



SAINT JOSEPH

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

DECEMBER 21, 2025 THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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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Dear friends,

And the word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. What came to be through him was life, and this life was the light of the human race; the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

When Jesus chose to make his dwelling among us, he did it in the midst of the world that was and He did not attempt to change the way things were going in people's lives. He agreed to be part of the world that the people were experiencing. As he chose to stand with people, he also taught them how to be light to themselves and to others in that world. That's the great gift he gives to us. Learning how to stand in solidarity with all the people in our world. In his great prayer for his disciples, Jesus prays that they not be taken out of the world but that they may learn to live in the world and be life for the world.

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, I give thanks for the gift you are in being light to the world. God makes his dwelling in you. As you allow the life of God to flow through you, you are being light that shines so brightly that even the darkness that is present in so much of the world, does not overcome it.

You are being light when you are loving your children and grandchildren, when you do the countless and untold number of tasks each day to keep the family going. You are being light when you serve our parish in by offering your time in service to the children of our school and for a whole host of ways you keep our parish running.

You are being light when you support of our Needy Fund, or contributed to our annual "Diaper Bag Express" to benefit young unwed fathers and mothers through Birthright. You are being light when you help provide groceries through our weekly food collection for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry and our "Sausage for the Homeless" campaign. You are being light through your support of the Catholic Build for Habitat.

You are being light by buying food for our students in Haiti, sponsoring a child's education, becoming a sponsor for our sewing hope program and so many other ways that you stand with our brothers and sisters in Haiti. In all these ways, and countless more, your are giving the gift of Christ himself.

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. This can be an opportunity to "make up" on your giving for the year. Your love for our parish has always seen us through in the past so I place our present financial needs confidently in your hands.

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

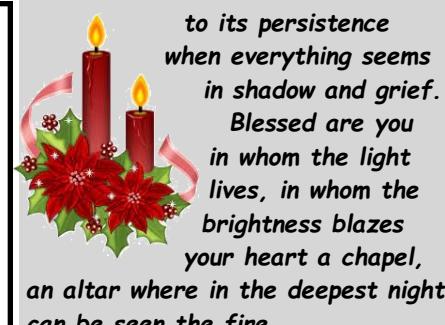


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and "St. Joseph School
Vanderburgh County"

BLESSED ARE YOU WHO BEAR THE LIGHT

*Blessed are you
who bear the light
in unbearable times,
who testify to its endurance
amid the unendurable,
who bear witness*



*to its persistence
when everything seems
in shadow and grief.*

*Blessed are you
in whom the light
lives, in whom the
brightness blazes
your heart a chapel,
an altar where in the deepest night
can be seen the fire*

*that shines forth in you
in unaccountable faith
in stubborn hope
in love that illuminates
every broken thing it finds.*

Jan Richardson



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 20
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM MASS: Rick Townsend, Lawrence & Elizabeth

Luigs, Joe Herr, Stan & Jackie 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, Mark

Heath, Charlie Kirk, Rabbi Eli Schlander and the victims of the attack on a Jewish synagogue in Sydney, Australia.

10:30 AM MASS: Roger, Ellis & Lillian Murray, Sharon Riley, Mike Dunn, Charles Riley, Stevie Stevens. Delores Schroeder, Dan Schenk, Michael Glaser, for all the people in our parish, Infant Sebastian (1862)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 22

LATE ADVENT MONDAY



6:30 PM MASS: Georgium Wolf (1878), Sr. Felicitas O.S.F. (Frances Gumbel) (1887), John Bender (1908), Magdalen (2018) & Dobatius Baumgart, James Pauli (1973), Louis (1975) & Theresa Folz, Sylvester (1989) & Margaret Will, Herman Ritter (1989), Carolyn (2014) & Herman Tenhumberg

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 23
LATE ADVENT TUESDAY



7:30 AM: Brenda Donofrio, Michael Baumgart (1856), Virginia (2014) & Gilbert Thompson, Mary Stratman



WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24
CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 PM CHRISTMAS MASS WITH CHILDREN
Christmas Flower Memorials

9:00 PM CHRISTMAS MASS AT NIGHT
Christmas Flower Memorials

Infant Schilly (1862), Elisabeth Adler (1872), Maria Helfrich (1878), Nicolaus (1906) & Maria Kissel, Valentine Schili (1945), John Branstrator (1982), Alma (2018) & Paul Schapker



THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS
Christmas Flower Memorials
Guilelmus Bernhard (1872), Edith Beyer (1898), Anita (2012) & Joe Rexing

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 26
ST. STEPHEN

NO MASS: Margaret Witt (1860), Margaret Tenbarge (1902), Philip Bender (1920), Lorine (2000) & John Kissel

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 27
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

5:00 PM MASS: Joann Schoenstein, Frank Happe, for all the people of the parish, John Will (1879), Luella (2008) & Frank Jones



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28
FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

8:00 AM MASS: Carol Dall, Ann Kathleen Hopf, Dave, Kenny, Wilbur and Marian Fehrenbach

10:30 AM MASS: Joann Schoenstein, Delores Schroeder, Bill Helfreich, Jim Collins, Don Schroeder, Magdalena Fisher (1914), Reinildes (2000) & Clarence Botzum, Madeline (2009) & Carl Rexing, Joey Elpers (2009)

STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

When he discovered that Mary was with child, Joseph resolved to end their engagement with as little disgrace as possible. But obedient to the voice of God, he changed those plans and became instead the protector of the child Jesus and his mother Mary. God grant that I

may be as open to the leading of the Holy Spirit,

DECEMBER 14, 2025	\$ 17,940.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 15,350.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 300,866.69
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 368,400.00
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	\$ 15.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	\$ 5.00

Saluting our young stewards: Beatrice, Paul, Peter, Bernadette and John Recklehoff

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI	\$ 227.00
HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS	\$ 1,990.33
HAITI GIFTS OF COMPASSION (FOOD)	\$ 2,295.00
VLADIVOSTOK MISSION	\$ 75.00
MILITARY ARCHDIOCESE COLLECTON	\$ 10.00
REBUILDING OUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN	
TOTAL PLEDGED	\$ 805,572.00
RECEIVED TO DATE	\$ 810,910.23

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



DEC. 21: Ellie Bishop

DEC. 22: Joan David, Braydon Jones

DEC. 23: Reid Grossman, Henrietta Happe, Ellington Rodriguez, Jewel Tenhumberg

DEC. 24: Jack Fleeger, Paul Schapker, Matthew Watson

DEC. 25: Theresa Chapman, Donna Lincoln, Lionel Ruder, Zch Zirkleback

DEC., 26: Addelynn Muensterman, Bian Price, Chaser Waninger, Abby Williams, Lori Wolf

DEC. 27: Edward Geiser, Isaac McNeeley, Dawson Pfaffman

DEC. 21: Jason & Tricia Gerteisen,

DEC. 27: Chad & Jessica Reckelhoff

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Please remember in your prayers *Larry "Roger" Murray* the father of Paul Murray who died last week. May God's peace be with all of them.

CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL (CPC)

PARISH GOAL \$131,040.00

PLEDGED TO DATE \$138,976.00 106%

NUMBER OF PLEDGES 323 68%

AVERAGE PLEDGE \$430.27

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.



Tony & Theresa Tenhumberg

Andy & Andrea Backas

Rick & Tracy Adler

Peter & Jodi Fehrenbacher

Rodney & Star Lincoln

COME JOIN US FOR MASS THIS CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS EVE 4 & 9 PM CHRISTMAS DAY 9 AM

Liturgical Ministers

LECTOR (L) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)

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

WEEKEND OF DECEMBER 27-28: 5 PM (L) Toni Askins, (EM) Donald & Brandon Werner, Mary Kay Fehrenbacher, Donna Niemeier 8:00 AM (L) Dave Schmitt (EM) Marcia Frey, Darlene Appler, Kylie & Stephanie Frey 10:30 AM (L) Chad Martin, (EM) Paul Hillenbrand, Shane & Jena Wessel, Rachael Schnaus

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



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

NEWS • NEWS

The Friday Morning Women's Bible Study will continue to meet on Fridays from 8:30-10 am beginning on January 9th. We will be reading the Acts of the Apostles in 8 sessions. The cost is \$5 for the packet and childcare will be provided!



On Wednesday, January 21st That Man is You will be meeting at 5:30 pm in the school meeting room.

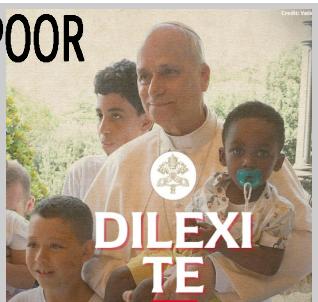
Beginning on January 21, a new Bible Study called "Foundations of Faith" will begin! "Foundations of Faith" will cover the catechism through videos and reading. Please join in any of these wonderful opportunities.



For information about any of the above contact Jessica Reckelhoff, email jreckelhoff@evdio.org, 812-598-1151

ON THE LOVE FOR THE POOR

We are reading from the Apostolic Exhortation *Delexi Te* of Pope Leo to all Christians on the Love of the Poor
The true riches of the Church
Saint John Chrysostom



Among the Eastern Fathers, perhaps the most ardent preacher on social justice was Saint John Chrysostom, Archbishop of Constantinople from the late 300s to the early 400s. In his homilies, he exhorted the faithful to recognize Christ in the needy: "Do you wish to honor the body of Christ? Do not allow it to be despised in its members, that is, in the poor, who have no clothes to cover themselves. Do not honor Christ's body here in church with silk fabrics, while outside you neglect it when it suffers from cold and nakedness... [The body of Christ on the altar] does not need cloaks, but pure souls; while the one outside needs much care. Let us therefore learn to think of and honor Christ as he wishes. For the most pleasing honor we can give to the one we want to venerate is that of doing what he himself desires, not what we devise... So you too, give him the honor he has commanded, and let the poor benefit from your riches. God does not need golden vessels, but golden souls."

Affirming with crystal clarity that, if the faithful do not encounter Christ in the poor who stand at the door, they will not be able to worship him even at the altar, he continues: "What advantage does Christ gain if the sacrificial table is laden with golden vessels, while he himself dies of hunger in the person of the poor? Feed the hungry first, and only afterward adorn the altar with what remains." He understood the Eucharist, therefore, as a sacramental expression of the charity and justice that both preceded and accompanied it. That same charity and justice should perpetuate the Eucharist through love and attention to the poor.

Consequently, charity is not optional but a requirement of true worship. Chrysostom vehemently denounced excessive wealth connected with indifference for the poor. The attention due to them, rather than a mere social requirement, is a condition for salvation, which gives unjust wealth a condemnatory weight. "It is very cold and the poor man lies in rags, dying, freezing, shivering, with an appearance and clothing that should move you. You, however, red in the face and drunk, pass by. And how do you expect God to deliver you from misfortune?... You often adorn an unfeeling corpse, which no longer understands honor, with many varied and gilded garments. Yet you despise the one who feels pain, who is torn apart, tortured, tormented by hunger and cold." This profound sense of social justice leads him to affirm that "not giving to the poor is stealing from them, defrauding them of their lives, because what we have belongs to them."

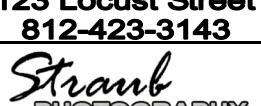
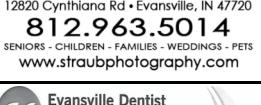
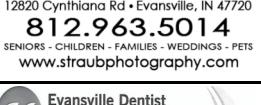
Saint Augustine

Augustine's spiritual guide was Saint Ambrose, who insisted on the ethical requirement to share material goods: "What you give to the poor is not your property, but theirs. Why have you appropriated what was given for common use?" [34] For the Bishop of Milan, almsgiving is justice restored, not a gesture of paternalism. In his preaching, mercy takes on a prophetic character: he denounces structures that accumulate things and reaffirms communion as the Church's vocation.

Formed in this tradition, the holy Bishop of Hippo taught for his part about the preferential love for the poor. A vigilant pastor and theologian of rare insight, he realizes that true ecclesial communion is expressed also in the communion of goods. In his Commentaries on the Psalms, he reminds us that true Christians do not neglect love for those most in need: "Observing your brothers and sisters, you know if they are in need, but if Christ dwells in you, also be charitable to strangers." This sharing of goods therefore stems from theological charity and has as its ultimate goal the love of Christ. For Augustine, the poor are not just people to be helped, but the sacramental presence of the Lord.

TO BE CONTINUED

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