



A community of joyful, active, faith-filled people who give thanks to God by generously sharing their individual gifts and talents to serve the needs of all.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday—5 PM

Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 4-4:45 PM

PARISH OFFICE

6202 W. Saint Joseph Road

Evansville, IN 47720

812-963-3273

SCHOOL

6130 W. Saint Joseph Road

Evansville IN 47720

812-963-3335

WEBSITE

www.stjoeco.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

(812) 963-3149

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Vanderburgh County"

SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

NOVEMBER 30, 2025 THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Dear friends,

Once again we begin the season of Advent. For many people, motivated by very good intentions, Advent is a time to prepare for the birth of Jesus. Of course, this sounds good, even admirable. But what does that mean? Are we somehow preparing for the physical birth of Jesus just as it happened some 2000 years ago? Surely there has to be more to it than just trying to recreate an historical event. If we do not move beyond this notion, than I fear

we risk proclaiming something that seems, at best, sentimental, and, at worse, another thing that gets dismissed by too many people as just another example of how the church does not have anything to say of significance to the world.

But, we do have something of great significance to offer to the world. The world is a tough place these days. Much of it is at war: bloodletting flows, systems are collapsing, governments are dysfunctional, the economy serves primarily the rich, institutions are in shambles, poverty runs rampant, violence is a way of life, disregard for human life prevails, absence of human dignity looms, destruction of the natural world increases, pessimism and powerlessness are evidenced everywhere, the rise of tyrants



Lead Us To

Your Light

Lead Us through

our Darkness

is ripe, and....well, you can continue the litany of lamentations.

Into this world we come to say "stay awake, be prepared, the Lord is present." And we pray that God will lead us through the darkness of our world so that we can be open to the life he gives. How do we do this? We do it by allowing Jesus to be born in our hearts, right here, right now, amidst all the stuff that is happening around us. We proclaim the words we hear in the Gospel of John, "the light came into the world and the darkness did not overcome it." And we hear these powerful words: "The darkness that surrounds us will lead us to giving testimony." (John 1:5).

So we give testimony. We do it by showing up everyday. We do it by refusing to be led down the road of pessimism and negativity. We do it by facing what is in front of us and not running away from it. How does this happen? I think it happens when we choose to do the next thing in front of us and do it with all the love and patience we can muster. The next thing might just be going to work and trying to be agreeable to all the folks around us, even those that can drive us crazy. It may even be just the courage to say, I am going to go to work even though much of me would rather be any place than this. Or it may be going to school and attending another class that doesn't hold much interest for us, or has a teacher that does not inspire us. It may just be a willingness to do the next household chore—another load of laundry or another meal to fix, or another bathroom to be cleaned.

Then there are those rare moments when our simple "hello," or gesture of kindness makes all the difference in another person's life. A simple act that reminds them that they are beloved by God. Showing up in life and doing the next thing may not seem like a lot, but when those simple acts are done with all the love and patience we can muster, it's effects go for beyond us. Our willingness to engage in this way of being, is the way we bring a little bit of peace and compassion to our world.

We do this most effectively when we let go of the need to be in charge and to want things to work out according to our plans and desire. It's like we are at our best being life for the world when we don't even know that we are doing it. But what a gift we give to the world!

Leaning into the journey of life

Fr. Gene Schroeder



THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE THE GIFT OF FOOD



Needing a gift this holiday season for the person who has it all? Honor them by buying gifts of food for the children at our sister parish, St. James Parish, located in Plaine du Nord, Haiti. Gifts ranging in price from \$5-\$100. Self-service station located in church. *Questions?* Please email Chad Martin at seabeesgreat58@gmail.com



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM MASS: Theodor Ulrich (1906), Josephine Hale (2001), Agnes (2004) & Joe Scheller (2004)

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2025
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM MASS: William & Dorothy

(Hertel) Niemeier, Carol Lewis, John Reckelhoff, Paul, Mary, Larry & Betty Ann Spaulding, Margaret Pountain, Don & Neace Singleton, Cathy Luigs, Bob, Clara & Tom Buchheit, Herb, Anna, Steve, Russel, Mike & Donna Summers

10:30 AM MASS: For all the people in our parish, Anna Voelker (1892), Elisabeth Wolf (1923), Herb (2004) & Jenny Langner, Donna Marie (2021) & Chester Fenwick

MONDAY, DECEMBER 1

MONDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

6:30 PM MASS: John (1943) & Mary Hillenbrand

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2

TUESDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

7:30 AM MASS: Maria Ulrich (1859), Maria Baumgart (1876), Anna Eisterhold (1897), Mary Luekenheimer (1921), Mary Clary (1964)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

7:30 AM MASS: Mary Stratman, Henry Beckerle (1892), Mildred (2013) & Charles Lewis

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4

THURSDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

NO MASS: Peter Wolf (1883), Guilielmus Hillenbrand (1902), Frank Voelker Sr. (1935), Dennis Will (1957), Donald Will (1957), Joseph (2005) & Anita Rexing, Mary Stratman (2024)

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5

FRIDAY OF THE FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

7:30 AM MASS: Joe Reine, Tony & Mary Reine, Infant Hartlein (1864)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 6
SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM MASS: Lee Askins, Tony & Cecelia Striker, Fran Happe, Jan Hermann, For all the people in our parish, Agatha Effinger (1857), Magdalen Kissel (1857), Maria Kissel (1857), Francis Relleke (1858), Anna Hartlein (1864), Joseph Wangler (1893), Allen Wargel (2005), Betty (2024) & Ray Fischer

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM MASS: Karin Mehringer, Basil & Marie Mehringer, Dennis, Luke & Ali Mehringer, Matthew Kares, Vern & Carol Linz, Don & Mary Appler, Don Singleton Family, Otis Collier,

10:30 AM MASS: Charles & Joan Niemeier, Dave Fehrenbacher, Joe, Betty & Gary Conley, Victims of war, hatred and violence, John (1945) & Elizabeth Tiekens, Barthel Bender (1959)



**SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND TO SUPPORT
THE EDUCATION OF SEMINARIANS FOR MARY
MOTHER OF GOD MISSION IN VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA**



Please remember in your prayers *Karin Mehringer*, the niece of Dorothy Happy who died last week. May God's peace be with all of them.

STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

"At an hour you do not expect, the Son of Man will come," says today's Gospel.
Good stewards know that they are accountable to God for all they have and are and strive to live in readiness for His coming.



NOVEMBER 23, 2025	\$ 5,871.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 15,350.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 263,870.76
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 322,350.00

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI	\$ 40.00
HAITI STUDENTS SPONSORSHIPS	\$ 700.00
HAITI FOOD FUND	\$ 2,770.00
HAITI SEWING SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 365.00
MILITARY ARCHDIOCESE	\$ 10.00
ST. VINCENT DePAUL	\$ 205.00

May we continue to be blessed by your faithful financial support to our parish and to our outreach ministries. Remember that you can SEND YOUR COLLECTION THROUGH THE MAIL:

St. Joseph Church 6202 W. St. Joseph Rd. Evansville, IN 47720

REBUILDING OUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN

TOTAL PLEDGED	\$ 805,572.00
RECEIVED TO DATE	\$ 809,540.23

Your monthly packet of collection envelopes now includes a "Rebuilding our Church Campaign" envelope which you can use to make your pledge contributions.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN IN THE HOSPITAL AND NURSING HOME

HERITAGE: Brenda Koester, Christine Settle, Jack Fleeger

HOLIDAY RETIREMENT VILLAGE: Anna Mae Gries

BETHEL MANOR: Margaret Kafel

CYPRUS REHABILITATION CENTER (NEWBURGH): Steve Hasselbrinck

NORTH PARK NURSING CENTER: Carl Kempf

RIVER POINTE: Beverly Jones

HAMILTON POINTE: Carolyn Pfaffman

EVANSVILLE PROTESTANT HOME: Mary Lou Davis

DEC. 1: Penelope Coats, Grady Doshier, Layne Koester, Kathy Seger, Joan Stewart

DEC. 2: Bob Englert, Lena Greubel, Michele Knight, Adam Nisley

DEC. 3: Ella Cody, Neal Dossett, Zach Kendle, Larry Schentrup, Don Weis, Kim Wolfe

DEC. 4: Donna Blankenberger, Peggy Dossett, Laura Elpers, Anthony Greubel, Eloise Hamner, Jude Hays, Mary Ruth Lasher, Rachel Schnaus, Keith Smith

DEC. 5: Ava Clark, Audrie Collings, Parker Muensterman, Zach Ondash, Catherine Schmitt, Taylor Vogt

DEC. 6: Bryanna Barron, Brian Harpenau, Dylan Pfaffman, Rick Scheller

DEC. 1: John & Cheri King, Bob & Betty Singer (74 years!)

DEC. 2: Jim & Amy Back, Quinton & Hannah Keil

DEC. 3: Bob & Leisa Loehrlein

DEC. 4: Aln & Donna Blankenberger

DEC. 5: Mike & Doris Niemeier, Justin & Lena Greubel

DEC. 6: Pat & Jeanne Freeman

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**

ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES DECEMBER 17 & 19

We will have two Communal Penance Services during the Season of Advent—Wednesday, Dec. 17th at 7:00 pm and Friday, Dec. 19th at 11:00 am. I will also be available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation privately each Saturday from 4-4:45 for those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. If these times are not convenient, call/text me (812.499.9074) and I will make a time available to you that is convenient.

Fr. Gene Schroeder

Liturgical Ministers

LECTOR (L) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)

WEEKEND OF NOVEMBER 29-30 5 PM (L) Sis Jarboe (EM) Donald & Brandon Werner, Mary Kay Fehrenbacher, Donna Niemeier **8 AM (L)** Jalene Weber, (EM) Brian and Ann Craney, Marcia Frey Terry Drone, **10:30 AM (L)** Chad Martin (EM) Doris Taylor, Sally Kempf, Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 6-7 5 PM (L) Steve Jung (EM) Eric and Karen McDonald, Butch and Linda Feulner **8 AM (L)** Tom Folz ((EM) Marcia Frey, Chick Duncan, Kylie & Stephaine Frey, **10:30 AM (L)** Jane Scheller, (EM) Becky Doshier Rachel Schnaus, Debra Baumgart Al Debes

IT'S LOTTERY TIME

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR
ST. JOE LOTTERY TICKET? \$75
MATER DEI-TREASURE THE
TRADITION TICKETS \$100



PICK UP YOUR COPY OF THE LITTLE BLUE BOOK DAILY REFLECTIONS FOR ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS



They are available at the church door. You'll find in them a daily reflection for each of the days of Advent and Christmas and also other interesting notes and information about the Advent and Christmas Seasons.



Our St. Joe Senior Citizens Group invites all the senior citizens in the parish to their Christmas Pot Luck Dinner on Friday, December 12 at noon. Enjoy some good food and great company.



Parents Night Out is coming— Saturday December 13th from 6-9 pm. Children are welcome to come for a night IN while parents can enjoy a night OUT!. We will have dinner, decorate Christmas cookies, play Christmas games, and watch a Christmas movie! Jr. High and High School students are welcome to help. (Receive a school free dress pass for helping.) If interested, contact Jessica Reckelhoff (812-598-1151) to register by Dec. 8th. \$10.00 per child.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

Again this year you are invited to remember your loved ones in a special way at Christmas by including their name(s) in the Christmas Flower Memorials. Please send the name or names of people you want to remember to the parish office along with your donation to the parish office by Dec. 16. The names will be printed in the Christmas



ALTAR SOCIETY CHRISTMAS PARTY

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11 at 6 PM

All women of the parish are invited to

come. Call Susie Schapker (812-483-4799) or Donna Dipple (812-963-6911) for reservations.

They are inviting people to give gifts for a state hospital patient. Gift suggestions: toiletry items, puzzle books, socks. There will be a box at the front doors of the church in which you can place your gifts. Leave gifts unwrapped.

Join us Next Sunday December 7 for

Breakfast With Santa
Serving 9 am - Noon



ON THE LOVE FOR THE POOR

We are reading from the Apostolic Exhortation *Dilexi Te* of Pope Leo to all Christians on the Love of the Poor



For this reason, works of mercy are recommended as a sign of the authenticity of worship, which, while giving praise to God, has the task of opening us to the transformation that the Spirit can bring about in us, so that we may all become an image of Christ and his mercy towards the weakest. In this sense, our relationship with the Lord, expressed in worship, also aims to free us from the risk of living our relationships according to a logic of calculation and self-interest.

We are instead open to the gratuitousness that surrounds those who love one another and, therefore, share everything in common. In this regard, Jesus advises: "When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you" (Lk 14:12-14).

The Lord's appeal to show mercy to the poor culminates in the great parable of the last judgment (cf. Mt 25:31-46), which can serve as a vivid illustration of the Beatitude of the merciful. In that parable, the Lord offers us the key to our fulfillment in life; indeed, if we seek the holiness pleasing to God's eyes, this text offers us one clear criterion on which we will be judged. The clear and forceful words of the Gospel must be put into practice without any 'ifs or buts' that could lessen their force. Our Lord made it very clear that holiness cannot be understood or lived apart from these demands.

In the early Christian community, acts of charity were performed on the basis not of preliminary studies or advance planning, but directly following Jesus' example as presented in the Gospel. The Letter of James deals at length with the problem of relations between rich and poor, and asks the faithful two questions in order to examine the authenticity of their faith: "What good is it, my brothers



ers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead" (2:14-17).

James goes on to say: "Your gold and silver have rusted, and their rust will be evidence against you, and it will eat your flesh like fire. You have laid up treasure for the last days. Listen! The wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out, and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts. You have lived on the earth in luxury and in pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter" (5:3-5). These are powerful words, even if we would rather not hear them! A similar appeal can be found in the First Letter of John: "How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?" (3:17).

The message of God's word is so clear and direct, so simple and eloquent, that no ecclesial interpretation has the right to relativize it. The Church's reflection on these texts ought not to obscure or weaken their force, but urge us to accept their exhortations with courage and zeal. Why complicate something so simple? Conceptual tools exist to heighten contact with the realities they seek to explain, not to distance us from them.

TO BE CONTINUED

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