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#### **WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE**

Saturday—5 PM Sunday—8 & 10:30 AM

#### RECONCILATION

Saturday 4-4:45 PM

#### **PARISH OFFICE**

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#### **SCHOOL**

6130 W. Saint Joseph Road Evansville IN 47720 812-963-3335

#### WEBSITE

www.stjoeco.org

#### **PRAYER REQUESTS**

(812) 963-3149

#### **PARISH STAFF**

Fr. Gene Schroeder—Pastor
gschroeder@evdio.org
Julie Kempf—Secretary
jkempf@evdio.org
Kristan Gilles—Director of Liturgy
kgilles@evdio.org
Jessica Reckelhoff—Coordinator
of Religious Education
jreckelhoff@evdio.org

**Kelsey Meier**—School Principal kmeier@evdio.org

Mary Gries—School Secretary mgries@evdio.org



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# **DECEMBER 14, 2025 THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Dear friends,

To help us prepare for Christmas we will have two Communal Penance Services this week—Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm and Friday, December 19th at 11:00 am. I hope that you take this opportunity to come together in prayer. As always, I am available to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays from 4-4:45 pm for those who wish to avail themselves of this opportunity. If this time is not convenient, please call and I will make a time available to you that is convenient.

Thanks to your generosity we have exceeded our Catholic Ministries Appeal for this year. What a blessing that is. Your gifts not only help our parish but will also do much good as they help to fund all the different ministries in our diocese.

At this time of the year we are renewing our bulletin, newsletter, and parish activities directory ads for the coming year. Special thanks to the companies/individuals who have taken an ad again this year. Many of you are long time supports of our parish in this way. I certainly encourage all the people of our parish to support these advertisers in any way that we can.

"Leaning into the journey of life Fr. Gene Schroeder

P.S. In this Christmas time of giving and receiving gifts, don't forget about your gift to God. Our weekly collections need to average \$15,350 per Sunday in order to meet our budgeted needs. At this time, we are somewhat behind in doing this. So this can be an opportunity to "make up" on our giving for the year. Your love for our parish has always seen us through in the past and so I place our present financial needs in your hands confident that you will do your fair share in providing the money needed to do God's work!

# ADVENT PENANCE SERVICES DEC. 17 & 19

Come join us this week for our Advent Penance Services — Wednesday, December 17th at 7:00 pm and Friday, December 19th at 11:00

I will also be available to cele-

am.

brate 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, please call/text (812.499.9074) and I will make a time available to you that is convenient.

Fr. Gene Schroeder



#### **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE**

CHRISTMAS EVE
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
4 PM MASS WITH CHILDREN
9 PM CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT

CHRISTMAS DAY THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25 MASS AT 9:00 AM

NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31 AT 5 PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 1 AT 8 AM

#### **CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL (CPC)**

PARISH GOAL \$131,040.00 PLEDGED TO DATE \$137,951.00 105% NUMBER OF PLEDGES 318 68% AVERAGE PLEDGE \$433.81

Our stewardship goal is to give 1% of our gross income to the CMA. Thanks to the following people who have returned their pledge card.

Larry Elfreich
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Hostettler
Ted Kares
Philip & Kayla Kares
Jim & Becky Heidorn

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Matt Voelker
Glenn & Kristi Givens
Rockie & Kim Wolf
Don & Amy Will
Troy & Amy Meyer
Bob & Paula Gibson

WE MADE IT!

# CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM MASS: Bill & Lula Townsend, Margaret Adler (1888), Maria Rexing (1898), William Wolf 耄 (1918), Raymond (1958) & Francis Kraft, Avila (2010) & Jim Fehrenbacher, Darrell(2015) & Loretta Whelan, Helen Kissel (2016), Carl Stewart (2021)

#### SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

8:00 AM MASS: Paul & Marlene Hasselbrinck, Mac & Ann Glaser, Lee & Sharon Werner, Clarence & Catherine Miller, John Simon Family, Robert & Margie Harpenau, Dean & Alex Trowbridge, For all the people in our parish

10:30 AM MASS: Leroy, Rose & Freddie Weiss, Arnette Straub, Charlotte Weiss, Florian Schenk, Jr. Joseph Steiner (1882), Eva Wolf (1892), Sebastian (1956) & Frances Weiss, Elizabeth (1962) & Samuel Eichenberger (1962), Blake Perkins (1979), Emma (2001) & Norbert Yellig (2001), Robert "Bubba" Jochum (2003), Marilyn & Leroy Jochum, David Kissel (2008)

#### MONDAY, DECEMBER 15 **ADVENT WEEKDAY**

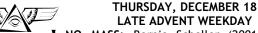
6:30 PM MASS: Earl & Larry Chapman, John Seib (1886), Shelley Bock (1999), Orville (2000) & Jeanette Hall

#### TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16 ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Fr. Kenny Knapp, Joseph Schili (1901), Martin (1959) & Matilda Ritter, Jean Johnson (2020)

#### WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17 LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

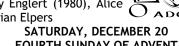
7:30 AM MASS: Francis Goebel (1869), Mary Hovals (1913), Augustus (1935) & Pauline Recker, Felix Preske (1978), Marion (2000) & John Tieken



NO MASS: Bernie Scheller (2001), Bette WISDOM (2005) & Geroge Duncan, Robert (2007) & Jewel Stevens

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19 LATE ADVENT WEEKDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Betty Englert (1980), Alice Keil (2009), Bill & Marian Elpers



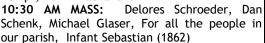
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

See Sign PM MASS: Rick Townsend, Lawrence & Elizabeth Luigs loo Heart Co.

Logel, Art, Minie, & Betty Logel Anthony Releke (1868), Christina (1994) & Francis Voelker, Marie Wallenmeyer (1996)

> SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21 **FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

8:00 AM MASS: Daren Drone, Judy (Will) Kempf, Greg Kempf, Terri Hillenbrand



Please remember in your prayers Judy Kempf the daughter-in-law of Winnie Kempf, Michael Glaser, the uncle of Rachel Schnaus, Earl Chapman, the brother-in-law of Theresa Chapman, *Dan Schenk*, the brother of Kathy Schenk, and Fr. Ken Knapp, a priest of our diocese who died last week. May God's peace be with all of them.



#### STEWARDSHIP: The Lord's Way

Each of us has his or her own role to play in the coming of the Kingdom of God. John the Baptst was called to be the herald of the Messiah, preparing the way of the Lord. To what is the Lord calling me?

| DECEMBER 7, 2025                 | \$ | 8,894.93   |
|----------------------------------|----|------------|
| WEEKLY BUDGET                    | \$ | 15,350.00  |
| TOTAL INCOME TO DATE             | \$ | 282,926.69 |
| BUDGET TO DATE                   | \$ | 353,050.00 |
| MAINTENANCE COLLECTION           | \$ | 260.00     |
| OUTREACH MINISTRIES              |    |            |
| HAITI                            | \$ | 275.00     |
| HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS       | \$ | 1,399,00   |
| HAITI GIFTS OF COMPASSION (FOOD) | \$ | 4,846.07   |
| VLADIVOSTOK MISSION              | \$ | 141.00     |
| ST. VINCENT DePAUL               | \$ | 5.00       |
| RETIRED RELIGIOUS AND MILITARY   |    |            |

ARCHDIOCESE SPECIAL COLLECTONS \$ 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 \$ 810,840.23

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

HERITAGE: Brenda Koester, Christine Settle, Jack Fleeger

HOLIDAY RETIREMNT 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. 14: Ryan Frey, Izzy Gries, Marshall Keil, Cindi Klueh, Mary Loehrlein, Sylvia Reckelhoff, Tennille Schell, Jerry Spaetti,

Diane Werner, Kathy Wingert

DEC. 15: Esther Kelley

DEC. 16: Nola Fehrenbacher, Joe Fritch

DEC. 17: Zach Baehl, Stephanie Freeman, Samantha Gibbs, Joe Harl, Bryan Ruder

DEC. 18: Patrick McDonald, Chris Scheller

DEC. 19: Samuel Back, Scarlett Costlow, Mike Ennis,

Alex Freeeman, Kaelyn Hughes, Jeff Meyer, Carter Zirkelbach

DEC. 20: Josh Baehl, Ellyn Brakie, Andrea Jarboe

DEC. 18: Paul & Chris Schapker

DEC. 20: Rob & Dana Grasso

Is God calling you?

Come & see.



you're a single, Catholic woman between the ages of 18 and 40 who is discerning religious life, you're invited to attend the Sisters of St. Benedict's Come & See Weekend being held Januarv 2-4, 2026. Join other women who are considering religious life as you experi-

ence our Benedictine way of life and get an inside look at what this community means to us. There will also be time for discussion, questions, and reflection. Don't miss out on this exciting chance to explore Benedictine life. To reserve a spot or learn more, contact Sister Jill Reuber at vocation@thedome.org or 812 -367-1411 ext. 2830.







WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 13-14 5 PM (L) Toni Askins (EM) Diane Woods Eric Reffett, Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher 8 AM (L) Tom Blythe (EM) Jalane Weber Imogene Baehl,

ECTOR (I) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM) Michael Elpers Chick Duncan 10:30 AM: (L) Chad Martin (EM) Shane Wessel Diane

Bassemier, Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 20-21 5 PM (L) Jim Hermann (EM) Mary Loehrlein, Carolyn Hutchinson, Sis Jarboe 8 AM (L) Marcia Frey (EM) Brian and Ann Craney, Terry Drone Lisa Cook 10:30 AM (L) Shane Wessel (EM) Debra Baumgart Sally Kempf, Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig

CHRISMAS EVE 4 PM (L) Special (EM) Peter & Jodi Fehrenbacher, Brandon & Donald Werner, Diane Woods Rachel Schnaus, Diane Woods CHRISMTAS EVE 9 PM (L) Chick Duncan (EM) Carolyn Hutchison, Donna Niemeier, Darlene Appler, Lisa Cook CHRISTMAS DAY 9 AM (L) Tom Folz (EM) Rodney & Paula Baehl, Imogene Baehl Dolores Folz

# 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

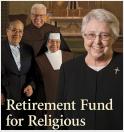
#### IT'S LOTTERY TIME

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



2026 RELIGIOUS CALENDERS Once again this year, the folks at PIERRE FUNERAL HOME have provided each of the families in our parish with a Catholic Calendar for 2026. Pick up a copy for your family. And then next time you see the folks at PIERRE, be sure to thank them!

### SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS MONTH FOR THE RETIREMENT NEEDS OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES



This month, Catholics you are invited to participate in the collection for the Retirement Fund for Religious. There was a time, in the history of our parish, when the Franciscan nuns who taught in our school, went several years without receiving any pay at all. Even when they were paid, the amount of

money they received was very small—about \$350 a year. Yet, they came to teach and to serve us.

Much the same can be said about the Benedictine nuns who taught many of our parishioners at Mater Dei. many of these women are old and in need of much care. The cost for their care far exceeds their resources. That is why we are invited to give to this special collection. Together, as a Church, we can honor their faithfulness by being faithful-and generous-in return. There are special envelopes in your regular monthly packet of envelopes.



CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL NAMES NEED TO BE SENT TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY DEC. 16 ON THE LOVE FOR THE POOR

We are reading from the Apostolic Exortation Delexi Te of Pope Leo to all Christians on the Love of the Poor

#### THE TRUE RICHES OF THE CHURCH

A little less than two centuries later, another deacon, Saint Lawrence, will demonstrate his fidelity to Jesus Christ in a similar way by uniting martyrdom and service to the poor. From



Saint Ambrose's account, we learn that Lawrence, a deacon in Rome during the pontificate of Pope Sixtus II, was forced by the Roman authorities to turn over the treasures of the Church. The following day he brought the poor with him. Questioned about where the promised treasures might be, he pointed to the poor saying, 'These are the treasures of the Church'. While narrating this event, Saint Ambrose asks: "What treasures does Jesus have that are more precious than those in which he loves to show himself?" And, remembering that ministers of the Church must never neglect the care of the poor, much less accumulate goods for their own benefit, he says: "This task must be carried out with sincere faith and wise foresight. Certainly, if anyone derives personal advantage from it, he commits a crime; but if he distributes the proceeds to the poor or redeems a prisoner, he performs a work of mercy."

#### THE FATHERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE POOR

From the first centuries, the Fathers of the Church recognized in the poor a privileged way to reach God, a special way to meet him. Charity shown to those in need was not only seen as a moral virtue, but a concrete expression of faith in the incarnate Word. The community of the faithful, sustained by the strength of the Holy Spirit, was rooted in being close to the poor, whom they considered not just an "appendage," but an essential part of Christ's living body. For example, while he was on his way to face martyrdom, Saint Ignatius of Antioch exhorted the community of Smyrna not to neglect the duty to carry out acts of charity for those most in need, admonishing them not to behave like those who oppose God. But consider those who are of a different opinion with respect to the grace of Christ, which has come to us, how opposed they are to the will of God. They have no regard for love; no care for the widow, or the orphan, or the oppressed; of the bond, or of the free; of the hungry, or of the thirsty.

The Bishop Polycarp, expressly stated that ministers of the Church should take care of the poor: "And let the presbyters be compassionate and merciful to all, bringing back those that wander, visiting all the sick, and not neglecting the widow, the orphan, or the poor, but always 'providing for that which is becoming in the sight of God and man". From these two witnesses, we see that the Church appears as a mother of the poor, a place of welcome and justice.

For his part, Saint Justin, who addressed his First Apology to Emperor Adrian, the Senate and people of Rome, explained that Christians bring all that they can to those in need because they see them as brothers and sisters in Christ. Writing about the assembly gathered in prayer on the first day of the week, he underscored that at the heart of the Christian liturgy, it is not possible to separate the worship of God from concern for the poor. Consequently, at a certain point in the celebration: "they who are well-to-do, and willing, give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the president, who succors the orphans and widows, and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds, and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need." This demonstrates that the nascent Church did not separate belief from social action: faith without witness through concrete actions was considered dead, as Saint James taught us (cf. 2:17).

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