

The Carpenter

Celebrating our
183rd Year
1841-2024



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Newsletter of St. Joseph Parish
6202 W. Saint Joseph Road
Evansville, Indiana 47720
March 2024



LETTING OUR LIGHT SHINE

Fr. Gene Schroeder
PASTOR

In 1968, the crew of Apollo 8 made history by becoming the first people to travel to the moon and see that planet up close. But the most amazing picture they took was not of the moon but rather a picture of the earth. They journeyed to the moon and, almost by accident, discovered the earth.

On February 11 we celebrated all that we had done to rebuild our church. There were many things that we eagerly anticipated being completed, but the thing that we didn't anticipate, when we took down all the tress, was how great our church would look sitting tall and strong on the hill. More than one person has said: "Wow, when you drive up to the church it really stands out."

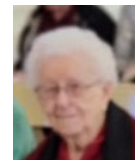
All that made me think of the passage from the Gospel of Matthew. "You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden." I think we can take inspiration from this. From the very beginning I have said that the easiest part was to rebuild the church. Francis of Assisi thought his work would be done when he rebuilt the little chapel called San Damiano. But what God was really asking was to "rebuild" the people so that they could be a light to the world.

As beautiful as our church is, (and it is very beautiful), the greatest gift we can give is not a building, but people who show others how to live with confidence and joy in

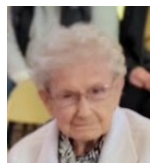
the world. That means recognizing all the pain and suffering that is going on in so many parts of the world and living our lives in such a way that the light of our life is not determined by the darkness around us. That kind of example stands tall and true. It is noticed and gives light to all. And it is the kind of presence that is so needed in our world today. Along the way, maybe some unexpected things will happen to us as well.

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**SOME OF THE MANY
HAPPY FACES AT OUR
SUPER SUNDAY
CELEBRATION
ON FEBRUARY 11**



WALKING IN FAITH WITH OUR SISTERS AND BROTHER

For the past six months seven people have been meeting together preparing for their baptism and reception into the church at Easter. We'd like to tell you a little about them.

Derek Lindauer



When we sat down to talk, Derek was getting ready to travel to Lafayette, Indiana where he and his fellow workers from Superior Ag were going to be special guests at the Purdue Boilermakers basketball game against Michigan. They won the game. "I'm really more of an IU fan but it was really nice that the folks at Superior Ag were treating us." Derek is pretty much a jack-of-all-trades at Superior Ag. "I do whatever they need me to do. I like having a variety of different

things to do rather than doing the same thing all the time."

Derek was born in the St. Wendel area and attended grade school at South Terrace and then graduated from North Posey High School. His years in high school were filled with academics as well as playing football and baseball. As a proud alumnus, he was able to cheer on the football team this year as they made their run to the state football championship game at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis.

After graduating from North Posey, Derek pursued a degree in finance at USI. "I liked math which is probably why I chose a degree in finance, but I'm really a much more "hands-on" kind of guy." That is what brought him to work at Superior Ag. And Derek has always had a love for farming and he has gotten to know a lot of the farmers in the area. One of the farmers he has gotten to know is Chris Wallace. When he is not working at his day job, Derek is helping Chris with his many different projects on his farm.

Derek grew up in a multi religious faith tradition family. His mom grew up in the Christian Church tradition and he remembers going to church each Sunday with her and his sister and going to Sunday School. His dad is a member of St. Wendel Parish. The Lindauer family hails from the small town of St. Henry, near Ferdinand, Indiana. Among his relatives, is a great uncle, Fr. Prosper Lindauer who was a Benedictine monk at St. Meinrad.

So how did he find his way to St. Joe? Actually it all goes back to the St. Wendel Social. "It was a Sunday and my dad and I were helping to park cars at the social. Chris and Jessica Wallace happened to passing by on their way to coming to Mass at St. Joe. They stopped and chatted. For some time I had a sense that there was something missing in my life. I wasn't going to church with my mother, but I didn't really know where to go. Chris said, 'why don't you come and join us at St. Joe.?' Well, that seemed like a good idea so I came with them one Sunday. I liked what I experienced. Jessica told me that if I was interested she would get me in touch with Jessica Reckelhoff to join the group of other folks joining the church. So here I am. I've really enjoyed the faith sharing sessions we have. Sr. Bridget, Jessica and Tom Blythe all bring a different perspective. I really relate to Tom's journey of becoming Catholic since it is a lot like my journey."

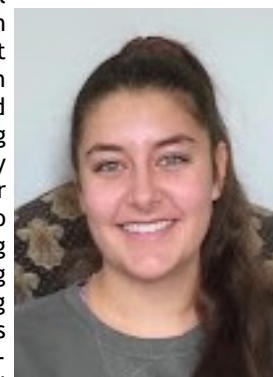
Zoe Gates

Zoe is a woman on a mission. She works as a patient care technician at Deaconess. Her duties include take blood pressure readings and monitoring patient's vital signs. It also includes

helping people get to the bathroom and otherwise making their stay in the hospital as positive as it can be. "Being in the hospital can be such a scary time for people. They are often in such vulnerable situations."

While she is working, Zoe is also pursuing a degree in Nursing at USI. That means taking a lot of challenging courses, especially Biology and Chemistry. Zoe's interest in nursing started when she attended the Medical Professional Academy sponsored by EVSC. That week long experience gave her a chance to shadow different people in the medical field.

Zoe started school at Cynthia Heights and then graduated from Helfrich Park Middle School before graduating from Reitz in 2019. It was there that she met Gabe Jung. "Although we were in the same class, we didn't run around in the same circles. It was during the last week of school that they connected through snap chat. After graduation they got together face to face. And soon, Gabe was sharing his love of hunting with her, taking her out to sit in a deer stand during deer season. Actually Gabe had his eye out for a deer, but Zoe sat comfortably in a chair and read a good book!



Zoe is the daughter of Bobbie and Ashley Gates. Zoe's connections with a church tradition began with her dad, Bobbie Gates, who sang in the choir at Turing Point Methodist Church. You might also recognize him as one of the co-hosts of the Bobby and Libby Morning Show on 105.3. Her mom, Ashley, works at Kid's City Day Care. She has a brother, Oliver, who is going to Reitz.

So how did she end up with our RCIA group? Hanging around Gabe was what introduced her to our parish. They invited her to join them at Mass. That was a bit terrifying for Zoe. "I wasn't sure I would know what to do and I didn't want to feel out of place. But I came with them and found out I





SOURCE + SUMMIT

YOUTH RETREAT

MARCH 8, 9, 10, 2024

MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL

***"Blessed Are Those Called to
The Supper of the Lamb."***

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really liked it.” Getting to know Gabe’s family also introduced her to the Will family and that included Gabe’s grandmother, Betty. “She was very nice and welcoming. I never had a really close family connection to church growing up so this was a new experience for me.”

Tom Strupp

Tom Strupp is no stranger to our parish. He’s been part of the parish through his connection with his wife, Delores and his two daughters, Katie and Sarah. “Delores always wanted me to join the church, but somehow I never got around to it.” Tom grew up within eyesight of our parish, on St. Joseph Road. He was a member of Zoar United Church of Christ. He was a full time electrician and then managed to farm full time as well. That makes him pretty well know among the farming community of the area.

Tom’s life took an unexpected turn when Delores was diagnosed with Parkinson’s disease. Tom did his best to care for her, especially using his cooking skills to provide for her meals. Her death last year was a big blow for him. “Delores always wanted me to join the church and I can’t help but think it was her prayers that have led me to this moment.”

Debbie Payne


While all this was happening with Tom, Debbie (Young) Payne was going through her challenges as well. Debbie grew up in Cairo, Illinois before moving to Evansville, where her dad worked in the Post Office. In time, Debra married Mark Payne. Over twenty-five years ago, Mark and Debbiera became friends with Tom and Delores. They bonded especially through their work as band parents at Reitz. Debbie’s life also took an unexpected turn when her husband, Mark, was diagnosed with leukemia. His death left her a big hole in her life.

Now, as it happened, Tom and his daughters were going to Kohl’s department store to make use of some of the gift cards he had received. And who was there to greet him? None other than Debra who, as it happened, as been working at Kohl’s for many years. Having heard about Debra’s



COLLEGE STUDENT
CARE-PACKAGES

WORKED HARD ALL
SEMESTER



TIME TO ACE THE
EXAM

Join us as we support our college students by preparing a care package for them as they prepare for semester exams. College Care Packages will be available in church Saturday/Sunday, March 16-17 for pick up. Please return the care packages no later that Sunday, April 14. Thank you for your continued support of this project. Let’s keep all of our college youth in prayer through their final exams.

journey of dealing with Mark’s death, something inside Tom pushed him to give her as call. Would she just like to get together and talk? They did and they found they had much in common. He even prepared a special dinner for her, grilled pork chops, one of his “go to” meals chops. Ever the romantic, the meal came with flowers and candles all set up in his farm shed! And, most importantly, it got a “thumbs up” from Debbie.

Shortly after Delores’s death in February of 2024, Tom made a commitment to start coming to Mass each week. The fact that he knew a lot of folks in the parish already made this step easy. When the church roof was torn off last March, Tom was one of the go-to guys who rounded up some generators to use to help fry the fish for the fish fry that happened the same day. He joined the group that helped to set up the gym for Mass each weekend and Debra came along to help as well. Tom knew that he wanted to be part of the RCIA group that began in September. The classes intrigued Debra as well and soon she came to join him as well.

Michael Wiley

So how did Michael end up with our RCIA group? Well that would certainly involve his “mentor” and wife, Sarah. And it would involve his best friend Shane, maybe a little help from the prayers of Sarah’s mom and maybe too just being around guys from the Men’s Club.



The biggest influence for Michael is his wife Sarah. Michael grew up in Evansville, went to school here and is now working as an electrician. All good. But what was missing from Michael’s life was a sense of family. “my mom and dad got divorced when I was just a young boy, so I didn’t have a the ideal sort of family life people think of. For a long time, I wondered whether I would do well getting married or trying to create a family. I got pretty comfortable just living by myself. And then along comes Sarah. Her family background is so different from mine, but I think it struck a deep longing in me.”

Another pivotal moment for Michael was when his best friend Shane and his wife Whitney, asked him to be a godfather for their recently adopted son, Anthony. “They had been fostering him for long time and wanted to adopt him but there were lots of hurdles to overcome. But then, the adoption papers came through. When they asked me to be a godfather, I began to think about what kind of person I really wanted to be.”

Sarah is convinced that her recently deceased other, had something to do with it as well. “She would have wanted Michael to become Catholic and I know she was praying especially

**Back by popular
demand....**

**Learn the Fox Trot and Jitterbug
Great Exercise
Meet new friends**

Classes designed for beginners.

March 4, 11 & 18 6:30 – 8 pm in the gym

Cost: \$30 donation with proceeds going to St. Joe Church Ministries. Register and pay the first night of class in person, or register at <https://forms.gle/eED3nexTRs3KwQ1V9>. You may send your check to St. Joe (please mark Dance Class) or pay the first night.)

Questions? Call Kathy Weber (812-449-0745)

DANCE
Classes



DIOCESAN POLICY: REPORT AND INFORM: The Diocese of Evansville has in place a policy that requires that any allegation of child abuse must be reported to Child Protection Services, an agency of Indiana state government. CPS Toll-free: (800) 800-5556 Local law enforcement: 9-1-1. In the event of an allegation of sexual abuse of a minor (a person under 18) by diocesan personnel, report the allegation to authorities, and inform the Victims Assistance Coordinator for the diocese: Toll-free: (866) 200-3004 Local: (812) 490-9565.

(Continued from page 3)
for him.”

Michael is no stranger to St. Joe. Several years ago, when we installed a new ceiling in our cafeteria and installed new led lights throughout our school, Michael was part of the crew that did this work. And, being the small community that St. Joe is, word got around that there was another electrician that could be called upon to help. And, in the process, Michael got invited to join the men’s club in our parish. Being around this group and joining in their good natured ribbing of one another has given Michael another sense of what it means to be part of a community.



Madeline Williams

Madeline grew up in the small community of Otwell, Indiana in Pike County. Her great grandfather was a minister in the Methodist tradition. While she went to church with her mom as a young child, being part of a faith community was not a regular part of their lives.

Saluting our Young Parishioners

- Congratulations to our young parishioners who earned Academic All City Honors: Girls Cross Country: **Lillian Traylor** (also named Academic All State), **Addy Wilkinson**; Girls Soccer: **Katelyn Bishop** (also Honorable Mention Academic All State) **Lexa Meredith Harper Atherton**, **Riley Waninger**; Volleyball: **Brooklyn Kinnamon**, Girls Golf: **Hannah Kares**, Boys Soccer **Brady Kassenbrock** **Louis Meredith**, Football: **Caden Thacker**, Boys Tennis: **Conner Frey**
- Congratulations to **Ben Gries** who was recognized as Youth of the Day by the Optimist Club of Evansville



- Congratulations to **Kylie Frey** who was chosen as the Basketball Homecoming Queen at Mater Dei. **Maggie Back**, **Macy Adler** and **Brooklyn Kinnamon** were also selected as part of the King and Queen Court.
- On February 15, our school principal, **Kelsey Meier**, represented St. Joseph School at a reception in Indianapolis hosted by Dr. **Katie Jenner** which highlighted schools that achieved a 95% or higher pass rate on the IREAD-3 assessment. The pass rate for our **St. Joe students** was 100%.

iRead™

Teens Encounter Christ

20⁺24

Feb 17-19 * July 20-22 * Nov 9-11

FOR AGES 17 (OR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR) TO ADULT



TEC is a 3-day retreat based on the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. Participants have an opportunity to meet youth and young adults from all over the diocese as they encounter Christ through a wide variety of activities with a marvelous blend of social and spiritual interactions.

Led primarily by fellow youth and young adults, TEC offers participants an experience that is both relevant and engaging. For an inspiring opportunity to grow in your relationship with Christ and build lasting Christian friendships, register today at 222.switec.org or call/text **Jessica Reckelhoff** (812-98-1151).



Madeline graduated from Otwell Elementary and the Pike Central High School. She now attends USI where she is pursuing a degree in nursing. She is also working at Tri State Orthopedics.

Madeline was introduced to Zach Schneider through some of her friends in nursing school that knew Zach in high school. Hanging around Zach and his family no doubt touched on the desire she felt for something more in her life. “I just felt like something was missing in my life. Coming to the classes has been really good. I’ve learned so much from Sr. Bridget and Tom and Jessica.”

Zach has been a big influence too. But it is the quiet kind of influence. “I want to support her in doing what she thinks in best for her.” Probably another person who is doing a lot of pairing for Madeline is Zach’s dad Jeff. Although Madeline never met him, she says she almost feels like she knows him from all the stories she has heard about him.

Zach Turi

Zach grew up in Evansville, attending Scott Elementary, Oak Hill Middle School and then graduating from North High School. It was in his eighth grade year that he started playing golf which has become a real passion for him. He was good enough to get the chance to play golf for the Aces at the University of Evansville.

Zach works as a medical device salesman



for KLS Martin Group. He had previously worked with orthopedic doctors but now he is working more with surgical devices.

Zach's journey to being part of our RCIA goes directly through Mariah Schneider. They met at Hornville Tavern when Zach's friend was playing at a concert there. Meeting at Hornville Tavern actually has a long history in St. Joseph Parish. Ask many of our older couples how they met and they will tell you that it was at a dance at Hornville Tavern.

Since meeting Mariah he started coming to church with her. That got him to asking lots of questions and the more questions he asked the more comfortable he began to feel. Mariah's mother, Judith, has made a big impression of Zach. "She is such a kind person and so generous with others. How could you not like her?" Although Zach and Mariah did not start dating until after Jeff Schneider had died, it is interesting that Zach had some connections with Jeff which he was not aware of. It turns out that his aunt used to do some of the advertising work for Jeff and his grandpa knew Jeff well through all his DIY projects. One thing is for sure, Jeff loved his kids and was always going to be pretty particular when it came to the guys his daughters were dating. No doubt he is praying for Mariah and Zach and their future together.

Zach has really enjoyed getting together with the other people in the RCIA group. "Tom, Sr. Bridget and Jessica all do a great job, but what is really good is the discussions that happen with all of us."

Let us continue to pray for Derek, Debbie, Tom, Michael, Zoe, Madeline and Zach as they prepare to be baptized and received into the church this coming Easter.

ICE CREAM FOR THE SOUL

Last week I took my children to a restaurant. My six-year-old son asked if he could say grace. As we bowed our heads he said, "God is good, God is great, thank you for the food, and I would even thank you more if Mom gets us ice cream for dessert, and liberty and justice for all! Amen!"

Along with the laughter from the other customers nearby, I heard a woman remark, "That's what's wrong with this country. Kids today don't even know how to pray, asking God for ice cream! Why, I never!"

As I held him and assured him that he had done a terrific job and God was certainly not mad at him, an elderly gentleman approached the table.

He winked at my son and said, "I happen to know that God thought that was a great prayer. 'Really?' my son asked, 'Cross my heart,' the man replied."

Then in a theatrical whisper he added (indicating the woman whose remark had started this whole thing), "Too bad she never asks God for ice cream, A little ice cream is good for the soul sometimes."

Naturally, I bought my kids ice cream at the end of the meal. My son stared at his for a moment and then did something I will remember for the rest of my life.

He picked up his sundae and without a word, walked over and placed it in front of the woman. With a big smile he told her, "Here, this is for you. Ice cream is good for the soul sometimes; and my soul is good already."



IT'S FISH FRY TIME

FRIDAY MARCH 8 5-7 PM
CARRYOUT ONLY



Price is the same as last year—\$14/dinner. Join us on **Wednesday, March 6** to prepare all the ingredients for the potato salad and slaw, **THURSDAY, MARCH 7** to make the potato salad and prepare and package our famous sweet/sour slaw, and **FRIDAY, MARCH 8** to fry the fish, put the carryout meals together and help clean up after all the meals have been served. Check the emails for updates. You can also volunteer by calling Elisha Dewig (812-798-7098) or the parish office (812-963-3273).

WE NEED YOUR HELP

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS
TO JOIN US FOR A GREAT DINNER

COME SEE WHAT ST. JOE SCHOOL HAS TO OFFER TO YOUR CHILD



WE ARE ACCEPTING
APPLICATIONS FOR
PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-K
and GRADES K-12

A- RATED



For information
contact our Principal
Mrs. Kelsey Meier
812-963-3335
www.stjoeco.org/school



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St. Joseph School
Vanderburgh County



RUMMAGE SALE

....is on for June 7-8. 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. More information to be coming in the weeks ahead. Got any suggestions or questions? Contact Imogene (812) 963-5221. Thanks for your continued support!

COMING FRIDAY JUNE 7--SATURDAY JUNE 8

MARCH 19 FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH

(INSCRIBED ON THE CORNERSTONE ABOVE THE FRONT DOOR OF OUR CHURCH)

DEO OPTIMO MAXIMO SUB INVOCATIONE SANCTI JOSEPHI A.D 1888
TO THE HONOR AND GLORY OF GOD UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF SAINT JOSEPH IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 1888



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



Zoe Chandler

School work, marching band, color guard and archery are the big things that are happening in the life of Zoe Chandler. She is the daughter of Tennille and Ron Schell and the young sister of Chandler Schell. She is a senior at Mater Dei High School.

"High School has been good but I am ready to move on. It's a hundred days till the end of

school, but hey, whose counting!"

When Zoe is not busy with all her academic classes, you'll find her working with the marching band. She's been in the band since 5th grade and has been a part of the marching band at Mater Dei since her freshman year. "Things were a bit different during freshman year because of the covid pandemic, so we didn't really have much of a marching band season. For the other three years she has helped lead the band to appearances at the state finals at Lucas Oil Stadium in Indianapolis. During her junior year, they won the state championship for their class. "I think that performance was about as perfect a performance as we could do. It was really something to be part of.

Being part of the band takes a lot of work. "We spend a lot of time practicing in the summer getting ready for band season. Band camp is usually in July so you can count it being pretty hot and humid. It's great being with the whole band and developing friendships with other band members. The chance to do something together and see great results from that is a pretty neat thing as well.

When the band finishes with the marching season, Zoe plays flute as part of the concert band. And then, during the winter months she has participated in winter guard. She has been doing that since her eighth grade year. "It's kind of like marching band, except it just involves the color guard. We put together a show and then perform it at a number of competitions in the winter months. Most of these competitions are held in the Indianapolis area because they are the schools that have the facilities needed to host these events."

Zoe has also been part of the archery team. This year will be her eleventh year being part of the team. Archery has taught her a lot about how to focus in life and not let your anxieties get in the way. "If you want to do well in archery, you have to learn how to get in the right zone, put other things out of your mind and learn how to control your breathing. I find it to be a great stress reducer, because it forces you to put everything else aside and focus just on the shot you are taking." So how good has she gotten over the years? Well, for the competition you shoot three rounds at ten meters and three rounds at fifteen meters. A perfect score is 300 and Zoe's high score has been 285. Pretty good shooting!

When Zoe is not busy with all these things, she has found time to do some babysitting. And you might find her trying her hand at cooking. One of her favorite things to cook is fettuccine alfredo.

Zoe began her school years by attending St. Theresa School. "I was the only girl in my class." She came to St. Joe starting in 4th grade. "I liked St. Joe. We had a great class and I always felt like the teachers really cared about us."

What are her plans for next year. "I'm going to be taking a year off from schooling and plan to get into the Army National



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**
JUNE 17-20 8:30 - 11:30 AM

Guard." She has already signed up and was sworn in several weeks ago. In September she will be report for basic training at Ft. Jackson in South Carolina. When she completes this, she will be going to AIT training. She will be trained as an aircraft power train technician, working on helicopter engines. When she finishes that she will be in the local Army National Guard, with weekend training and summer deployments. Her goal is to become a helicopter pilot. "You have to be an officer to be a pilot, so I am hoping to work my way up to that through the guard. Next year I want to go to college for flight training either at Indiana State or Purdue." She wants to get involved in the ROTC program wherever she goes to college. Being in the guard has the added benefit of getting money to go to school, so that is all part of the plan as well." Her ultimate dream is to be able to fly a Blackhawk helicopter.

WORDS OF WISDOM: "I think the biggest thing I have learned is to not let other people tell you what you can or can't do. I'm a big admirer of Amelia Earhart because she was a person who didn't let the norms of the day determine what she was going to do. One of the quotes I like best from her is 'never interrupt a person doing something that someone said they couldn't do.' I think it is important to focus on the things you want to do and then believe in yourself enough to go out and do them."

Who knows? Perhaps we will find Zoe attending Purdue on a couple of years, living in Earhart Hall (named after Amelia Earhart) and soaking up some of her courage and energy as she pursues a career in aviation!

CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK WITH CHILDREN

Each year we have special Holy Week liturgies geared to children. Because Spring Break is the last week of March and our children will not be in school that week, we are having the different Children's Holy Week Celebrations at these times:

Friday, March 8th 7:30 am
Children's Palm Sunday Mass

Thursday, March 15th 7:30 am
Holy Thursday Service with Children

Wednesday, March 20th
Good Friday Prayer Service with Children
Repeated at 8, 9, & 10 am

Friday, April 5th 7:30 am
Children's Celebration of Easter

You are invited to join in any of these services with your children.



ST. JOSEPH PARISH CEMETERY NEWS

HELP US GET THE CEMETERY READY FOR THE LAWN MOWING SEASON

For the common good, the cemetery board has established guidelines for cemetery decorations. The basic rule our cemetery board is trying to follow is this: any decorations or flowers need to be attached to the grave monument itself or placed



securely in flower containers that are a part of the grave monument. Anything else placed around the grave monument creates a hazard for our lawn mowing crews.

To help us get ready for our lawn mowing season, we ask that you remove any decorations around your cemetery tombstones that might get in the way of our lawn mowing crews. Remember that flowers and plaques must be attached securely to the tombstone or flower vases. Shepherd's crooks, statues, balloons, and the like are not permitted as they are a hazard to our mowing crews.

We believe it is important for all those who are placing flowers on the graves of their loved ones to periodically check them. We have found that some people will place artificial flowers on the grave and then never come and check on them. In the meantime, the flowers get faded and shredded and begin to disintegrate thus causing bits of flowers to be scattered all over the cemetery. We think this is not in keeping with the image of the cemetery that people in the parish would like to see.

Thanks for your help in keeping our cemetery a place of honor and respect as well as a safe place for our lawn mowing crews.



IT'S LAWN MOWING TIME. COME JOIN THE CROWD THAT IS A "CUT ABOVE."

It's time to start planning for the lawn mowing season in our parish. We're looking to add some people who can help mow the large areas of our campus with our riding mowers. And we are looking for folks who can join some of our existing lawn mowing crews. These crews mow the lawn around the rectory, church, school and convent and the cemetery. We provide all the equipment (self-propelled lawn mowers, riding lawn mower, weed eaters, and refreshments for the workers!).

Maybe you could be one of these people. Call the parish office (812-963-3273) or Randy Tenbarger (812-205-5139) to offer your help or for more information. Not only can you help the parish save money, but you can also help in keeping our grounds looking nice, and it's great exercise!

CEMETERY BOARD ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Cemetery Board was held on January 30, 2024. Cemetery Income from the sale of graves and other memorial gifts was \$14,450,405.00. Expenses for the maintenance of our lawn mowing equipment and care for the parish grounds was \$ 6,489.66. The cemetery reserve fund at the end of December, 2023 stood at \$40,044.91.

Our policy has been to tie the cost of our cemetery plots with the cost of cemetery plots at St. Joseph Cemetery in the

city of Evansville. Costs for non parishioners are the same as a similar plot at St. Joseph City Cemetery. Accordingly, the cost for a double plot for parishioners \$1,450.00, single grave \$725.00 For non parishioners a double grave is \$2,900 and a single grave is \$1450.00

This past year we transitioned into new leadership taking on the task of lawn mower maintenance and worker scheduling. Jerry Happe did a great job of overseeing all the maintenance of equipment. Randy Tenbarger handled the scheduling. Together they made the transition very smooth.

Two special projects were undertaken, in conjunction with our "Rebuilding our Church Campaign." The first of these was to install a culvert and fill in the ditch along St. Joseph Road west of our current cemetery. That work has been completed at a total cost of \$18,909.36 (\$5,924.36 for the drainage pipe and \$12,985 for the dirt work and concrete drainage platform).

The second project was to build a cremation columbarium for the cemetery. Originally our thinking was that this columbarium would be built along the east end of the current cemetery next to the church parking lot. After examining this closer we determined that this area did not provide sufficient space for a columbarium. We are now looking at repurposing the gazebo located in the middle of the cemetery and use it as the place for our cremation columbarium.

Two trees on the south east corner of the cemetery and one large pine tree located in the southeast quadrant of the cemetery were removed. The shrubs and landscape rock on the far east end of the cemetery was also removed. Much of this landscape area was torn up with all the construction material and equipment being used to fix up the church. Our plan is to plant grass in this area. In addition we want to expand the parking lot on the west side of the church. That work will be undertaken this coming summer.



There are now four specific endowments providing for the ongoing maintenance of our cemetery: St Joseph Cemetery Endowment, Clarence and Catherine Miller Cemetery Endowment, Leroy and Rose Weiss Cemetery Endowment and Wilbur and Marian Fehrenbacher Cemetery Endowment. As of the end of 2022, there was \$39,256.87 available for use from the proceeds of these endowments. We have not yet received the report for the year ending 12-2023.

INTERESTED IN FINDING THE NAMES OF PEOPLE BURIED IN OUR CEMETERY?

If you are interested in finding out who is buried in our cemetery and where their grave is, you can find this information on our parish website www.stjoeco.org. Click on "Church Information" and then click on "cemetery." There you will find an alphabetical listing of all the people buried in our cemetery and the section and row in the cemetery where they are buried. You can click on the "map of the cemetery" which will show you where they are buried. If you walk through our cemetery you will notice that each row of the cemetery is marked by the section of the cemetery (A,B, C or D) and the row it is. This will help you locate the person you are searching for.

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

**ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
IN MEMORY OF**

Dave Spaetti

Phil & Becky Doshier
Jon & Bernette Locklar
Bob & Linda Englert
Terry Drone
Donna & Tom Blythe
Patti & Chris Will
Tom & Delores Folz
Alan & Donna Blankenberger
Harry & Donna Lincoln
Dan & Mary Ruth Lasher
John & Diane Bassemier
Alan & Joan Inkenbrandt
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Greg & Susie Head

Cathy Crowds
Margaret & Ron Angermeier

**ROSE & LEROY WEISS
CEMETERY ENDOWMENT
IN MEMORY OF**

Dave Spaetti
Rose Weiss

IN MEMORY OF
Cathy Crowds
Rose Weiss

LITURGICAL MINISTERS March 16, 2024--April 7, 2024

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	READERS
Saturday March 16, 2024 5 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Mike Reffett
Sunday March 17, 2024 8 AM	Kylie Frey Stephanie Frey Tom Folz Dolores Folz	Josh Baehl
Sunday March 17, 2024 10:30 AM	Angie Will Jane Scheller Diane Bassemier Danielle Weledge	Shane Wessel
Saturday March 23, 2024 5 PM	Eric and Karen McDonald Butch & Linda Feulner	SPECIAL READERS
Sunday March 24, 2024 8 AM	Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers Rodney & Paula Baehl	SPECIAL READERS
Sunday March 24, 2024 10:30 AM	Paul Hillenbrand Al Debes Jena & Shane Wessel	SPECIAL READERS
Saturday March 30, 2024 7 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Eric and Karen McDonald	Tom Blythe Toni Askins
Sunday March 31, 2024 8 AM	Joan Inkenbrandt Michael Elpers Randy & Kathy Fehrenbacher Darlene Appler Kylie Frey Stephanie Frey	Chick Duncan
Sunday March 31, 2024 10:30 AM	Rachael Schnaus Becky Doshier Steve Jung Amy Cody	Julie Forcum
Saturday April 6, 2024 5:00 PM	Donald & Brandon Werner Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier	Sis Jarboe
Sunday April 7, 2024 8:00 AM	Brian & Ann Craney Chick Duncan Lisa Cook	Dave Schmitt
Sunday April 7, 2024 10:30 AM	Al Debes Amy Cody Doris Taylor Cecelia Koch	Jane Scheller

LENTEN PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

PRAYING THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS.....Each Tuesday during Lent, we will gather for Family Stations of the Cross from 6:00-6:30 at St. Joe Church. Bring the whole family to pray and reflect on Jesus' passion. Contact Jessica (812) 598-1151 for more information.



LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES.....will be held on Wednesday, March 20th at 7 pm and Friday, March 22nd —11:00 am. During these services we will use share a reflection on the Stations of the Cross as our examination of conscience.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is also celebrated each Saturday from 4:00-4:40 pm Also anytime upon request. Call Fr. Gene (812-499-9074) to arrange a time that is convenient

MISSION OUTREACH



Be an island of mercy in
a sea of indifference.

Pope Francis

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

COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

This month we are invited to participate in the special collection for Catholic Relief Services. The Catholic Relief Services is an organization of the Catholic Church in the United States. It funds six Catholic agencies that work to serve our suffering brothers and sisters around the world.

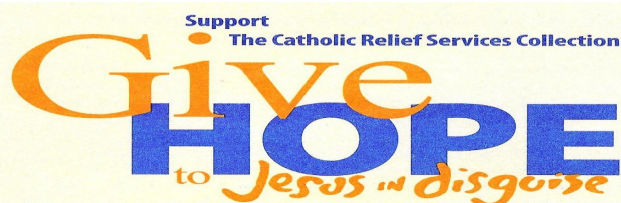
If you find yourself wondering what a person can do in the face of so much suffering in so many parts of the world, supporting this collection is a great way to help.

Catholic Relief Services is an official part of the Catholic Church in the United States. It is the way that the Catholic Church reaches out to those who are suffering in Gaza, Israel, Ukraine, Ethiopia, Sudan, Yemen and so many other places throughout the world where people are suffering.

Through humanitarian aid, resettling displaced individuals and families, and advocating on behalf of victims, the Catholic Relief Services Collection allows us to see every encounter with a suffering person as an opportunity to help Jesus in disguise.

There is an envelope in your monthly packet of envelopes which you can use to make a contribution. Or you may drop your offering in the collection or send it to us in the mail.

To learn more about the work of Catholic Relief Services, visit their website: www.crs.org



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



Just to say
Thank you

THANKS TO ALL THOSE
WHO DONATED BLOOD AT
OUR FEBRUARY BLOOD DRIVE

UPCOMING BLOOD DRIVES
APR. 14th, AUG. 18th, OCT. 27th



If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes
on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep
... you are richer than 75% of this world.

If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and
spare change in a dish someplace ... you are among
the top 8% of the world's wealthy.

If you woke up this morning with more health than
illness ... you are more blessed than the million who
will not survive this week.

If you have never experienced the danger of battle,
the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture,
or the pangs of starvation ... you are ahead of 500
million people in the world.

If you can attend a church meeting without fear of
harassment, arrest, torture or death ... you are
more blessed than three billion people in the world.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND ON GOOD FRIDAY

Pope Francis asks us to support the annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps to preserve the sacred shrines. The ongoing military intervention of Gaza by Israel has made life particularly difficult for the Christian community of Jerusalem which is located in the West Bank. In these times of crisis it is difficult to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land



MARIAN EDUCATION OUTREACH

CELEBRATION NIGHT APRIL 6, 2024

Marian Educational Outreach is excited to host a **Celebration Night** at Easter Seals Crescent Room on April 6th, 2024 for a night of dinner and dance. This year's event will be a true celebration of the organization and will be a spotlight for many students and families who benefit from your generosity. These stories are sure to warm your heart!

You don't want to miss this event! Contact Emily (Tenbarger) Schnapf (812-303-1165) or email eschnapf@evdio.org for tickets and other information

Attire will be business! Don't forget your dancing shoes, too.



MARIAN
EDUCATIONAL
OUTREACH
Belong. Learn. Succeed.



Dear friends,





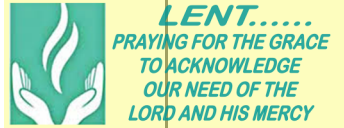
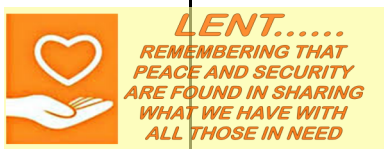






Thanks so much for your parish's weekly donations of food to the St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry. Every Tuesday Terry Drone arrives with multiple bags of groceries. In addition, several members of the parish send monetary donations on a regular basis. We are grateful for St. Joe's partnership with us in this much needed ministry. Dorothy

Day, echoing the words of scripture said: *The mystery of the poor is that they are Jesus, and what you do for them, you do for Him.* What an important awareness to live by: Christ comes to us "disguised" in the need of our neighbor. It is evident you are aware of—and act on—this truth.

Sr. Donna Marie Herr OSB SVDP Food Pantry Manager

Every weekend we accept donations for the Food Pantry. A jar of peanut butter, a bag of beans or a box of oatmeal or cereal. It all helps a person in need.

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>ENJOY the BEST FISH DINNER in the area Friday March 8th Serving from 5-7 pm DRIVE THRU CARRYOUT ONLY</p>			 <p>MARCH 2-3 WOMEN'S RETREAT</p>		<p>1 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p>2 Food Pantry Collection WOMEN'S RETREAT 9 am Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm</p>
<p>3 MASS 8 & 10:30 Coffee & Donuts 9 am Family Religious Education RCIA 9 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Haiti & Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p>4 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration School Board 6 pm 6:30 pm Mass</p>  <p>LENT..... FASTING FROM OUR NEED TO HAVE EVERYTHING AND CHOOSING TO STAND WITH THOSE WHO HAVE VERY LITTLE</p>	<p>5 MASS 7:30 AM Family Way of the Cross 6:00 pm</p>	<p>6 MASS 7:30 am Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study 6:45</p>	<p>7 NO MASS</p>	<p>8 7:30 am Children's Palm Sunday Mass Senior Citizens Gathering 1 pm  5-7 pm CarryOut Only SOURCE + SUMMITT 8, 9 & 10</p>	<p>9 Altar Society Making Kuchens 7 am Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm COLLEGE CARE PACKAGES AVAILABLE</p>
<p>10 MASS 8-10:30 Religious Education RCIA 9 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection College Care Packages Available Catholic Relief Services Collection</p>	<p>11 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 PM Knights of St. John Meeting 7 PM</p>	<p>12 7:30 AM Mass Family Way of the Cross 6:00 pm</p>	<p>13 7:30 AM Mass Parish Staff Meeting 12-2 pm Fish Fry Food Preparations 1 pm That Man is You 5:30 Bible Study 6:45</p>	<p>14 NO MASS Haiti Ministry Meeting 7 pm Altar Society 7 pm</p>  <p>LENT..... PRAYING FOR THE GRACE TO ACKNOWLEDGE OUR NEED OF THE LORD AND HIS MERCY</p>	<p>15 7:30 am Children's Holy Thursday Celebration</p>	<p>16 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5 pm</p>
<p>17 MASS 8-10:30 Religious Education RCIA 9 AM Children's Liturgy of the Word 10:30 Food Pantry Collection Confirmation Session 11:30 am</p>	<p>18 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration MASS 6:30 PM Men's Club Meeting 7 pm</p>	<p>19 7:30 AM Mass Family Way of the Cross 6:00 pm</p>	<p>20 Children's Good Friday Services 8, 9, & 10 am That Man is You 5:30 pm LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE 7 PM</p>	<p>21 NO MASS</p>  <p>LENT..... REMEMBERING THAT PEACE AND SECURITY ARE FOUND IN SHARING WHAT WE HAVE WITH ALL THOSE IN NEED</p>	<p>22 7:30 AM Mass LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE 11 AM</p>	<p>23 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5 pm</p>
<p>24 PALM SUNDAY Mass 8 & 10:30</p>  <p>Food Pantry Collection</p>	<p>25 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration MASS 6:30 PM</p>	<p>26 7:30 am Mass Chrim Mass St. Benedict 5:30</p>	<p>27 7:30 am Mass</p>	<p>28 HOLY THURSDAY MASS 7 pm</p> 	<p>29 GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 PM</p> 	<p>30 HOLY SATURDAY MASS 7 PM</p> 
<p>31 EASTER Mass 8 & 10:30 am</p> 	<p>1 7 am-7 pm Eucharistic Adoration MASS 6:30 PM</p>	<p>2 7:30 am Mass School Resumes</p>	<p>3 7:30 am Mass</p> 	<p>4 NO MASS</p>	<p>5 7:30 AM Children's Easter Celebration</p>	<p>6 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4pm Mass 5 PM</p>

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

WEEKEND MASSES:
Saturday 5pm Sunday 8 and 10 am

COME JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY—MARCH 24th

Masses (Saturday 5pm, Sunday 8 & 10:30am)
 Blessed Palms will be available at all the
 Masses. During each of the Masses we
 will proclaim together the Passion
 of Jesus Christ according to Mark



CHRISM MASS—TUESDAY—MARCH 26th

5:30 pm AT St. Benedict's Church

During this Mass, Bishop Siegel will bless
 the Holy Oils used for Baptism, Confirmation,
 Holy Orders and Anointing of the Sick.



HOLY THURSDAY MARCH 28th

MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 7 pm
 After Mass the church will be open for
 people to spend time in prayer



GOOD FRIDAY—MARCH 29th

CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION 7 pm

During this time we will proclaim together the
 Passion of Jesus Christ from the Gospel of John,
 pray for the needs of the church and world, have
 veneration of the cross and share in communion
 The church will open all day for prayer



HOLY SATURDAY—MARCH 30th

**EASTER VIGIL—EASTER SERVICES
 DURING THE NIGHT 7 pm**

During the Easter Vigil Services we will
 light the Easter Fire, bless the new pas-
 chal candle, proclaim readings
 from scripture, bless the baptismal
 waters and renew our baptismal vows and
 celebrate the Eucharist. We will baptize and receive into the
 church Debra Payne, Tom Strupp, Derek
 Lindauer, Zoey Gates, Madeline Williams,
 Zach Turi and Michael Wiley



EASTER SUNDAY—MARCH 31st

Masses at 8 and 10:30 am

During the Mass we will
 renew our baptismal promises
 and celebrate the Eucharist



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS.... we are invit-
 ing you to remember your loved ones at Easter.
 Please send your contribution along with the
 names of the people you want to remember to the
 parish office (through the collection or through
 the mail) by March 25th. Names will be published
 in the Easter Bulletin.