



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

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Evansville, IN 47720

812-963-3273

SCHOOL

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Evansville IN 47720

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VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

DECEMBER 28, 2025 THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY



Dear friends,

This coming Wednesday, January 1 is World Day of Peace. Here are some excerpts from Pope Leo message for World Day of Peace

Whether we have the gift of faith or feel we lack it, let us open ourselves to peace! Let us welcome it and recognize it, rather than believing it to be impossible and beyond our reach. Peace is more than just a goal; it is a principle that guides and defines our choices.

When peace is not a reality that is lived, cultivated and protected, then aggression spreads into domestic and public life. "Consequently," as Saint John XXIII had already written in his day, "people are living in the grip of constant fear. They are afraid that at any moment the impending storm may break upon them with horrific violence."

Saint Augustine advised (people) not to burn bridges but to prefer listening and, where possible, engaging in discussions with others. Saint Francis of Assisi shows us how. In the world of that time, bristling with watchtowers and defensive walls, cities were a theater of brutal wars between powerful families, even as poverty was spreading through the countryside. Yet there Francis was able to welcome true peace into his heart and free himself of the desire to wield power over others. He became one of the poor and sought to live in harmony with all." This is a narrative that we are called to continue today, and that means joining forces to contribute to a disarming peace, a peace born of openness and evangelical humility.

In Pacem in Terris, Pope John XXIII wrote: "Everyone must realize that, unless this process of disarmament be thoroughgoing and complete, and reach people's very souls, it is impossible to stop the arms race, or to reduce armaments, or — and this is the main thing — ultimately to abolish them entirely. Everyone must sincerely co-operate in the effort to banish fear and the anxious expectation of war from our minds. But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust. And we are confident that this can be achieved, for it is a thing which not only is dictated by common sense, but is in itself most desirable and most fruitful of good."

An essential service that religions must render to a suffering humanity is to guard against the growing temptation to weaponize even thoughts and words. The great spiritual traditions, as well as right reason, teach us to look beyond blood ties or ethnicity, beyond associations that accept only those who are similar and reject those who are different. Today, we see that this cannot be taken for granted. Unfortunately, it has become increasingly common to drag the language of faith into political battles, to bless nationalism, and to justify violence and armed struggle in the name of religion. Believers must actively refute, above all by the witness of their lives, these forms of blasphemy that profane the holy name of God.

Therefore, alongside action, it is more necessary than ever to cultivate prayer, spirituality, and ecumenical and interreligious dialogue as paths of peace and as languages of encounter within traditions and cultures. Now more than ever, we must show that peace is not a utopia by fostering attentive and life-giving pastoral creativity.

How can we live in this time of destabilization and conflict, and free ourselves from evil? We need to encourage and support every spiritual, cultural and political initiative that keeps hope alive. For, as has been suggested, "the best way to dominate and gain control over people is to spread despair and discouragement, even under the guise of defending certain values." Against this strategy, we must promote self-awareness in civil societies, forms of responsible association, experiences of nonviolent participation, and practices of restorative justice on both a small and large scale.

Leaning into the journey of life Fr. Gene Schroeder





CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

**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, James & Maybel Blythe

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)

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2025

FIFTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

6:30 PM MASS: Infant Kohl (1871), John Kircher (1872), Frederic Schmitt (1892), Ed Rexing (1984)

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2025

SIXTH DAY IN THE OCTAVE OF CHRISTMAS

7:30 AM MASS: Sr. Wilfrida O.S.F. (Agatham Ludovicum Mayer) (1888), Kaspar Goelzhausen (1896), Charles Alsop (1981), Larry & Stella (2009) Ubelhor, James Woods (2020)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31, 2025

SOLEMNITY OF MARY THE MOTHER OF GOD

5:00 PM MASS: Elisabeth Comings (1880), Olivia (1994) & Leo Schapker, Stephanie Hillmam (2017), Bob Straub (2018), Stanley Schapker (2022)

THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2026

**SOLEMNITY OF MARY
THE MOTHER OF GOD**

8:00 AM MASS: Anna Herrmann (1872) Francis Wolf (1874) Adam

Wolf (1895), Mary (1919) & Thomas Effinger, Barbara (1924) & Thomas Hoefling

FRIDAY, JANUARY 2, 2026

SAINTS BASIL THE GREAT AND GREGORY NAZIANZEN

NO MASS: Catharina Weiss (1929) Susanna Schneider (1930) Peter Schenk (1944), Mary Hoefling (1967), Albert (1990) & Florentina Gries, Willie (2023) & Joyce Nieten (2023)

SATURDAY, JANUARY 3, 2026

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

5:00 PM MASS: Kevin Schapker, Catherine (1963) & Joseph Hillenbrand, Frank (1968) & Olivia Voekler, Blanche Rives (1978), Clara (1998) & Clarence Baumgart, Dorothy (2015) & Francis Hillenbrand, Verena (2019) & Gus Bender

SATURDAY, JANUARY 4, 2026

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8:00 AM MASS: Don & Mary Appler, Jason Rollins, Sr. Benedict SP, Sr. Adeline SP, Henry & Elsie Appler, John & Mina Lorenz,

10:30 AM MASS: Fr. Leo Kiesel, Fr. Ken Knapp, Fr. Bill Dietsch, Fr. Jerry Ziliak, Dave Fehrenbacher, Glenn Fehrenbacher, Denny Fehrenbacher, Harvey Klenck, Adolphus Fahrney (1902) Louise (1953) & Joseph Macke (1953)



STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

Joseph's obedience to God was not a one-time thing. His attention to the angel's warning kept Jesus from being murdered by Herod and led to the fulfillment of the prophecy that the Messiah would be a Nazorean. Fidelity to God's will assures the best use of my talents, too!



DECEMBER 21, 2025	\$ 19,619.35
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 15,350.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 320,486.04
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 383,750.00
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION	\$ 20.00

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

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HAITI STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS	\$ 1,200.00
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(Includes 840.65 from St. Joseph School Students)	
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RETIRED RELIGIOUS COLLECTON	\$ 40.00
ST. VINCENT DePAUL	\$ 25.00

REBUILDING OUR CHURCH CAMPAIGN

TOTAL PLEDGED	\$ 805,572.00
RECEIVED TO DATE	\$ 815,910.23

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

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. 28: Mike Burk, Juliette Engler, Nicole Paul, Steve Hasselbrinck, Laura Hays, Lynn Kiesel, Ethan Mayer, Cindy Meyer, Brant Rexing
DEC. 29: Maycee Curtis, Terry Drone, Payne Schiff, Randy Fehrenbacher, Vanessa Vanbibber
DEC. 30: Jean Brown, Jack Galt, Jared Galt, Finley Kendle, Tucker King, Stan Love

DEC. 31: Diane Bassemier, Becky Muensterman

JAN. 1: Bobby Mossberger, Beckett Tenbarger

JAN. 2: Becky Raben

JAN. 3: Ella Paul, Carolyn Wargel

DEC. 30: Joe & Kathy Weber

JAN. 1: Charles & Monica Voelker,
Joe & Karla Deweese

JAN. 3: Jordan & Kelly Wilkinson

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



**HAPPY
ANNIVERSARY**



NEW YEAR'S DAY MASS

**December 31 5 PM
January 1 8 AM**



Please remember in your prayers *Robert Wagner*, the uncle of Marcia Frey and Margie Hartman, *Kevin Schapker*, the son of Ray and Charlene Schapker, and *Fr. Leo Kiesel*, the brother of Don Kiesel who has served as a priest in our diocese for over 63 years. a priest of the father of Paul Murray who died last week. May God's peace be with all of them.

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR ST. JOE LOTTERY TICKET? \$75

Liturgical Ministers

LECTOR (L) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)

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

WEEKEND OF JANUARY 4-5: 5 PM: (L) Sis Jarboe (EM) Eric and Karen McDonald, Butch and Linda Feulner 8 AM: (L) Tom Blythe (EM) Tom and Dolores Folz, Jalane Weber Michael Elpers 10:30 AM: (L) Steve Jung, (EM) Becky Doshier Shane Wessel, Steve Jung Debra Baumgart

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

CHRISTMAS THANKS!

Special thanks to all the folks who helped to decorate our church for Christmas last Sunday. We are especially grateful to Karla Murray for all the work she does in decorating as well. Thanks also to Kristan Gilles, our Director of Liturgy for all her hard work in preparing for the Christmas liturgies. And the same goes for the members of our choir, all the special instrumentalists who shared their gifts with us as well. You have all blessed us beyond measure! May we never take for granted the gift you continue to offer to us!



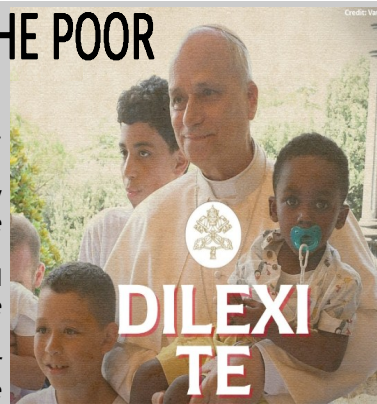
ADDITIONAL CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIAL NAMES

Mary Bell, Janice Wittgen, Julia Best, Bill Helfrich, Delores & Don Schroeder, Elmer & Al Weinzapfel, Helen & Linus Schenk, Mary Margaret, Clarence & Margaret Schenk, Kristen Mitchell, Joyce Messersmith, Randy, Ray, Dan & Charles Schenk, Dolores Tenhumberg, Michael Lawrence Nemeier, Herman Tenhumberg Jr., Carol Tenhumberg, Charlie & Ruth Head, Oliver Wallace, Fran Happe, Kenny Fehrenbacher, Adam Kissel, Della Kissel, Ralph Kissel, Marian Fehrenbacher, Wilbur Fehrenbacher, Walter & Evelyn Weis, Jerry Weis, Dennis Weis, Albert & Viola Martin, Fritz Martin, Betty White, Mary Rexing, Guy Smyth LET US REMEMBER THE GIFT THEY HAVE BEEN IN OUR LIVES.



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



The Doctor of Grace saw caring for the poor as concrete proof of the sincerity of faith. Anyone who says they love God and has no compassion for the needy is lying (cf. 1 Jn 4:20). Commenting on Jesus' encounter with the rich young man and the "treasure in heaven" reserved for those who give their possessions to the poor (cf. Mt 19:21), Augustine puts the following words in the Lord's mouth: "I received the earth, I will give heaven; I received temporal goods, I will give back eternal goods; I received bread, I will give life... I have been given hospitality, but I will give a home; I was visited when I was sick, but I will give health; I was visited in prison, but I will give freedom. The bread you have given to my poor has been consumed, but the bread I will give will not only refresh you, but will never end." The Almighty will not be outdone in generosity to those who serve the people most in need: the greater the love for the poor, the greater the reward from God.

This Christocentric and deeply ecclesial perspective leads us to affirm that offerings, when born of love, not only alleviate the needs of one's brother or sister, but also purify the heart of the giver, if he or she is willing to change. Indeed, in the words of Pseudo-Augustine: "almsgiving can be beneficial to you in erasing past sins, if you have amended your ways." It is, so to speak, the ordinary path to conversion for those who wish to follow Christ with an undivided heart.

In a Church that recognizes in the poor the face of Christ and in material goods the instrument of charity, Augustine's thought remains a sure light. Today, fidelity to Augustine's teachings requires not only the study of his works, but also a readiness to live radically his call to conversion, which necessarily includes the service of charity.

Many other Fathers of the Church, both Eastern and Western, have spoken about the primacy of attention to the poor in the life and mission of every Christian. From this perspective, in summary, it can be said that patristic theology was practical, aiming at a Church that was poor and for the poor, recalling that the Gospel is proclaimed correctly only when it impels us to touch the flesh of the least among us, and warning that doctrinal rigor without mercy is empty talk.

Care of the sick

Christian compassion has manifested itself in a particular way in the care of the sick and suffering. Based on the signs present in Jesus' public ministry – the healing of the blind, lepers and paralytics – the Church understands that caring for the sick, in whom she readily recognizes the crucified Lord, is an important part of her mission.

During a plague in the city of Carthage, where he was Bishop, Saint Cyprian reminded Christians of the importance of caring for the sick: "This pestilence and plague, which seems so horrible and deadly, searches out the righteousness of each one, and examines the minds of the human race, to see whether the healthy serve the sick; whether relatives love each other with sincerity; whether masters have pity on their sick servants; whether doctors do not abandon the sick who beg for help."

The Christian tradition of visiting the sick, washing their wounds, and comforting the afflicted is not simply a philanthropic endeavor, but an ecclesial action through which the members of the Church "touch the suffering flesh of Christ." **TO BE CONTINUED**

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