous applesauce plus all manner of cookies and baked goods. "We never went hungry. When we got older there was nothing greater than enjoying one of mom's great Sunday dinners."

Along with all these skills, Anita Marie also served as the "unofficial" kindergarten teacher for her children. This was in the days when few, in any, children, went to kindergarten. She made sure her children knew all their numbers and colors and, of course, all their prayers, before they started first grade in school.

While family life served as one of the great anchors in Anita Marie's life, her faith, lived out in the daily rhythms of being a member of St. Joseph Parish, was another anchor. And it was the values of each, that she and Joe passed on to their children. Coming to Mass on Sunday, attending Lenten devotions and making holy hours were all part of Anita Marie's life and the life of the family that she and Joe created. In later years, after Joe had retired, you would find both of them attending daily mass. And Anita Marie was quick to offer her talents to parish functions, particularly at the annual summer social. She was one of the mainstays in creating all the salads for the chicken dinner.

For the last several years Anita Marie lived at the Holiday Retirement Village. Her death, this past Christmas morning, seemed so appropriate. Her simple life, well lived, was such a gift to her family, to our parish community, and to all who knew her. As the last surviving member of her family, she was no doubt welcomed into the kingdom by her husband Joe, her sons, Mark and Ernie and her parents and siblings. We echo the words of the gospel, "well done, good and faithful servant. Come share in the kingdom that has been prepared for you.



**REMEMBERING
Carl Stewart**

Sept. 26, 1953 - Dec. 13, 2021

Carl was a big man with a big heart. He was born on September 26, 1953, one of six children born to James and Anna (Robinson) Stewart. His sister Emily and his brothers Keith and Neal preceded him in death and he is survived by his sister Elaine and his brothers Richard and Paul.

Carl grew up with his family near the Brickyard on the west side of Evansville. They were members of Sacred Heart Parish where you would see them in their usual front seat for mass each Sunday. Carl graduated from Sacred Heart Grade School and then started high school at Mater Dei before graduating from Reitz High School. He also attended some career and technical classes at North High School. But probably the best school of learning for Carl was gathering with his dad and brothers at Stewart Auto Electric. Here he became proficient in “hand’s on learning,” and became proficient with tools and learning to create new things. It was also a place to gather with friends and share stories and form friendships that lasted a lifetime. As many young men of the time, Carl was interested in the world of motors and cars. With the help of many good friends, they worked on many different cars. His love for cars was a life long passion. One of his prize possessions was his 1955 Chevy Belair which he spent many hours restoring.

From a young age, Carl valued commitment and a good work ethic. During his high school years he worked for a time at Weber’s gas station on the west side. After he graduated from high school, he began working with Hahn Brothers where he learned the dry walling trade.

Carl enjoyed time with his friends and he also took note of eligible young women. One of those young women was Joan Voelker. Truth be told, they were actually high school sweethearts and the relationship blossomed into marriage. They were married here at St. Joe. Fro a short time they rented on home on Wallenmeyer Road before buying a home on Boonville-New Harmony Road. With the help of their family and friends they remodeled this home completely and added new sections to the home. It became their home for the rest of Carl’s life and became the place where they raised their two children, Carla and Mike.

Most people will remember Carl for the great work he did in the drywall and painting business he operated. This business was a true partnership with Joan that they began in 1981. Originally Carl did drywall work, but in time people inquired about his interest in doing painting and staining of woodwork. Much of the staining and painting was done by Joan. They were both very particular about the work they did. People recognized the quality and craftsmanship in the jobs they did so that the business became very successful. Family businesses can be very time consuming and that was certainly the case for Carl and Joan as they did what needed to be done to take care of the needs of their customers. It was also a place where their children, Carla and Mike could join in as well. In the beginning that meant mostly clean up work for them, but in time, especially for Mike, it meant taking on other responsibilities as well. Much to Carl and Joan’s delight, it is their son, Mike, who has now taken over the family business.

In time, Carl would also find joy in the lives of his grandchildren, Austin, Brock, Dalton and Ava. He especially enjoyed following their exploits in the different sporting teams they were part of. Through the years, his presence has loomed large



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in their lives. Mostly by example, he shared with them the value of hard work, being dependable and following through on what you said you were going to do.

Carl enjoyed spending time with this friends and they enjoyed being with him. Here’s some of the things they said about him: *Carl was a great man! I have great memories of the time spent growing up with him as the little brother of one of his best friends. He always treated me as an equal. Such fun. The best complement I can give him is he was the biggest goof ball I have ever met. The smile on his face tells it all!.....Years ago, I remember hanging out with Carl and his son Mike at their shop - mostly drinking SKI and talking about life. Carl was always funny and a good man. We used to call him "The Colonel."Carl was a part of our family in the 60's. I couldn't begin to tell you of the energy and laughter that filled our home when he walked through the door. I will always remember him with a smile.....He had a big heart and was always there to help out any one in need. Carl always had a smile on his face which made him seem genuinely happy. I loved his sense of humor and laid back style.*

Family and friends remember Carl for the sense of confidence he gave. Joan recalled, “I was more the worrier in our family, but Carl had a way of helping me just trust that things would work out. He had a great way of accepting people the way they were.”

A life spent working around the dust resulting from drywall work and the breathing in the fumes from lacquer , took it’s toll on Carl’s health. COPD led to breathing difficulties for Carl. Being a person who spent his life “doing” and having many things to occupy his day, this became quite a challenge for him. Even toward the end of his days, he would try to spend time working in the shop, even if that meant pushing himself to the limit of his physical abilities. With his son Mike was taking over the business, it no doubt gave Carl a great sense of satisfaction knowing that his legacy would continue. One of the blessings for Carl in the last days of his life, was to be able to stay at home surrounded by his family. It was so fitting since Joan, Carl and Mike and their families were such a big part of his life. We give thanks for the gift that Carl was to his family and friends. No doubt, his craftsmanship will live on in the many projects he undertook throughout his life and his memory will live on in the lives of his children and grandchildren.

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.

HAITI HIGHER EDUCATION FUND
IN MEMORY OF
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IN MEMORY OF
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JOE & WINNIE SCHU SCHOOL KITCHEN ENDOWMENT & TONY STRICKER PE ENDOWMENT
IN MEMORY OF
John Reckelhoff
Peter & Vickie Mueller

IN MEMORY OF
Marian Fehrenbacher
Rose Weiss

THANK YOU

JOURNEYING WITH OUR CATECUMENS

Since last September, a group of men and women have been journeying through RCIA (The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) faith sharing sessions, learning all about our Catholic faith tradition. They are led by catechists Tom Blythe, Sr. Bridget Arnold, and PD and Bethany Stoltz. Just like you and me, they each have their own story and background which speaks of their own journey to deeper communion with Christ. Let's tell you a little about each of them.



Zach Tanner, an Evansville native, is the Director of Assessment for the Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation. He loves camping, biking and being outdoors! He is the husband of Stephanie (Ulrich) Tanner. She was the third grade teacher here in our school and now serves as a resource teacher. Zach, Stephanie and their son Liam, recently moved to the Westside of Evansville. "I have been attending Catholic Mass since my wife and I have been together. We were married in

St. Joseph Church going on 8 years. With my son Liam now attending St. Joseph Catholic School, the timing feels right to commit myself to growing my Catholic faith. Zach and his family look forward to continuing to be a part of the St Joe Community.

Mary Gries also grew up here in Evansville with her brother Michael Weber, who is also in the RCIA classes. She and her husband, Justin, have two beautiful daughters, Meredith and Loretta. They are livestock and grain farmers, and they enjoy spending time on the farm together. Mary decided to become Catholic to be able to "walk along in the same faith that I am raising my children in." She is the secretary at St. Joe and loves spending time with her family, gardening, and doing crafts. And yes, she is related to several of the Gries members of our parish. Her husband Justin is a nephew of Steve Gries and the grandson of Buddy Gries, who happens to be an uncle to Fred, Jim, Vernie, and Danny Gries, Carolyn Hutchinson, and Betty Polk.



Michael and Kearstyn Weber were both born and raised here in Evansville. Kearstyn is the middle school teacher at St. Joe and Michael is a Network Supply Planner at AstraZeneca. Along with their two children, Libby and Ella, they enjoy spending time outside as a family. Libby and Ella attend St. Joe School. They decided to become Catholic "so we could be a part of their religious education." Kearstyn already has some family connections here in the parish. Her grandparents are Gene and Marianna Ritter.

Elisha Dewig grew up in Washington Indiana on her family's farm; still her favorite place to go. She and her two children, Emma and Henry have lived in the St. Joe area for a little over 3 years and they love being at St. Joe school. She feels blessed to be their mother. She is currently the administrative assistant at the St. James Parish Office. She believes this work opportunity has helped her grow professionally and in her journey towards Catholicism. That journey began long ago..."Spending time in St. Joe during college with my best friend', Lauren (Niemeier) Grossman and the Niemeier family, I knew I'd love to live there one day! Tagging along to church during those days as well as conversations with Fr. Gene gave me a strong pull to want more. In hindsight, I know God laid this path for me long ago and provided people in my life to guide me where I am today." Outside of work, Elisha loves spending time with her family, snuggling and watching movies with her children, being outdoors, being at the farm, and on the river.



Carol Collins grew up in the San Francisco, California area. She is retired from Vectren, now Center Point Energy. She enjoys playing clabber, reading, and spending time with her two sons, Mike (husband of Jenny Collins) and Patrick, and five grandchildren, Evan, Ty, Audrie, Jacob, and Caleb; and she recently welcomed her great grandbaby Ozzy. "I decided to take step in becoming Catholic due to discussions with my lovely daughter in-law Jenny Collins. This was one of her final wishes before she passed away. We had many discussions about the Catholic faith, and we agreed together that I would pursue this journey. Originally she was going to be my sponsor. You may have seen Carol at our recent Fish Frys. With Jenny and Mike in charge, she sort of got roped in to helping as well!"



It seems Jenny Collins also played a significant role in another one of our catechumens, **Megan Gresham**. She grew up in Jerseyville Illinois, but is now living in Evansville with her husband Ty Collins. They are expecting their first child this month—Camden Collins due on January 29th. She is working for the Indiana Department of Child Services conducting investigations of child abuse and neglect. When she isn't working, Megan loves playing golf. "I've always wanted to become Catholic, but the catalyst was losing my mother in law, Jenny Collins, and feeling the outpouring of love and support from Father Gene and the church."



Shawn and Jenna Thacker have recently moved to our parish. As it happens, Shawn was serving as a football coach and one of the members of his team was David Altstadt. Shawn and Jenna got to know about St. Joseph School and Parish through their conversations with David's parents, Chip and

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Megan Altstadt. Shawn and Jenna are the parents of four children, Christopher, a student at USI, Kim, a sophomore at Mater Dei, Caden, an eighth grader here at St. Joe and one year old Tytus.



What brought them to become part of the RCIA? Neither of us grew up in a very religious family, but something always kept drawing us back. We have many friends who are catholic and after a rough year in 2020 and the changes in the world, we evaluated what we truly wanted out of our lives and our true values and beliefs. After much consideration and searching, we discovered that our true values and beliefs and what we want out of life for our kids and ourselves correlate perfectly with catholicism. We want to join the wonderful environment and gain some true meaning to our lives, as well as raise our children in the catholic faith and culture.

Jenna serves as an Assistant Professor in the Occupational Therapy Program at University of Southern Indiana. She also works as an Occupational Therapist and Certified Hand Therapist at ProRehab. When she is not working she enjoys spending time with family and attending the kids' extracurricular events. And when time permits, she also enjoys outdoors activities especially those and on the water. Shawn retired from Illinois Department of Corrections. He enjoys spending time at his kids' events. He is an avid outdoors man and enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping.



(Continued from page 1)

PRAYING FOR THE GRACE.....cont.)

ise. More analysis does not necessarily mean more wisdom, and having more options is not necessarily freedom. The accumulation of things is not likely to bring more happiness, and time saved is rarely used for contemplation.

Progress has too often been achieved at the expense of the earth, and human reason has too easily legitimated war, greed, and the pursuit of a private agenda, while technology pays those who serve it, especially the moguls of capitalism, militarism, and big pharma. Our Western philosophy of progress has led us to trust in our own limitlessness and in our future more than in the quality and the mystery of the now. Religion at its best is always concerned with the depth and breadth, paradox and wonder of things. In this sense we have become an impatient and irreligious people. The paschal mystery, the yin and yang of all reality, is outshouted by the quite recent and unproven slogan: "We can have it all!"]

In my experience, liberalism creates suspicious people more than loving people. They begin and end by asking, "Who has the power here?" instead of "How can I serve here?" For them, life is an issue to be informed about or fixed, but seldom a mystery to participate in—even in its broken state. But if liberals refuse to be part of the dirt of history, conservatives refuse to even see the dirt—particularly in their own group! They hunker down

IT'S FISH FRY TIME

FRIDAY'S MARCH 4 and 18

SERVING 5-7 PM (DRIVE THRU) ONLY



It's time to make plans for the best fish fry in the area. We will be serving carryout dinners only. You can pick them up thru our drive thru carryout.

We'll need help making the potato salad and the slaw as well as frying the fish and serving the carryout meals. To volunteer call the parish office (812-963-3273). Spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a great meal! We're also looking for folks to oversee this project!

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and call their evil "good." The conservative response to reality is usually: "What is in place already should be trusted. It must be true, because that is the way it is."

Neither conservatives nor liberals are willing to carry the burden of living tentatively in a passing and imperfect world. So the contemporary choice offered most of us living in the West is between unstable correctness (liberals) and stable illusion (conservatives)! What a choice! It has little to do with real transformation in either case, because in each case we have manufactured our own false stability.

There is a third way, and it probably is a way of "kneeling," but we could also just call it "wisdom," which is always distinguished from mere intelligence. It demands a transformation of consciousness and a move beyond the dualistic, win/lose mind. Religion has always said that an authentic God encounter is the quickest and truest path to such wisdom. It is the ultimate securing that allows us to creatively deal with the essential impermanence and insecurity of everything else.

The Gospel accepts the essentially tragic nature of human existence; it is willing to bear the contradictions that are imprinted on all of reality. It will always be the road less traveled. Let's call it "unstable stability!" But for some reason, it is the only real stability, because it is a truthful map of reality, and it is always the truth that sets us free. It is contact with Reality that finally heals us. And contemplation, quite simply, is meeting reality in its most simple, immediate, and paradoxical forms. It is the resolving of those seeming contradictions that characterizes the mystics, the saints, the prophets, and all those who pray.

This liberation, this ability to hold the paradoxical nature of reality, liberates us from and for. It is the ultimate agreement to participate in the only world there is. True participation in paradox liberates us from our own control towers and for the compelling and overarching vision of the Reign of God—where there are no liberals or conservatives. Here, the paradoxes—life and death, success and failure, loyalty to what is and risk for what needs to be—do not fight with one another, but lie in an endless embrace. We must penetrate behind them—into the infinite mystery that holds all things together.

**We are imperfect people falling
in love with a perfect God,
and doing our best to become
more like the One we worship.**



MID YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT July 1, 2021--December 31, 2021

With the end of December, we have reached the half way point of our fiscal year. In our effort to help all of us own the financial responsibility for providing the money needed to do all the various ministries in our parish, we are providing you with a condensed financial report.

The majority of the money we receive comes from our Sunday collections and grade school tuition. As of the end of December we are running slightly behind our budgeted needs for this period, but \$7,118.09 ahead of where we were last year at this point. Since this income stream is the major source of our parish, it is important to keep our income in line with our budgeted needs. Overall, our total parish income is slightly higher than our budgeted projections.

With regard to our expenses, you can see that our actual expenses are running just a tad below what we projected them to be. That's a good thing. When we plan our budget, we tend to budget our expenses on the high side in the hopes that expenses will be less than that. That way, if expenses are less than we anticipated and our income is less than we anticipated, we hope things will even out.

We have also wrapped up our annual Catholic Parishes Campaign. So far we have received pledges in the amount of \$120,667.50 toward our goal of \$120,000. It's always good when we meet our parish CPC goal.

You will also notice we received \$95,886.71 in extraordinary income. This money came from EANS Funds, Homeland Security Grants, Stewards of God's Grace Payments and Insurance Settlements. On the expense side, \$112,841.68 has been spent on new led security lights on the exterior of the school, internet upgrades, touch screens for the school classrooms, ipads, and chrome books and a new phone system in the school. \$12,464 was spent for a new ac unit for the church and related upgrades. \$8,728.00 was spent for the upgrade of the phone system in the parish office to keep it compatible with the school phone system.

INCOME	Current YTD	YTD Budget	Total Budget
Sunday Collections and Grade School Tuition	\$496,905.25	\$512,212.50	\$1,024,525.00
Other Ordinary Income	\$22,817.56	\$6,950.00	\$63,200.00
Summer Social Income	\$114,364.78	\$88,500.00	\$88,500.00
Religious Education Income	\$1,520.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
School Income (Pre-School, Supplies, Non-Parish Tuition, Tuition Vouchers, Grants, Fees, etc.)	\$306,368.41	\$296,690.00	\$513,640.00
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	\$941,976.00	\$905,352.50	\$1,691,766.00
EXTRAORDINARY INCOME Grants \$89,747.62 Stewards of God's Grace Final Payment \$2,500.09 Final Insurance Settlement Payment \$3,639.00	\$95,886.71		
EXPENSES	Current YTD	YTD Budget	Total Budget
Parish Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$101,408.80	\$105,250.00	\$210,500.00
Parish Office & Related Expenses	\$9,566.71	\$16,300.00	\$32,100.00
Church and Worship	\$2,734.75	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Parish Buildings/Ground Maintenance	\$29,846.34	\$21,250.00	\$42,500.00
Summer Social Expenses	\$28,233.71	\$26,400.00	\$26,400.00
Parish Assessment For Mater Dei High School	\$48,844.08	\$49,000.00	\$98,000.00
School Expenses	\$581,926.06	\$618,268.50	\$1,204,617.00
Religious Education Expenses	\$23,219.18	\$35,140.00	\$67,640.00
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES	\$825,779.63	\$877,608.50	\$1,691,757.00
EXTRAORDINARY EXPENSE School \$122,841.68 Church \$12,464.58 Parish Office \$8,728.00	\$144,007.26		

2020 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

By this time you should have received your contribution statements for 2020. It should reflect the contributions you have to the parish as well as your contributions to our work in Haiti. Please take the time to review your statement. We make every effort to be accurate in the records we keep, but there is always the chance that we have made a mistake. So, if you find some inconsistencies in your report, please let us know so that we can make the necessary corrections.



You should be receiving a separate statement from our diocesan office which will give you a record of your contributions to the Stewards of God's Grace Campaign and the CPC.

LOTTERY THANKS Thanks to all who bought tickets and thanks especially to all our great ticket sellers! Not only will we be able to give away \$16,200 to 48 lucky winners, we have also made \$21,300.00 for our parish

If you would like to see a more detailed report, stop by the Parish Office and we will make a copy for you.

Up Close and Personal



Landon Elpers

Landon is the youngest son of Brian and Shelly Elpers and the younger brother of Logan. He is a senior at Mater Dei and splits his day between attending classes there and taking classes at the Career and Technical School. He's been learning some of the ins and outs of the world of heating and air conditioning. Could this be a career path for him? "I'm not sure, but I like the kind of hands on learning that we have with these classes."

When we sat down to talk with Landon, he was busy with being part of the football team at Mater Dei. Being part of the team has taken up a great deal of his time and it's understandable that the closest relationships he has formed at school have been with his teammates. "There is a great chemistry on our team and it feels good to be a part of the group. We have some great coaches. I'm just amazed at the time and effort they put into preparing us for the teams we play. They watch a lot of film and really know the different tendencies our opponents have." Landon helped lead the team to the state championship game at Lucas Oil Stadium this past November. "It was quite an experience to be part of."

Landon also has been a member of the baseball team where he is a pitcher for the team. "Last year I injured my pitching arm and that meant that I had to spend a lot of time in physical therapy." But maybe one of the good things to come out of this for Landon is to introduce him to the world of physical training and sports management. One of the things that he is looking at is going to the University of Alabama next fall to study exercise science.

Landon began his schooling here at St. Joe where he started in pre-school and then graduated from eighth grade. "Going through the middle school years was pretty challenging for me. The teachers really pushed us to do our best. I'm sure that wasn't something I always appreciated at the time. At the time I was more into recess! We had a small class and I remember how competitive some of us were. My classmate Austin Frey and I were always going at each other during recess."

RUMMAGE SALE

JUNE 10-11

Many people have asked if we are going to have our rummage sale this year. Well the answer is yes, at least that's what we are planning for now. The dates for the rummage sale are June 10 and 11. In light of all the things we are going through Covid, there will be some changes in the way we have been doing the rummage sale. We'll let you know about these in the weeks ahead. Right now we are inviting you to save your gently used items for the rummage sale. Rule of thumb—if you wouldn't buy it at a rummage sale, then don't bring it. We regret that we cannot accept electronic items, old computers, TV's and the like. There just has not been a big demand for these items at our past rummage sales.

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

INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

MATER DEI / MEMORIAL
Sunday, March 15, 2022
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cess."

Family has been a big key to Landon's life. "My brother Logan and I have been spending more time together lately than we did earlier in our life. It's been kind of neat getting to know him as a friend. Landon is living in the house where his grandparents lived. Farming has been in the Elpers family for a long time. His dad is the fifth generation of Elpers who are farming the land. Is farming in Landon's future? Maybe? We'll have to wait and see on that one."

Living on the farm has also given Landon a chance to get to know his Elpers grandparents. And he has also had the chance to get to know his Stigall grandparents. Gathering with family at Christmas and Easter has been a chance to catch up on what is going on in other peoples lives...and of course there is always lots of good food to enjoy as well.

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think it is important to enjoy the time you have. Learning to live in the present moment is good. it helps you not to take things for granted. Don't get too uptight about the way things are in life. I think I have learned that especially from my Dad. And I think it is important to accept people the way they are. We all have are flaws."



- **Hannah Kissel** graduated *Cum Laude* from Eastern Illin olis University with a BS degree in Communication Disorders and Sciences
- **Grant Gillenwater** graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from the University of Alabama with a degree in Business Mangagment Sales He is pursuing his MBA at the Univeristy of Alabama
- **Zach Ondash** graduated from USI with a BS degree in Automotive Engineering and CAD Design
- **Tanner Rexing** graduated from USI in August with a MS in Business Administration. He is currently working as the manager



I WILL NOT LET
MY LIFE'S LIGHT
BE DETERMINED
BY THE
DARKNESS
AROUND ME
Sojourner Truth

MISSION OUTREACH



Be an island of mercy in a sea of indifference.
Pope Francis

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



We continue to accept donations for the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry each weekend.just a jar of peanut butter, a bag of beans or a box of oatmeal or cereal.....that's all.

HAITI MINISTRY NEWS

This past Christmas, instead of buying gifts for people, we invited people to make contributions to our ministry in Haiti in their name. Through this Haiti Gifts of Compassion, you helped us raise over \$5,000 for the children of Haiti. That's enough money to feed the children for about fifty days. What a blessing! Haiti.



LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO SPONSOR STUDENTS IN HAITI



We're always looking for people who are willing to sponsor children from our parish in Haiti so that they can go to school. Could you be the person to give these children a chance in life?

Contact Eric Reffett (812-618-5945) or ereffett@sbcglobl.net



THANKS....to the members of the St. Anne Altar and the parishioners of St. Joseph for the Christmas gifts you provided for the patients at the Evansville State Hospital. In such a simple way you helped to remember people who are so often forgotten. Thanks for all you did this holiday season to being some comfort and joy to people.

Theresa Arvin Community Service Director

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This month you are invited to contribute to a special collection: Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. An envelope is in your monthly packet. Since 1991, the collection has provided more than \$75 million to Catholics in post-communist Russia and Central and Eastern Europe. These funds have supported more than 3,500 church projects in many Eastern Europe Countries. For interesting stories and further information please visit www.AIDTOEASTERNEUROPE.ORG



HERE'S AN OPPORTUNITY TO PUT YOUR PRO LIFE BELIEFS INTO PRACTICE

Birthright of Evansville is looking for volunteers to help operate their drop in center on Reed Street. Their goal is to support to women who are pregnant or think they may be pregnant. Birthright is interdenominational and is not involved in any political activities, or lobbying. Birthright's focus is on loving the mother, reminding her that there is hope and ensuring she is not alone. Men and Women are invited to offer their time. The drop in center is open three days a week for two hours. Contact them at 812-2555 to offer your help.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

February 16, 2022--March 20, 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 February 26, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Sis Jarboe
Sunday February 27, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Donna Blankenberger
Sunday February 27, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Jane Scheller
Saturday, March 5, 2022 5 pm	Volunteer	Mike Reffett
Sunday March 6, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Marcia Frey
Sunday March 6, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Aleliah Nisley
Saturday March 12,, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Toni Askins
Sunday March 13, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Terry Drone
Sunday March 13, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Shane Wessel
Saturday March 19, 2022 5 PM	Volunteer	Sis Jarboe
Sunday March 20, 2022 8 AM	Volunteer	Chick Duncan
Sunday March 20, 2022 10:30 AM	Volunteer	Many Elpers



THANKS TO ALL THE PEOPLE WHO CAME TO DONATE BLOOD AT OUR BLOOD DRIVE IN JANUARY.

FEBRUARY 2022

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> <p><i>Be it known to all who enter our school that Christ is the reason for this school. He is the unseen but every present teacher in its classes. He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students</i></p> </div>		<p>1 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p>2 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Bible Study 6:30 pm</p>	<p>3 NO MASS COME AND SEE NIGHT AT ST. JOE SCHOOL 5-7 PM</p>	<p>4 7:30 am Mass School Children</p>	<p>5 Confessions 4-4:40 pm Food Pantry and Haiti Collection 5 pm Mass with Bishop Siegel celebrating Confirmation</p>
						
<p>6 8 & 10:30 Mass Family Religion Class 9 am RCIA 9 am First Communion Parent Mtg 9 am Food Pantry Collection Haiti Collection</p>	<p>7 7 am-7pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass</p>	<p>8 7:30 am Mass Children's Prayer Service 8 am</p>	<p>9 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Bible Study 6:30 pm</p>	<p>10 NO MASS</p>	<p>11 7:30 am Mass School Children Only</p>	<p>12 Confessions 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection</p>
<p>13 8 & 10:30 am Masses Food Pantry Collection Family Religion Class & RCIA 9 am Coffee/Donuts 9 am</p> 	<p>14 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Knights of St. John Mtg 7 pm</p>	<p>15 7:30 am Mass Children's Prayer Service 8 am</p>	<p>16 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Bible Study 6:30 pm</p>	<p>17 NO MASS</p>	<p>18 NO MASS NO SCHOOL</p>	<p>19 Confessions 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection</p>
<p>20 8 & 10:30 Masses Family Religion Class 9 am RCIA 9 am Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p>21 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration NO SCHOOL 6:30 PM Mass Men's Club Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>22 7:30 am Mass Children's Prayer Service 8 am</p>	<p>23 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting Noon Bible Study 6:30 pm</p>	<p>24 NO MASS 6 pm Haiti Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>25 7:30 am Mass School Children</p>	<p>26 Confessions 4-4:30 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection</p>
<p>DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TUESDAY 6 AM – WEDNESDAY 6 AM</p>						
<p>27 8 & 10:30 Masses Family Religion Class 9 am RCIA 9 am Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p>28 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 PM Mass</p>	<p>1 MARCH BEGINS 7:30 am Mass Children's Prayer Service 8 am</p>	<p>2 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:30 am Mass with distribution of ashes 11 am & 7 pm Service with Distribution of Ashes</p>	<p>3 NO MASS 6 pm Haiti Ministry Meeting</p>	<p>4 NO MASS FISH FRY 5-7 PM</p> 	<p>5 Confessions 4-4:30 pm 5 pm Mass Haiti & Food Pantry Collection</p>
						

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WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 5pm
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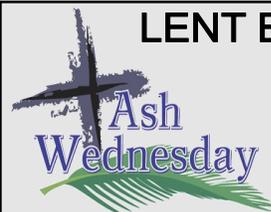
LENT BEGINS ON MARCH 2

Ash Wednesday March 2

Mass at 7:30 am

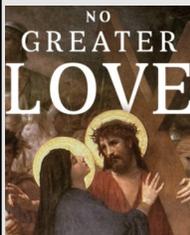
with distribution of Ashes
Penance Service

with distribution of Ashes
11:00 am and 7:00 pm



This year, because of the covid pandemic we will not be signing people with ashes on their forehead. Instead, we will be following a much older Catholic tradition of having ashes sprinkled on our heads.

Each Wednesday during Lent, excluding Ash Wednesday and April 6, we will gather for Family Stations of the Cross from 6:30-7:00 at St. Joe Church. Bring the whole family to pray and reflect on Jesus' passion.



Each Sunday of Lent from 11:30-1 we will be working through the Bible Study "No Greater Love: A Biblical Walk through Christ's Passion" by Edward Sri. We will be meeting in the school meeting room for 6 Sessions; the cost of the study is \$30.00.

LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE
Wednesday, April 6 at 7 pm
Friday, April 8 at 11 am