

THE CARPENTER

NEWSLETTER OF ST. JOSEPH PARISH

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FEBRUARY-2023

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HERE I AM LORD. I WILL GO LORD.....I THINK.

Fr. Gene Schroeder

PASTOR

Among the five most popular hymns sung in churches everywhere is the song "Here I Am, Lord." It's based upon the words we hear from the Book of Isaiah. "The Lord said, whom shall I send...and I said here I am Lord, send me." (Isaiah 6:8) It was written by Dan Schutte, who wrote that song for his friend who was being ordained a priest. I think the reason for its popularity is that it strikes such a deep chord in most people. It's that part of us that wants to respond to the needs of people around us. After all, when people see others in need, and they hear someone say, who will go and help, who wouldn't want to say, "Yes, send me, I want to help?"



The words from the refrain of this song speak about this experience of being asked to respond to the needs of others. "Here I am Lord. I have heard you calling in the night. I will go Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart." I'm struck by the words "I heard you calling in the night." Night time can be a very scary time for folks. As I have gotten older I wake up often during the night. Rarely do I sleep through the whole night. And when I wake up my mind tends to be filled with lots of questions. Some people tell me that this is a very frightening time, because they begin to entertain all kinds of questions that don't seem to have many easy answers. As a result they often feel more anxious and afraid.

But this has not been my experience. In fact I experience something almost opposite. I think about a lot of things and wonder what I am supposed to be doing. But in the midst of this is an experience of amazing clarity. Things make sense to me. I know what I am supposed to do. It's all very clear to me. And there is a great sense of peace that accompanies this.

Of course, then I have to get up and get on with the day and all the clarity and peace I experience in the middle of the night often seems to disappear. The path ahead that seemed so simple and straight forward is now filled with moments of self doubt and fear. And I am left wondering where all the clarity and simplicity went. It's got me to being a little suspicious of these "night time" visions.

Many of us have "heard the Lord calling." And we want to say yes. And we do say yes,

IT'S FISH FRY TIME

FRIDAYS MARCH 3 and 17
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 at our drive thru carryout.

ON THE MENU: Fried Fish Filets, German Potato Salad, Slaw, Baked Beans and Cornbread

Our 8th grade students will also be offering special dessert cookies for sales as well.

We'll need help preparing all the ingredients for the potato salad and slaw. We'll also need help making the slaw, preparing and frying the fish and putting the carryout meals together. Check the bulletin and your emails for special times we are getting together to do all these things. You can also volunteer by calling the parish office (812-963-3273).

In the meantime, spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a great meal!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

sometimes without even knowing what our "yes" is going to lead to. But it starts with a sincere heart and good intentions. And God takes our "yes" and does great things with it, even beyond what we can ask our even imagine, as St. Paul tells us. But God uses our "yes" to invite us to grow deeper in our faith. That sounds like a good idea as well, as least initially. God's invitation is to move from a world view that begins with just us, to including others, and then to include the whole world. And that can become quite a challenge.

Theologian and mystic Howard Thurman (1900-1981) says there is often a painful reality that accompanies this initial willingness of saying "Here I am Lord." We say yes to doing what God asks of us and then watch what happens. *God said, "Tell the people to listen, but they aren't going to listen. You will break your heart trying to do what God wants, you will turn your mind inside out and you will be met with indifference. And you will want to throw in the towel. And God will say the only thing that I can offer you is a deep, profound, ever-circling frustration. That's all. Tell them that they are going to be destroyed, every town burned up, all the people taken into captivity ... tell them all these things and they won't even listen to you."*

What do you do? Here is your great moment and at last you
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THANKS FOR HELPING US MEET OUR GOAL

PARISH GOAL	\$125,270.00
PLEGDED TO DATE	\$125,297.00
NUMBER OF PLEDGES:	366
AVERAGE PLEDGE	\$ 342.34

Thank you...

CPC 2022



Up Close and Personal



Finley Fehrenbacher

Finley is the oldest daughter of Jodi (Metzger) and Peter Fehrenbacher. Her sister, Piper, is a freshman at Mater Dei and her sister Lilly is in seventh grade at St. Joe. She also has the distinction of being the oldest grandchild on both her mom and dad's side of the family.

Finley has had an active four years at Mater Dei. Aside from her academic work, she has been a member of the Girls Tennis Team where she plays doubles. She will start training shortly for the upcoming tennis season this spring.

She has also been a member of the Pep Club. One of their big projects is decorating the halls of Mater Dei prior to the beginning of the year. "I'm pretty much of a worker bee in these projects. I just do what they tell me to do." They have also been active in planning and participating in the different pep assemblies this year supporting all the various teams in their efforts. They have had a lot of them with the band and football teams winning state championships this year.

Finley is also a member of the National Honor Society which recognizes academic achievements and also hours of service. She's helped with the cocoa and cram sessions before final exams. It's a chance for students to study together and enjoy some hot chocolate at the same time. She's also been part of the crew that sends postcards to incoming freshman. "We've been getting back into service projects more this past couple of years. A lot of that had to stop because of the covid pandemic." Finley joined several others in doing some volunteer work at the Tri-State Food Bank. You might also have seen her helping to clear the snow off the sidewalks here at St. Joe during some of our recent snow storms.

Understandably, most of Finley's time is taken up with school work. Right now she's been taking a class in statistics. "It's probably the hardest class I've had." She's also taken some advanced health classes. "I like them a lot because they focus on some practical things like learning CPR and basic first aid. I really like our teacher, Mrs. Garrard."

She's also been taking a class on forensics, taught by Mr. Jewell. "One of the things we have learned is all the different things you can learn about a situation from blood spatters." Finley has lots of memories of good teachers at Mater Dei. One that who comes to mind especially was Mr. Vogel. "He was probably the toughest teacher I had. He really pushed you to do your best. That's a good thing although I don't know that I appreciated it so much at the time!"

Aside from all these experiences, Finley's high school years have been filled with lots of memories of making new friendships, gathering with good friends, and supporting all the different athletic teams. A big highlight of the year has been going to the state football championship this past November.

Finley graduated from St. Joseph Grade School. "I have lots of good memories from those years. The volleyball game

INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

between the teachers and the 8th graders comes to mind. And being in Mrs. Elpers' science class and watching her snake eat the mouse we feed it. Playing lots of sports, especially tennis which she began in 5th grade and volleyball with her mom as the coach. And of course, there are the great lunches we had. The cooks were great!"

During the years you would have seen Finley helping out at various parish activities as well. Aside from cleaning the snow off the sidewalks, there were also chances to help with the fish fry and summer social. She was busy working the carryout lines. And you would have found her helping to roll dumplings for the summer social.

Service to others is just one of the things she learned from her parents. She's learned the value of hard work and dedication. The spirit that says if you say you're going to do something, then be sure and do it. Working hard is something that Finley has tried to do whether that be with her school work or sports. It's also something she has tried to do in her jobs babysitting and cleaning the Fehrenbacher Cabinet Showroom.

Family time together is another value her parents have tried to instill, beginning with sharing an evening meal together. Then there is the chance to take their dogs, Cole and Barkley out for walks. Other big opportunities for family time are spending time at Barkley Lake and at the farm in New Harmony. And these are chances to gather with cousins and other extended family members.

Gathering with grandparents is also a high priority. "We get together often with mom's parents and as much as we can with her sisters. Mom's two sisters live out of town so we don't get together with them as much. Dad's family all live close by so we get together pretty often." Times spent with her Fehrenbacher grandparents are always special.

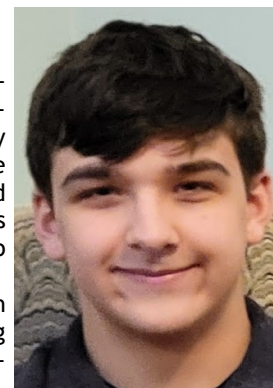
Next year, Finley plans to attend USI to pursue a degree in business and marketing. "I think I'd like to be a pharmaceutical representative. That was the job my mother had when she graduated from college." Of course with a degree in marketing, continuing the Fehrenbacher Cabinet tradition may also be in her future.

WORDS OF WISDOM: "Every life has its challenges. I think what is important is to do your best to face them. Probably the biggest challenge in my life is dealing with scoliosis. When you are young you don't think you will have to deal with any physical limitations. Of course there are a lot of people who have to deal with things much worse than this. I've had to do special exercises to deal with this condition. What I have learned in all of this is that things don't come easy in life so you have to put in the work to make things happen. Playing tennis has also taught me how important it is to have a good mental attitude about things. There are a lot of things that come along that can put you in a bad mood, so you really have to work hard to keep your focus in the right place."

Ethan Messal

Ethan is the son of Mark and Kelly Messal. His younger brother Owen is a freshman at Mater Dei. His older sister, Indy is married to Aaron Coslett and the mother of Ethan's niece Scarlet and nephew Logan. They live in Indianapolis while Aaron is completing his internship as an anesthesiologist.

When we sat down to talk with Ethan, he had just finished participating in the Mater Dei Wrestling Holiday Invita-



tional. Over the years, this invitational has become one of the top wrestling meets in the state. Each year the competition gets a little tougher. Ethan wrestles in the 170lb weight class. He won his first two matches and then lost the next one in overtime. He finished fourth overall in his weight class.

Wrestling has been a part of Ethan's life for as long as he can remember. When asked what participating in wrestling has taught him through the years, he said, "It's taught me that you have to be willing to work hard if you want to achieve anything. You get the chance to set a goal and then do the hard work to achieve it. Wrestling is a physical sport and you have to work hard to get in shape."

"Even though the wrestling match may be relatively short, you spend a lot of physical energy in a short amount of time. Wrestling has also taught me a lot about being mentally prepared as well. You have to believe in yourself and in your abilities even before you begin a match. If you don't believe in yourself, you can lose the match even before it begins. At some point in the match, you can get very exhausted and give up, telling yourself it is not worth going on. That's where all the mental toughness that comes from going to practice even on the days you don't want to be there comes into play. What also matters are all those days when you pushed yourself to run extra laps and work extra hard in practice pays off."

Next week the wrestling team will participate in the State Wrestling Team Championship. "One of the highlights of my wrestling career was being part of the wrestling team that won the state championship two years ago. The state championship was held at Warren Central High School near Indianapolis. I think that is the biggest high school in the state. Coming from Mater Dei, which is a pretty small place, it made me feel proud to be part of team that not only competed against much bigger schools, but also was able to win the state championship. I'm not sure how we will do this year. A lot of our best wrestlers graduated last year. We may not win, but I think we'll put up a good fight. It will be a big challenge. Coach Schaefer reminds us a lot how important it is for everyone, from the varsity through the JV to do their best every day. That's the only way the team will be successful."

Aside from wrestling, Ethan did participate in cross country for the first two years of high school. For the last two years he has been focusing on wrestling. When wrestling season ends, Ethan begins his participation in the Mater Dei Academic Team. His particular focus is Social Studies. "I joined the team for the first time my junior year. It was great experience for me. I wish I had done it sooner. I'm looking forward to the season."

A big part of Ethan's time has been taken up with his academic classes. He's taken a number of AP (advanced placement



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classes) the past few years. "I really like history. I credit Mr. Rode for getting me interested in this field. He's also the faculty sponsor for our academic team." Ethan also counts a number of other teachers for being a big influence on him in high school. Mr. Wathen who taught history and theology, as well as Mr. Schaefer and Mr. Jeremy Goebel, his wrestling coaches are among the folks that come to mind. "A good teacher is able to engage the class. You can't just tell them what is in the book. Good teachers expand on this and make it come alive for the students. I think that is what makes a class enjoyable."

Next year Ethan plans to pursue a degree in history and/or political science. "Right now I think I might like to pursue a career as a lawyer, but that could change." He's gotten accepted at USI and IUPUI and is waiting to hear about being accepted at Purdue. "My dad and my sister went to Purdue so going there is high on the list of choices for me. But USI has a good program for history as well."

Ethan started his schooling by going to pre-school at St. Joe and continued there until he graduated. "We had a really good class. It was great that everyone got along so well. I remember that graduating from 8th grade was a little bit sad because we knew that some of our classmates would be going to different high schools. We had some great teachers. Mrs. Elpers was pretty strict but she sure prepared us well for high school. I also remember Mrs. Daugherty as being very kind. I had Mr. Wilson for fifth grade and that was pretty good too. I remember reading the book, *Where The Red Fern Grows*, in his class. Of course some of the best memories from grade school are the great lunches. I don't know how they did it, but they were always good. The lunch ladies were great too."

Being a part of St. Joseph Parish has also been a good experience for Ethan. "The place is small enough that it seemed that you knew everyone." He remembers helping out with the summer social and the fish fries. He was part of the group that helped get the food to the folks coming through the drive through. He also helped to set up the PTO booth for the Fall Festival.

Working hard and offering help was something that he learned from his parents. "My Dad got us involved in helping in the yard and landscaping at home. He also got us to help mow the grass and take care of all the landscape at the Westside Pet Hospital. We also worked in the clinic helping to take care of the animals and keep the place clean." Was becoming a vet like his dad ever in the future for him? "Well I liked being around animals and helping to take care of them, but I never thought of myself as a veterinarian."

WORDS OF WISDOM: "Having good family support is really important. I'm blessed with good parents. I enjoy being around my dad and listening to all the stories he has to tell. My mother is the kind of person that I can share anything with. I don't know what I'd do without her and my dad. They taught

(Continued on page 4)



Mackenzie Warren - USI - Elementary Education (Spring 2022)

Maggie Couch - Rogers Hair Academy - Cosmetology (Summer 2022) December 2022

Marcus Elpers - Ivy Tech - Journeyman Carpenter

Dane Freeman - USI - Computer Science and Business

Allison Gibbs - Certified Nurses Assistant

Quinn Kempf - Logan College of Chiropractic - Chiropractor

Emily Seger - USI - Biology

(Continued from page 3)

me a lot about hard work and about how important it is not to take the easy way out. Life can be pretty challenging and sometimes it is really easy to just settle for less and take the easy road. But that is not how you get ahead. I think it is important to be able to set goals in life and then be willing to do the hard work of achieving them. I think having a sense of faith is also important. When people meet me, they may see me as a very quiet person. But I think a lot about things like 'Why am I here? What is my purpose in life?' Everyone has challenges in life. How will I face these challenges? When you are willing to do these things, I think that is going to take you far in life. Right now one of the things I am trying to challenge myself with is to work at being less addicted to all the social media apps that are so prevalent today."



Ethan Kissel

Ethan is the son of Lee and Jodi Kissel and the younger brother of Hannah. He is a senior at Mater Dei. It's been an eventful four years at Mater Dei. Dealing with the covid pandemic, especially during his freshman and sophomore years has made his high school career especially unique. The time has gone by fast. "I can't believe it is almost time to graduate."

When we sat down to talk, Ethan was getting ready for his upcoming swimming meets. "I went to

some of the swim meets last year and some people told me I should go out for the swim team, so I thought I would give it a try." He swims the 50 meter free style and is also on a couple of freestyle relay teams. When he finishes swimming, he'll start preparing for the upcoming baseball season. He's been playing baseball since his grade school days. He's a pitcher for the team and then plays "wherever the coach thinks I can do some good for the team." How is the team going to do this year? "We should be pretty good. We have a lot of seniors coming back and there are some new guys coming out as well that will be a big help to the team." Ethan has also been a member of the cross country team. He started this sport when he was in seventh grade.

Both swimming and baseball have taught Ethan a lot about the mental aspect of sports. "You have to get in shape physically, of course, but preparing yourself mentally is probably a bigger challenge. You're not always going to have great days. Some days, for whatever reason, you're not able to do what you want or be the best that you can be, so you have to learn how to be patient with yourself. Sometimes when you're not at your best you can get down on yourself and when you do that it really affects your ability to play. So you have to learn how to step back from things and take a deep breath, collect your thoughts and try again. There are also times when you might feel like quitting because you are tired. Then it's easy to just give up. What I have learned is how important it is to face the hard things and then just push through them. I found that this is especially true in swimming, especially when you get down to the last part of the race. Everything in you might say 'slow up, don't try so hard'. But you have to be able to keep pushing yourself on."

Ethan is also a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to keeping up his grades and trying to be a good role model, he has been involved in doing service hours, helping at the School Open House and helping to collect food for the

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annual food drive. His job was to ask for and collect donations from some of our local grocery stores. He also helped to serve a meal to the veterans who were chosen to go on a special Honor Flight to Washington D.C.

Ethan has been working hard in his academic classes as well. "I've tried to balance my schedule so that I'm taking some classes that are really challenging with other classes that are easier." He's had a lot of good teachers at Mater Dei. Among the ones who stand out are his German and history teacher, Mr. Rode. and his anatomy teacher, Mr. Vogel. "I like the fact that they make these subjects interesting. I've taken German class all four years of high school. Mr. Vogel is the teacher that got me interested in the health care field."

Next year Ethan plans to pursue a degree in physical therapy at U of E. "I've been accepted to be part of their Doctorate of Physical Therapy Program. I'm hoping to finish my undergraduate degree in three years and then get my doctorate in physical therapy in another three years. After that I would like to use my training in physical therapy to help folks in a place where they don't have much access to this kind of help. My sister, Hannah, is finishing her doctorate in speech therapy and has been working in some of the rural areas in Southern Illinois. She keeps telling me about how great a need there is in these places for things like physical therapy. So maybe one day I can help out."

Ethan graduated from St. Joseph Grade School and has all kinds of memories from those years. "I remember all the teachers. They were great. you always knew they wanted the best for you. I remember especially being in Sr. Bridget's class. She taught us how to type and to learn cursive writing. Mr. Wilson was another great teacher. And of course, the best thing was all the great school lunches, especially the super nachos. I don't know what they did to make them so good, but the lunch ladies had a way of making things taste really good."

Family has been a big part of Ethan's life. "My biggest support in all my athletic events has been my parents and grandparents. I've got several cousins who are also playing in different

sports so going to different sporting events is one of the big ways that we get together. I've learned a lot from all my grandparents especially about looking out for others. They have really modeled what being there for others is all about. All my grandparents live close by so we get to see them on a pretty regular basis."

"My sister Hannah has been away at college completing her degree so it's just been me at home with my parents and our dog which is a lab, beagle and pit mix. He's a young dog so he has lot of energy. My dad is a great cook. I've helped him out cooking and in planting and harvesting the garden vegetables. He is into raising different kinds of peppers and cooking with them. He's also big into grilling and smoking different meats. Most people say I look like my dad, especially if you compare pictures of us when he was in high school. Both my mom and dad have shown me the importance of hard work and being reliable and dependable. Mom's a great listener. She's taught me the value of being thankful for the things you have and being thankful for simple things like all the stuff around us each day. Her example also helps me not to get too stressed out about things especially those things that you don't have any control over.

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think I have become aware of the growing responsibility you have with each passing year. I thought about that when I got my driver's license and then when I started working at different jobs. Having a job also means learning the importance of managing your money. As I think about going to college, I can see how important earning money is and then using it wisely. I think it is also important to stay on top of things as you go through school. There's always a big temptation to put things off until later but you can really get behind if you do this. Starting high school might be intimidating but I think it is important to take advantage of the opportunities you have to gain new friends or to help others. This past year I helped serve a meal for all the veterans who were going on an honor flight to Washington D.C. I really didn't know what this was about, I just said 'yes' when one of my teachers asked if I would help. What I discovered was that the evening was a great experience for me getting to know some of the veterans. I was also struck by the special ceremony they had remembering veterans who were killed as well as those who have died. It was a really special moment and I would never have had that experience if I had not said "yes" to helping out."

Kurt Denning

Kurt is the middle child of Brian and Melissa Denning. He is the younger brother of Paige who is going to school at Butler University pursuing a degree in pharmacy, and the older brother of Trent, who is a sophomore at Mater Dei.



Talking with Kurt, you quickly realize that he faces things in life with serious determination. That determination was reflected in the fact that he was chosen as one of the honorees at the Tomorrow's Workforce Luncheon sponsored by Memorial and Mater Dei High Schools. Although he did not win the one scholarship offered through this event, he did get the chance to meet and talk with many different

business people from the Evansville area.

That serious approach to life is also reflected in the challenging courses Kurt has taken in school. He's been loading up on a number of AP (Advanced Placement) courses which will

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY—FEBRUARY 12

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.



give him college credits. AP Calculus and AP Anatomy are the current classes he is taking. Kurt credits his academic achievements to the number of great teachers he has had at Mater Dei. Among those who stand out are Mr. Vogel, who taught biology and anatomy, and Mrs. Garrard who teaches Health and Science. "What is great about them is that they are energetic and excited about the things they teach. They push you pretty hard which is a good thing. You definitely get the sense that they really care about you."

Kurt's academic achievements include being named to the National Honor Society for the past two years. Honorees not only commit themselves to high academic standards, but also try to be a good role model to other students. A big part of this role model is giving service hours to various groups and activities. Among others things, Kurt has helped out at the Tri State Food Bank and different blood drives. He was also heavily involved with the annual Thanksgiving Food Drive at Mater Dei. He has also helped with the Cocoa and Cram sessions offered each semester to help young students prepare for their final exams. He was also part of the Fresh Beginnings Program through which older students helped to welcome incoming freshmen to Mater Dei.

High school years haven't just been filled with academics for Kurt. He's been playing Tennis for the past three years. This year he was the Number 2 Singles player and he helped the team win the sectional championship, something that has not happened for a long time at Mater Dei. And for the last couple of years he has been a member of the golf team. "During the time school got shut down because of covid, I started to play golf and found out that I really enjoyed it. I wasn't that good at it in the beginning, but our coach, Scot Rohleder believed in me and kept encouraging me to keep at it. Last year I made the varsity team and I am looking forward to our season beginning in the spring. One of the things I am most proud of is qualifying for the city golf championship last summer." Kurt is able to combine his love for golf and working to earn money through his job as a golf attendant at the Evansville County Club. "It's a great place to play golf but if I wasn't working there I would not be able to afford all the costs associated with playing there."

Next year, Kurt plans on pursuing a degree in engineering at USI. He's not sure what engineering field he will end up in but right now he is leaning toward Industrial Engineering. He may be living on campus but that will depend upon the amount of scholarship money he receives. Otherwise he will be commuting from home. Kurt attended St. Joe Grade School and has lots of memories of these times. "We had some great teachers at St.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Joe. I remember them all. I think especially about Mrs. Elpers, Mrs. Daugherty and Mr. Wilson. They were all pretty demanding teachers but they sure prepared us well for high school. Of course I remember all the great lunches we had. The lunch ladies were great and the super nachos were the best! I remember the great times we had during recess. Field trips to Toyota, the LST display and to the Vanderburgh County Jail were also memorable.

Kurt has lived within eyesight of St. Joseph Parish all his life. "When I think of St. Joe, I think of a community of people who care for one another and are willing to help each other. I also remember helping out at the summer social and the fish fries. It was hard not to get involved, since my parents were some of the leaders of these events."

Kurt credits his family as having a strong influence on him. Among the most influential are his parents. "My dad has taught me the value of hard work and being willing to do what needs to be done to complete a project. We both enjoy playing golf and have had some great times playing at some of the different golf courses in Evansville. This past Christmas our family traveled to Florida and we got the chance to play on some of the courses there as well.

"My mom is an accountant by training so she is pretty organized and pays a lot of attention to details in life. She been the one who has helped keep me focused in life. She keeps me on the straight and narrow for sure!" But I've also learned the value of kindness for others from her."

"I'm the middle child in the family. I've benefitted from the example of my older sister. She had good advice for me going into high school. I'm hoping I can be that kind of role model for my younger brother, Trent."

When Kurt isn't at school or playing golf or tennis, you may find him working out at his favorite hangout—Bob's Gym. He also likes to go fishing, mostly for bass or blue gill. "I'm mostly into catching and releasing. Cleaning and deboning fish take a lot of time." Kurt's love of the outdoors is also reflected in his job working at Houseman's Outdoor Solutions. "Landscaping work gives you a chance to be outdoors and the work involved can be a great way to keep in shape."

WORDS OF WISDOM: I think going through the covid pandemic our freshman and sophomore years had a big influence on me. Not being able to do a lot of the things that we would normally do in high school could be a real disappointment. But it taught me how to keep focused in life and not get undone by the little things in life. Appreciate what you have. Focus on what you can do and not on the things you can't control. My high school years have also help me realize the value of good friends. You need good friends to support you and encourage you. When you have people around you that believe in you it can really help to build your self-confidence. And you need to have a good sense of confidence in yourself and your abilities if you are going to succeed. Good friends also help you learn how to support and encourage others. Learning how to just be there for folks and accept them where they are is a really important thing. Playing tennis and golf have taught me also about the value of mental preparation. Both tennis and golf are individual sports and when you don't do as well as you hoped you can easily get down on yourself. That's why a good mental attitude is so important.

REMEMBERING

Stanley Schapker

July 7, 1954 - December 31, 2022

Stanley Schapker was born on July 7, 1954, the second of children born to Charlotte (Niemeier) and Elmer Schapker. His sister Jane was there to welcome him and together they were there to welcome their sisters Julie and Ann and their brothers

Alan, Kurt, Roger and Doug.

Doug attended St. Joseph Grade School and then graduated from Reitz High School. Stanley loved the outdoors and spent many hours in childhood escapades with his brothers and friends in the neighborhood. He enjoyed working on engines and was mostly a self-taught mechanic. A childhood friend remembers a time when, as a young boy, he took a lawn mowing engine apart because it wasn't quite working right. "I thought we were in big trouble because he had all the engine parts spread out in the garage and I didn't think he would get it back together, but he did and the lawn mower worked better than ever!"

Stanley's love of tinkering extended to working on cars as well. It was a love he shared especially with his younger brother, Doug. Through the years they worked on many different cars, each of which they proudly displayed to family and friends. In 1981 Stanley got married to his wife Judy (Martin). They enjoyed 42 years of life together. Throughout his life,

Stanley worked as a laborer and was a member of Laborer's Local #561. Stan cherished his family and time spent with them. He never missed a family gathering and always remembered the birthdays of his siblings. He enjoyed hunting, watching NASCAR and most sports on television, spending time on the Evansville riverfront, working on and fixing things and helping others. Stan, like his mother, was an avid St. Louis Cardinals baseball fan and was named after the great, Stan "The Man" Musial.

In his later years, after the death of his father, Elmer, Stanley especially enjoyed his gatherings with his mom for lunch and for going shopping together. At the time, Stanley was dealing with his own health issues and Charlotte was slow getting around because of her age. In a scene filled with exquisite love, you would find them scuffling along behind a grocery cart on their various shopping excursions.

We give thanks for the gift Stanley was to Judy and to his family. And we give thanks for the gift he was to his nieces and nephews and his many friends. May God grant him eternal rest.

REMEMBERING

Willie Nieten

June 9, 1927—January 2, 2023

William "Willie" Nieten was born June 9, 1927 in Evansville to William and Mary Catherine (Molinet) Nieten. He was the youngest of six children. His brothers, Sylvester and Walter and his sisters Florence, Agnes and Elizabeth were there to welcome him.

DEATH OF A PATIENT

This poor, frail cadaver
still wanting to breathe
has a tenacious soul
reluctant to leave.
Her thin veil of life
she can barely cling.

Is there no way
to comfort

this poor dying thing?
She needs human touch,
a kiss, a person to say
You will be missed
dear one,

when you go away.

I will hold her hand
and stroke her hair
and just be with her
as I say a prayer.

This may be comforting.

I hope it might be.

I'll give her
what I would
want for me.

I will whisper to her
of a hereafter,
a heaven above

A place of contentment
and a God of pure love

Mary Mayer

The family grew up near St. Anthony Parish where Willie attended grade school. Later he graduated from Central High School. Like many of his contemporaries, Willie was drafted into the army in 1945 and served as part of the peace keeping force in Japan.

After his service, Willie married the love and light of his life, Joyce Leonard on June 24, 1950 and enjoyed wedded bliss for over 54 years until she preceded him in death in December 2004. Willie began working at the United States Post Office where he would work for the next 32 years. After that he worked for 11 years at the Evansville Regional Airport.

Willie and Joyce would welcome two children into their lives: Joe and Barb. They lived on Oakley Street close to where they had both grown up. That was their home until Barb and her husband Cyril Gertiesen, fixed up an apartment where they lived on St. Joseph Road. This apartment was the place where Cyril grew up and was part of the old dance hall. Barb and Cyril continued to take them to St. Anthony for Mass. Willie was a devout Catholic and a lifetime member of St. Anthony Catholic Church. He was dedicated to his daily worship which was a scheduled part of his day. Willie was known for reverence and connection to God, and his kindness and soft-spoken way. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, uncle, companion and cheerful friend to many.

Willie was very athletic in his early years and won the City Washer Tournament. He participated in countless horseshoe tournaments and pitched on several winning fast pitch softball teams, including the US Army Team while stationed in Japan. He had an infinite knowledge of all sports. He was an avid and devoted New York Yankees fan and along with his wife traveled to many Yankees games and visited several Major League ballparks. Later in life, he added the Tampa Rays to his favorite teams and enjoyed going to their games during his annual visits to Tampa.

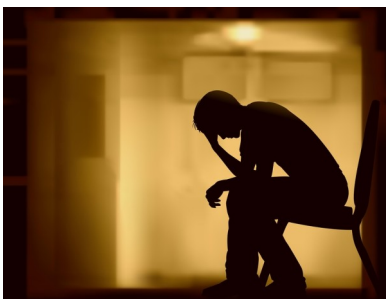
He was a former member of Germania Maennechor and the Owls, a lifetime member of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees, the Evansville Athletic Club, the Fraternal Order of the Eagles #427 and the VFW Post 1114. Willie was deeply honored to be a member of the April 2016 Honor Flight of Southern Indiana.

In the last years of Willie's life, he dealt with the death of his wife, Joyce in 2004. When his daughter Barb died last summer, it seemed to take a big toll on him. With the help of his son Joe and his son-in-law Cyril he was able to stay in his apartment. But his health continued to deteriorate and for the last weeks of his life, Willie lived at Bethel Manor where he died this past January 2, 2023.

We give thanks for Willie's life and his kind and gentle presence. We pray that he may now know the fullness of God's peace in heaven.

(Continued from page 1)

HERE I AM LORD, I WILL GO.....I THINK (cont)
see clearly the vocational significance of your life. And then as you begin to define that vocational significance it suddenly dawns upon you that you have been sent down a blind alley. Would you go anyway? Or would you say to yourself, "I got my signals mixed?" What would you do?



It's like the parent who wants desperately to share their wisdom with their children and they don't seem to be interested in it. Worse yet, they may even

go in the opposite direction. And then we begin to wonder just why it was that our heart was so willing to say "yes." to being a parent. And then, the next time we hear the words "whom shall I send?," we're not so excited about saying "Here I am Lord, send me."

At these times, we might begin to identify with the prophet Jeremiah. God called him despite the fact that Jeremiah protested: "I don't think this is a good thing." But God said, "Trust me, you'll be fine." So Jeremiah does and preaches God's word to the people. And they turn their backs on him and want nothing to do with him. You can hear the words rolling around in Jeremiah's head. "I knew I shouldn't have said yes. I knew this wasn't going to work." And he complains to God: "you duped me and I let myself be duped."

Well, who hasn't been in this spot? Who hasn't wanted to just throw in the towel? Every one of us needs to be stretched to live at our best, awakened out of dull moral habits, shaken out of petty and trivial busy-work. But, oh my, this process can be quite a different journey than the one we thought we signed up for.



Presbyterian author and theologian Eugene Peterson reflects upon God's challenging questions to the prophet Jeremiah at this pivotal point in his ministry. *There is a memorable passage concerning Jeremiah's life when, worn down by the opposition and absorbed in self-pity, he was about to capitulate to ... a premature death. He was ready to abandon his unique calling in God and settle for being a Jerusalem statistic. At that critical moment he heard the reprimand: "If you have raced with men on foot, and they have wearied you, how will you compete with horses? And if in a safe land you fall down, how will you do in the jungle of the Jordan?"* (Jeremiah 12:5)

Peterson imagines the conversation between God and prophet. *Life is difficult, Jeremiah. Are you going to quit at the first wave of opposition? Are you going to live cautiously or courageously? I called you to live at your best, to pursue righteousness, to sustain a drive toward excellence. It is easier, I know, to be neurotic. It is easier to be parasitic. It is easier to relax in the embracing arms of The Average. Easier, but not better. Easier, but not more significant. Easier, but not more fulfilling. I called you to a life of purpose far beyond what you think yourself capable of living and promised you adequate strength to fulfill your destiny. Now at the first sign of difficulty you are ready to quit. If you are fatigued by this run-of-the-mill crowd of apathetic mediocrities, what will you do when the real race starts, the race with the swift and determined horses of excellence? What is it you really want, Jeremiah, do you want to shuffle along with this crowd, or run with the horses?*

It is unlikely, I think, that Jeremiah was spontaneous or quick in his reply to God's question. The ecstatic ideals for a new life had been splattered with the world's cynicism. The euphoric impetus of youthful enthusiasm no longer carried him. He weighed the options. He counted the cost. He tossed and turned in hesitation. The response when it came was not verbal but biographical. His life became his answer, "I'll run with the horses."

Now "running with the horses," (another way of saying or

(Continued on page 12)

MID YEAR FINANCIAL REPORT July 1, 2022--December 31, 2022

With the end of December, we have reached the half way point of our fiscal year. In our effort to help us own the financial responsibility for providing the money needed to do 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. Our income from Sunday collections and Grade School tuition is also running behind 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 year to date parish income is slightly higher than our budgeted projections.



With regard to our expenses, you can see that our actual expenses are more than we had budgeted for this period. Many of you have experienced price increases for food, utilities and the like because of inflation. We are likewise experiencing those same price increases. 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 \$125,297.00 toward our goal of \$125,270.00. It's always good when we meet our parish CPC goal. Most of these pledges have already been paid in full. Because of your love for our parish we feel confident that you will do all you can to fulfill your CPC pledges in the months ahead.

In the course of any year there are always a number of normal maintenance issues that need to be taken care of: things like lights that need to be replaced, toilets that need to be fixed and HVAC systems that need new motors, belts and filters. This year we also had to replace one of the boilers in our school. Most of our school is heated and cooled by individual forced air systems in each classroom. But we still use

INCOME	Current YTD	YTD Budget	Total Budget
Sunday Collections and Grade School Tuition	\$475,156.16	\$512,000.00	\$1,024,000.00
Other Ordinary Income	\$30,820.97	\$6,950.00	\$63,200.00
Summer Social Income	\$115,469.45	\$60,684.00	\$60,684.00
Religious Education Income	\$1,172.00	\$1,000.00	\$2,000.00
School Income (Pre-School, Supplies, Non -Parish Tuition, Tuition Vouchers, Grants, Fees, etc.)	\$451,272.43	\$354,100.00	\$604,440.00
TOTAL ORDINARY INCOME	\$1,073,891.01	\$934,734.00	\$1,754,324.00
EXPENSES	Current YTD	YTD Budget	Total Budget
Parish Staff Salaries and Benefits	\$105,768.48	\$109,050.00	\$218,100.00
Parish Office & Related Expenses	\$7,975.74	\$12,800.00	\$34,500.00
Church and Worship	\$3,396.74	\$5,000.00	\$10,000.00
Parish Buildings/Ground Maintenance	\$22,153.33	\$22,925.00	\$45,850.00
Summer Social Expenses	\$31,063.06	\$31,191.00	\$31,191.00
Parish Assessment For Mater Dei High School	\$47,998.50	\$49,000.00	\$98,000.00
School Expenses	\$707,157.79	\$640,400.00	\$1,246,075.00
Religious Education Expenses	\$24,795.00	\$34,690.00	\$67,840.00
TOTAL ORDINARY EXPENSES	\$950,307.69	\$905,056.00	\$1,751,556.00

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

ST. JOE PTO *Back to the* **COMING ON SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11**

80's Party

FRIED CHICKEN DINNER.....RAFFLE.....DANCE.....HALF POT
BEST DRESSED CONTEST.....DESSERT RAFFLE.....THEME BASKETS

Contact the school office (812-963-3335)
 or the parish office (812-963-3273 for tickets and or more information

2022 FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

By this time you should have received your contribution statements for 2022. 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 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.

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*

THANK YOU FROM THE CHILDREN OF HAITI

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 \$8,000 for the children of Haiti. That's enough money to feed the children for about one hundred days. What a blessing! Haiti.



THANKS....to the members of the St. Anne Altar Society 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 bring some comfort and joy to people.

Theresa Arvin Community Service Director



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.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS THIS MONTH AID FOR THE CHURCH IN EASTERN EUROPE



ASH WEDNESDAY

Since 1991, the collection has provided more than \$75 million to Catholics in post-communist Russia and Central and Eastern Europe, including communities in Ukraine. These funds have supported more than 3,500 church projects in many Eastern Europe Countries. Visit their website: [https://www.usccb.org/committees/church-](https://www.usccb.org/committees/church-central-eastern-europe)

[central-eastern-europe](https://www.usccb.org/committees/church-central-eastern-europe)

SUPPORTING BLACK AND NATIVE AMERICAN PARISHES IN NEED

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 25-26

The Black and Indian Mission Collection exists to help local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States spread the Good News of Jesus Christ and respond to real and pressing needs on the ground. This collection is held annual on the First Sunday of Lent. For more information visit their website: www.blackandindianmission.org



**BLOOD DRIVE
SUNDAY FEB. 12
8 -- NOON
IN THE GYM**

**RUMMAGE
SALE
JUNE 9-10**

It's time to start planning for our rummage sale. Last year, our first post covid pandemic rummage was our most successful ever. Now it's time to plan for this year's rummage sale.

The dates for the rummage sale are June 9 and 10. 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!

LITURGICAL MINISTERS February 25, 2023 -- MARCH 19, 2023

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	LECTOR
Saturday February 25, 2023 5 PM	Donald Werner Lee Askins	Toni Askins
Sunday February 26, 2023 8 AM	Brian & Ann Craney	Josh Baehl
Sunday February 26, 2023 10:30 AM	Rachel Schnaus Becky Doshier	Shane Wessel
Saturday, March 4, 2023 5 pm	Bob & Mary K Fehrenbacher	Mike Reffett
Sunday March 5, 2023 8 AM	Dave & Betty Fehrenbacher	Tom Blythe
Sunday March 5, 2023 10:30 AM	Diane Bassemier Darlene Appler	Jane Scheller
Saturday March 11, 2023	Eric & Karen McDonald	Sis Jarboe
Sunday March 12, 2023 8 AM	Rodney Baehl Chick Duncan	Tom Folz
Sunday March 12, 2023 10:30 AM	Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor	Mandy Elpers
Saturday March 18, 2023 5 PM	Donna Niemeier Diane Woods	Toni Askins
Sunday March 19, 2023 8 AM	Marcia Frey Dolores Folz	Donna Blankenberger
Sunday March 19, 2023 10:30 AM	Al Debes Steve jung	Jane Scheller

FEBRUARY 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<p><i>Be it known to all who enter our school that</i> <i>Christ</i> <i>is the reason for this school.</i> <i>He is the unseen but every present teacher in its classes.</i> <i>He is the model of its faculty and the inspiration of its students</i></p>			1 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Bible Study 6:30 pm That Man Is You 7:30 pm	2 NO MASS COME AND SEE NIGHT AT ST. JOE SCHOOL 5-7 PM	3 8:15 am Mass School Children and Prayer Partners	4 Confessions 4-4:40 pm Food Pantry and Haiti Collection 5 pm Mass
5 8 & 10:30 Mass Coffee & Donuts 9:00 am Family Religion Class & RCIA 9 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection Haiti Collection Confirmation Practice 11:30	6 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass	7 7:30 am Mass West Side Nut Club Dinner 6 pm	8 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Bible Study 6:30 pm That Man Is You 7:30 pm	9 NO MASS Altar Society Meeting 6:30 pm	10 7:30 am Mass	11 Confessions 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection PTO BACK TO THE 80's DINNER DANCE & AUCTION
12 8 & 10:30 Mass Coffee & Donuts 9:00 am Family Religion Class & RCIA 9 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 BLOOD DRIVE 8 AM — NOON 	13 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Knights of St. John Mtg 7 pm	14 7:30 am Mass 	15 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Bible Study 6:30 pm That Man Is You 7:30 pm	16 NO MASS  FRIDAY MARCH 3 & 15 SERVING -7 PM CARRYOUT ONLY	17 NO MASS NO SCHOOL	18 Altar Society Making Kuchens 7 am Confessions 4-4:40 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection Middle School Ice Skating Party 4-6
19 8 & 10:30 Mass Family Religion Class & RCIA 9 am Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection	20 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration NO SCHOOL 6:30 PM Mass Men's Club Meeting 7 pm	21 7:30 am Mass	22 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:30 am Mass with distribution of Ashes 11 am & 7 pm Service with Distribution of Ashes	23 NO MASS 6 pm Haiti Ministry Meeting 	24 NO MASS	25 Confessions 4-4:30 pm 5 pm Mass Food Pantry Collection
26 8 & 10:30 Masses Family Religion Class 9 am RCIA 9 am Food Pantry Collection	27 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 PM Mass	28 7:30 am Mass	1 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12 Noon Bible Study 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross 6:30 pm That Man Is You 7:30 pm	2 NO MASS 6 pm Haiti Ministry Meeting	3 NO MASS FISH FRY 5-7 PM CARRYOUT ONLY 	5 Confessions 4-4:30 pm 5 pm Mass Haiti & Food Pantry Collection 

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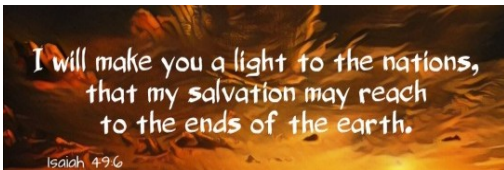
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Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff
E-mail jreckelhoff#@evdio.org
Coordinator of Religious Education

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 5pm
Sunday 8 and 10:30 am

(Continued from page 7) **HERE I AM LORD, I WILL GO.....I THINK (cont)**
even saying "Here I am Lord, I will go Lord,") is not something magical or even immediate. It's all about the ordinary effort of showing up every day. And our "yes" is often filled with hesitancy and second thoughts. Anne Lamott, in her book *Grace....Eventually*, described it this way: *That's me trying to make any progress at all with family, in work, in relationships, self image—scootch, scootch, stall, catastrophic reversal, bog, bog, scootch. I wish grace and healing were more abracadabra kinds of things. Also that delicate silver bells would ring to announce grace's arrival. But no, its clog and slog and scootch on the floor, in silence, in the dark. I suppose that if you were snatched out of the mess, you'd miss the lessons. The lesson is the slog. I grew up*



thinking the lessons should be more like the von Trapp children, more marionettes, more harmonies. But no, its slog and bog and scootch."

You would think that God would get tired of our mediocre responses and our hesitant "yes." But apparently he is quite comfortable being with us. And not just comfortable, he is willing to trust us with His message of life, even with our sometimes mediocre and tepid responses. "I will make you a light to the nations and my glory shall shine through you." Maybe, at some level, that is why we so identify with the

song "Here I Am Lord." Maybe, at some deep level, our soul knows that we do not need to be perfect or even consistent. We just need to be willing. God uses even the things about us we think our unworthy or broken, or not worth keeping around. God uses it all to bring life. And that's why our soul can sing out "Here I am Lord. I will go Lord. I will hold your people in my heart."

LENT BEGINS ON FEBRUARY 22



Ash Wednesday Feb 22
Mass at 7:30 am
with distribution of Ashes
Penance Service
with distribution of Ashes
11:00 am and 7:00 pm

This year, we will be following a much older Catholic tradition of having ashes sprinkled on our heads.

Each Wednesday during Lent, excluding Ash Wednesday and March 29, 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. On March 29 we will have a communal penance service based upon the stations of the cross.



LENTEN COMMUNAL Penance SERVICE
Wednesday, March 29 at 7 pm
Friday, March 31 at 11 am