



DIVINE CONNECTIONS

SUMMER 2025

Volume 19

Issue 2

DIVINE MERCY
CATHOLIC PARISH

Growing Together In Faith



Saint Anthony of Padua Church
4444 Ohio Street/PO Box 98
Saint Anthony, IN 47575



Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
2504 S Walnut Street
Schnellville, IN 47580



Mission - Featuring Trapper Jack
March 16, 17, & 18, 2025



SUMMER issue

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CONTACT US!

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Friday - Closed

From the Desk of Fr. Jose...



Dear friends,

The Eucharist, often called the "source and summit of our faith," is central to our lives as Catholics. It is in the celebration of the Eucharist that we encounter the profound mystery of Christ's presence among us—a presence that nourishes, strengthens, and unites us as one body in Him. There are many Eucharistic miracles that affirm the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. These sacred occurrences beckon us to reflect more deeply on the mystery and grace of the Eucharist.

The first recorded Eucharistic miracle is traditionally believed to have occurred in the 8th century in Lanciano, Italy, in the Church of St. Longinus. A priest who was struggling with doubts about the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist was celebrating Mass. During the consecration, the bread and wine are said to have miraculously transformed into real flesh and blood in front of him and the congregation. Modern investigations, including studies conducted in the 1970s, concluded that the flesh is cardiac tissue from a human heart, and the blood type is AB, which matches the blood found on the Shroud of Turin. In October 2023, together with Sharon Meyer from our parish and Terri Bell from Ferdinand, I joined the Totally Yours pilgrimage group to visit Lanciano. It was a truly blessed experience to celebrate Mass in that church. We also visited the Cathedral of San Giovanni Battista in Turin, Italy.

My home state, Kerala in India, has a rich Christian heritage. According to tradition, the Apostle Thomas arrived on the Malabar Coast in AD 52, establishing Christian communities that came to be known as the Saint Thomas Christians.

The Vatican has approved the appearance of Christ's face on a sacred host during Mass in a Kerala church 12 years ago as a Eucharistic miracle. The event occurred on November 15, 2013, during a regular morning Mass celebrated by Father Thomas Pathikal. While elevating the large host after the consecration he noticed a mysterious spot on it. As the Mass progressed the spot grew brighter and gradually revealed what appeared to be the face of Jesus Christ.

Moved by the experience Father Thomas carefully set aside the host and continued the Mass. After the Mass, the priest placed the host in a monstrance and kept it on the altar for adoration. The image remained visible even after the host was secured in the Tabernacle.

As the news of the miracle spread, thousands of people flocked to the remote village church some 50 kilometers east of Kannur, a town in the State of Kerala, India. It was eventually transferred to the archbishop's chapel, and in 2020 was sent to Rome for scientific and theological investigation. After years of careful study, the Vatican declared on May 9, 2025, that the appearance of Christ's face on the host is a true Eucharistic miracle. This recognition is among the few places worldwide honored with a Vatican affirmed Eucharistic miracle, offering a profound reminder of the mystery and majesty of the holy Eucharist.

As we ponder these miraculous occurrences, let us deepen our personal devotion to the Eucharist. Spending time in adoration, attending Mass with renewed fervor, and sharing the transformative power of the Eucharist with others can be our way of responding to these divine signs. Let us be inspired by these miracles to live lives centered on Christ, drawing strength and grace from His eternal gift to us.

I pray and wish all of you a wonderful summer, relaxing with family and friends.

*In Christ's love,
Fr. Jose Thomas*

Holy Week

Palm
Sunday

at SAP



at SHJ



Holy
Thursday



Holy Week

Holy Thursday



Good Friday



Holy Week

Holy Saturday



INITIATED INTO CHRIST AT THE EASTER VIGIL

Klinton Verkamp, son of Jeff & Heather Verkamp was baptized, received First Eucharist and was confirmed on Holy Saturday, April 19 during the 9:00 p.m. Mass at St. Anthony. His godparents are Tim and Lauren Verkamp. Congratulations to everyone!!



Holy Week



Easter
Sunday

He is Risen
Alleluia!



Divine Mercy Sunday



You Are Peter

By: Deacon Charlie Johnson

The world got to watch as the Church that Jesus established replaced a shepherd. They saw a Church come together as one, from around the world. First, to remember and mourn a leader. Then, to elect and honor his successor. They saw a process that was necessary in the human realm, with human elements and participants, but yet like no other human process. It was something more ...because God entered into it in ways we will never know about.

As expected, the world did what the world will do. The pundits made all their predictions, the extremists on the right and the left made all their wishes known, the bettors placed their bets. And the faithful just waited in prayer as if once more in the Upper Room.

"The one enthroned in heaven laughs."—Psalm 2:4a. I can't help but think that this Psalm was composed for a time such as this. As human beings, we want to take control and use our earthly skills to move just the right person into

Peter's position. Surely politics will get it done right, *this time*.

The faithful Catholic knows who really leads this Church. It is the One who established it. It is the One who saw a human need for a human leader, and He obliged or *"humored"* us, as the case may be. He even allowed us to use our own devices to keep it together—a big risk on His part, but one He was willing to make for love of us, because He knows the outcome, since He will always have a hand in it! Yes, He is with us always.

We are Catholic, not because we know and trust the shepherd who chose the name of "Leo" but because we know and trust the Shepherd who named the first pope "Peter".



St. Maria Goretti Award Recipients



Andrew Verkamp, son of Ryan and Renae Verkamp, Ella Hopf, daughter of Chirs & Tara Hopf, and Madelyn Miller, daughter of Nick & Melissa Miller received the St. Maria Goretti award on Sunday, May 4, 2025 in St. Benedict Cathedral from Bishop Joseph Siegel. The award is presented to youth who are strong examples of leadership, service, and most of all commitment to their faith in their family, community, and school. Congratulations to Andrew, Ella, and Madelyn and their families!!!



In
St. Anthony of Padua Church



In
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church

May Crowning



Our Graduates



A Mass for the 2025 graduates was celebrated on Sunday, May 18 during the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony. A lunch of turkey tenders and haystack potatoes prepared by the Knights of Columbus was served in the Parish Center for the graduates and their families. The Forest Park graduates who attended were:

- Row 1: Jillian Healy, Abby Sermersheim, Lillian Kuebler, Ella Hopf, Bianca Hopf, Claire Ruppe, Carrington Persohn
Row 2: Blake Beck, Andrew Verkamp, Cade Bayer, Joshua Sermersheim, Aiden Nord, Madelyn Miller



Kennedy Sermersheim

College graduates were also recognized:

Hailey Pund graduated from Ivy Tech Community College with an Associate degree in Human Services with a certificate in Mental Health Direct Support.

Kennedy Sermersheim graduated from the University of Southern Indiana and will work at Jasper Engines in the Diesel Division.

Divine Mercy Catholic Parish

52-Week Raffle Winners - March 3, thru May 27, 2025

March 3 - Rachel Betz, St. Anthony, IN (Ticket #396)

March 10 - Janice Kreilein, St. Anthony, IN (Ticket #019)

March 17 - Chad Nord, St. Anthony, IN (Ticket #201)

March 24 - Frank Merkley, Huntingburg, IN (Ticket #214)

March 31 - Maurice Pund, St. Anthony, IN (Ticket #358)

April 7 - Jorge Amezaga, Chesapeake, VA (Ticket #651)

April 14 - Greg Knust, St. Anthony, IN (Ticket #073)

April 21 - Ruth Gehlhausen, Punta Gorda, FL (Ticket #690)

April 28 - Theodore Houchins, Birdseye, IN (Ticket #724)

May 5 - Virlee Howe, Birdseye, IN (Ticket #520)

May 12 - Wilfred Englert, St. Anthony, IN (Ticket #571)

May 19 - Rose Herbig-Campbell, St. Anthony, IN (Ticket #368)

May 27 - Matilda Adams, Evansville, IN (Ticket #605)



Congratulations!
to our Lucky Winners



Bible Study Update

Our parish completed the third season of the "Chosen" for our Lenten Bible Study. Fifty-two adults joined together in 5 different locations for the 8-week study. Many have requested that we continue with the fourth season of the Chosen for our next Bible Study. We hope to offer it in the fall of 2025.

Happy Birthday to: Our 80+ Parishioners

July

Othmar Striegel	7/1
Eugene Gehlhausen	7/7
Harold Kempf	7/9
Larry Wagner	7/14
Dan Wendholt	7/20

August

Barbara Klem	8/2
Helen Callea	8/6
Fidelis "Duke" Herbig	8/6
Norma Begle	8/7
Rose Blessinger	8/8
Delmar Verkamp	8/8
Alvin Klem	8/18
Andrea Wagner	8/18
Ralph Bromm	8/20
Norman Waninger	8/20

Cathy Fleck	8/23
Beverly Giesler	8/24
Mary Faye Welp	8/25

September

Betty Spanbauer	9/19
Carol Stemle	9/21
Vince Gish	9/23
Rita Kunkler	9/27



Parish News



Klinton James Verkamp, son of Jeff & Heather Verkamp - Baptized April 19, 2025
 Leah Ann Chumbley, daughter of Austin & Samantha Chumbley - Baptized April 26, 2025
 Becca Diane Schuetter, daughter of Scott & Lindsay Schuetter - Baptized May 3, 2025
 Blair Rose Gutsell, daughter of Wesley & Shauna Gutsell - Baptized May 10, 2025
 Demi Lou Hasenour, daughter of Colten & Molley Hasenour - Baptized May 17, 2025
 Amelia James Voges, daughter of Craig & Chelsea Voges - Baptized May 18, 2025
 James Oliver Voegerl Helming, son of Andrew & Veronica Helming - Baptized June 1, 2025



Marriages

Riley Prechtel and Caiden Quinn - Married on May 31, 2025
 Ali Brandes and Caden Betz - Married on June 7, 2025



Our Family Members Who Entered Eternity

Doug Brosmer - on April 15, 2025
 Mary Jane Loechte - on May 27, 2025



My Rome Experience

Dear Divine Mercy Parish,

Thank you for supporting me on my pilgrimage to Italy with Father Tyler Tenbarge and the Savio Brotherhood. I have had a wonderful and meaningful time being immersed in the history of the Catholic Church. We have seen many magnificent churches and monuments dedicated to saints and Jesus. It has been wonderful to pray and play in our brotherhood of Savio. I have felt closer to God on this trip than I ever have before. It was incredible to learn about the saints and see where they walked all those years ago. My companions and I were able to walk in the exact place that St. John Bosco walked, and we were able to pray and touch the altar where he held his first mass. We also got to see the tomb and birthplace of our namesake, St. Dominic Savio. It has been very inspiring to walk in the saints' footsteps and touch rosaries and hands to the tombs of mighty saints I had only heard about in stories.



For the first part of our trip, we went to Rome and got to see Vatican City. While in Rome, we were able to visit the North American College of Rome and visit with some of the American seminarians studying there. After Rome, we hopped in the bus and traveled to Assisi. We arrived in Assisi and were blessed to see the tomb of St. Carlo Acutis. After that, we saw the tomb of St. Francis and prayed in the church that St. Francis of Assisi rebuilt with his own hands. During our short stay in Assisi, we also climbed a small mountain with a castle on top, where we prayed a rosary while watching the sun set. It was very awe-inspiring to see the grandeur of God's creation.

After our short stay in Assisi, we moved on to Turin, our final destination. While there, we saw the oratory of St. John Bosco, the very place where John Bosco had his school, and the place where St. Dominic Savio had his schooling! Visiting this place has inspired me to better live the promises that St. Dominic Savio made on his first communion, which are to feast, befriend, pray, and sacrifice.

This has been a trip of a lifetime. I am incredibly grateful to Fr. Tyler and all the work he does with the Catholic youth within our Savio Brotherhood. I am also grateful to our community and the support shown to me. Without your generosity, I would not have been able to experience such an incredible pilgrimage. If there are any young men 13-18 wanting to join savio, go to, <https://www.evansvillevocations.org/savio> Thank you, and please keep praying for the young men in the Savio Brotherhood.





On Friday, March 7, 2025, the G² Youth Group sold about 400 delicious fish meals, to help with the Mission trip costs, in June.

Youth Group Mission Trip Fish Fry



Reflection

“Owe nothing to anyone,
except to love one another;
for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.”

—Romans 13:8

Divine Mercy Parish Health Ministry

Understanding Ticks: Prevention and Treatment

Ticks are small, blood-feeding arachnids that can transmit a range of diseases to both humans and animals. Though often overlooked, these pests pose significant health risks, making awareness of tick-borne illnesses and preventive measures essential for everyone, especially those who live or spend time in wooded or grassy areas.

What Are Ticks?

Ticks are members of the arachnid family, related to spiders and mites. Adult ticks typically have four pairs of legs and are divided into three main stages of life: larva, nymph, and adult. While ticks are small—usually no more than a few millimeters in length—they can be difficult to spot, especially when they latch onto skin. The most common types of ticks in North America are the **deer tick** (also known as the black-legged tick), **dog tick**, and **lone star tick**.

These parasites are opportunistic feeders, relying on mammals, birds, and sometimes reptiles to complete their life cycle. The ticks most dangerous to humans are those that carry diseases like **Lyme disease**, **Rocky Mountain spotted fever**, **anaplasmosis**, and **babesiosis**.

How Ticks Transmit Disease

Ticks can transmit pathogens while feeding. They attach to the skin of a host, and once they start feeding, they may transfer disease-causing microorganisms present in their saliva or gut into the bloodstream of their host.

The amount of time a tick needs to remain attached before it can transmit a disease varies. For example, the Lyme disease-causing bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi* is usually transmitted after a tick has been attached for 24–48 hours. On the other hand, diseases like **Rocky Mountain spotted fever** can be transmitted more quickly, often within 6–10 hours.

Common Tick-Borne Diseases

- **Lyme Disease** - Lyme disease is one of the most well-known and concerning tick-borne illnesses. Caused by the bacterium *Borrelia burgdorferi*, it can lead to symptoms like fever, fatigue, muscle and joint aches, and a characteristic "bull's-eye" rash. If left untreated, it can cause chronic symptoms affecting the joints, heart, and nervous system.
- **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever (RMSF)** RMSF is caused by the bacterium *Rickettsia rickettsii* and is transmitted by the dog tick and the wood tick. Early symptoms include fever, rash, and a history of tick exposure. If untreated, it can be fatal.
- **Anaplasmosis** - Caused by *Anaplasma phagocytophilum*, this disease leads to symptoms such as fever, chills, muscle pain, and headache. It can be transmitted by the black-legged tick.
- **Babesiosis** - Babesiosis is caused by protozoan parasites and transmitted by the same ticks that carry Lyme disease. Symptoms resemble flu-like symptoms and can sometimes lead to severe complications, especially in people with weakened immune systems.

Prevention: How to Protect Yourself from Ticks

Ticks are most commonly found in areas with dense vegetation, such as forests, fields, and tall grasses. However, they can also be found in suburban and urban environments, particularly in parks and gardens. Below are essential steps to help minimize the risk of tick exposure:

- **Use Tick Repellents** - When spending time outdoors, especially in tick-prone areas, use an insect repellent that contains **DEET**, **picaridin**, or **permethrin**. Permethrin can be applied to clothing and gear, whereas DEET and picaridin should be applied directly to the skin.

Divine Mercy Parish Health Ministry

Understanding Ticks: Prevention and Treatment

- **Wear Protective Clothing** - Wearing long-sleeved shirts, long pants, and closed-toe shoes can help reduce the likelihood of ticks attaching to your skin. Tucking pants into socks or boots can further minimize exposure.
- **Stay on Trails** - When hiking or walking in wooded areas, stick to the center of established trails and avoid brushing up against vegetation or tall grass where ticks are likely to be.
- **Tick-Proof Your Yard** - If you live in an area with ticks, consider keeping your yard well-maintained by rimming tall grass, removing leaf piles, and creating a barrier of wood chips or gravel between wooded areas and your lawn to reduce tick habitat.
- **Check for Ticks Regularly** - After spending time outdoors, perform a thorough tick check on yourself, your children, and pets. Pay particular attention to areas where ticks are most likely to attach, such as behind the ears, in the armpits, along the waistline, and between the legs.
- **Shower After Outdoor Activities** - Showering within two hours of being outdoors can help remove ticks before they have a chance to attach. This is especially helpful after hiking, gardening, or other activities in tick-prone areas.

How to Remove a Tick

If you find a tick attached to your skin, it's important to remove it correctly to minimize the risk of disease transmission. Follow these steps:

- **Use Fine-Tipped Tweezers** - Grasp the tick as close to the skin's surface as possible. Avoid squeezing the tick's body, as this can cause infected fluids to be injected into your skin.
- **Pull Straight Up** - Apply steady, even pressure to pull the tick straight out without twisting. Twisting can cause parts of the tick's mouth to break off and remain embedded in the skin.
- **Clean the Bite Area** - After removal, clean the area with rubbing alcohol, soap and water, or an antiseptic.
- **Dispose of the Tick Properly** - Place the tick in a sealed container or bag, or flush it down the toilet. Avoid crushing it with your fingers.
- **Monitor for Symptoms** - Keep an eye on the bite area for any signs of infection, such as redness or a rash. If you develop flu-like symptoms or a rash, especially within a few weeks of a tick bite, consult your healthcare provider for further evaluation.

Treatment of Tick-Borne Diseases

The treatment for tick-borne diseases typically involves antibiotics, especially when caught early. For example:

- **Lyme Disease** is usually treated with oral antibiotics such as doxycycline or amoxicillin. In severe cases, intravenous antibiotics may be necessary.
- **Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever** requires prompt treatment with doxycycline, even in children.
- **Anaplasmosis** is treated with doxycycline, and babesiosis may require antimalarial drugs, such as atovaquone and azithromycin.

Early detection and treatment are key to preventing long-term complications. If you suspect you've contracted a tick-borne disease, it's crucial to seek medical attention as soon as possible.

Spring Senior Luncheon

Submitted by: Eileen Hauser

A Spring Senior Luncheon for parishioners 55+ years young was held on Thursday, May 1, 2025, in the Schnellville Community Clubhouse, beginning at 11:00 a.m. 90 parishioners were in attendance.

Deacon Charlie Johnson welcomed everyone and led the "Meal Prayer for Senior Luncheon/Dinner".

After a wonderful meal of baked chicken & pork steak (prepared by Arnie's Catering) and all the sides plus desserts provided by volunteers of the parish, Sherry Fischer introduced Megan Durlauf from Dove House Recovery House for Women. The Dove House in Dubois County, located at 1480 Knust Street, Jasper, IN opened in the fall of 2022. It can house up to 15 women who need help to recover from extensive trauma histories, such as: PTSD, depression, physical or mental abuse, and substance abuse. Many women seeking help are also escaping homelessness, coping with mental health issues, are re-entering society after incarceration and/or re-establishing parenting responsibility.

The house was donated by the city of Jasper, and remodeling was funded by the Dubois County Community Foundation and other community members.

At Dove House, their mission is to empower women to become substance-free, self-sufficient, and healthy.

Requirements for admission to Dove House are:

- Must identify as female and be 18+ years of age
- Have personal experience with substance use disorder



- Be medically stable and committed to recovery
- Agree to stay at Dove House for at least 90 days (may stay up to 2 years)

Services are at no cost to the clients. Support for Dove House is through generous individuals, corporations, in-kind support, and grant funding.

Learn more information about Dove House at: doverecoveryhouse.org





Mission Team #11



Knights of Columbus News

The St. Anthony of Padua KofC council conducted an exemplification on March 1 after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at St Anthony. We welcomed 4 new members into our council.

Our council conducted a Lenten fish fry. Thank you to all who supported us.

Fr. Jose concelebrated Mass at the Indiana State KofC convention.

The Knights worked in the St. Anthony cemetery, straightening tombstones.

The Knights made turkey noodle soup. Thanks to all who supported our sale.

The St Anthony of Padua council held our annual kids fishing contest. 18 youth participated at the parish lake.

Winners were:

Age 6-9: largest - Shane Jacob, smallest - Eva Paulin, most - Kalvin Butkaukas.

Age group 10-13: largest - Max Werne, smallest - Carson Kellams, most - Parker Kellams.

There were no entries in the 14-17 age group. Thanks to all who joined us on a beautiful Saturday morning.

The Knights prepared a meal for the graduating seniors and their families.



The Knights presented the Silver Rose Service honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe and respect for life. The 4th degree Knights provided an honor guard.



If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus, you can join us at our monthly meeting in the 800 Clubhouse, at 7:00 p.m., on the second Wednesday of each month, contact a knight, go online to koc.org/joinus, or scan the qr code and enter your information. Our council number is 15777 and the agent code is tjarboe.

koc.org/joinus, or scan the qr code and enter



Vacation Bible School 2025



And Having Fun!



Christian Mothers Confraternity

On May 6, the Divine Mercy Christian Mothers held their Mother's Day meeting. Two new members were inducted, Brenda Allen and Bev Lampert.

Guest speaker Michelle Fischer, a local mother and author, was asked to encourage us in this year of Hope. She reminded us that our hope lies in Jesus alone. [Romans 12:12 "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer."](#)

Michelle's son Paul was diagnosed with cancerous brain tumors when he was just 9 years old. Although devastated, Michelle knew that it was her choice to believe and hope for each day with her son rather than to fall into despair. She courageously encouraged her son through the ups and downs of his sickness. When the realization that there was nothing more the doctors or medicine could do, she helped to prepare him for his eternal life. She asked Paul, "What is one thing that you want people to remember about you?" His answer, "I am Catholic." There is now a scholarship fund set up in Paul's name thru St. Mary's Catholic Church: "I am Catholic Scholarship".

Michelle reminds us that the Sacraments are our tools to fight off evil and become more intimate with Jesus. It is ok to be a mess. God's Will, will save us. She told us that who we were, is not who we are. Who we are, is not who we are going to be. We have to set ourselves aside and do God's will. No matter how hard it is.

Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

If you would like to join the Christian Mothers, please notify the parish office or one of the officers. Kathy Wilmes – President, Julie Fischer – Vice President, Betty Braunecker – Treasurer, or Linda Wendholt – Secretary.



Ash Wednesday

In
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church



In
St. Anthony of Padua Church

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# **Memorial Day Services** **in SHJ Cemetery**



## **in SAP Cemetery**

