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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

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WEBSITE

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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PARISH STAFF

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mgries@evdio.org

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DECEMBER 7, 2025 THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT



Dear friends,

Monday's feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary got me to thinking. Mary could have said "No" to the invitation from the Angel Gabriel. In my daily prayer this week, I came across this reflection. Had she said no, she would not have faced public scrutiny or physical endangerment as an unmarried pregnant woman in her day would have faced. She would have been spared the empire's hunt for her blacklisted family, driving them to live the life of refugees on the run. And she would have never known the unthinkable loss of watching her firstborn take his last breath.

Her path would have been so much safer, perhaps easier and even happier, if Mary had just said no. And yet she chose the growing edge, where our truest self and life will always be found. And this choice made way for the life of the world. She made a radical choice for expansion, not just over happiness, but over personal comfort, safety, and reputation. Expansion was the call, and against its many risks, the mother of God said yes—stretching her body as well as her imagination for just what kind of hope this might be, growing now within her.

There are many ways for a life to expand. We stretch by reaching toward each otherby reaching out from the solo act into the plural "we," the pronoun God loves most. Life is long, the feast is wide, and we are meant for keeping it together. Our hearts are a muscle made in the image of God, made for connection. And there are so many ways of being kin-

We enact our own advents every time we brave reaching beyond the borders of the self toward each other. Every time we reach toward each other—considering the risk, compelled by love—we are saying "yes.".

Advent is the story of beginnings, revealing a God who dares to expand, who chooses enlargement over happiness, no matter the chaos. And so, in the true spirit of Advent, can we find our courage to say "yes?" All this sounds so much like Pope Leo, who, when asked this past week, what it was like when he was elected pope. "So what was it like? I resigned myself to the fact when I saw how things were going, and I said that this could be a reality. I took a deep breath, I said here we go Lord, you're in charge, you lead the way." Can we do anything less in our lives?

> "Leaning into the journey of life Fr. Gene Schroeder

CATHOLIC MINISTRY APPEAL (CPC)

PARISH GOAL \$131,040.00 PLEDGED TO DATE \$129,785.00 99% NUMBER OF PLEDGES 299 58% AVERAGE PLEDGE \$434.06

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.

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Ted & Janet

WE'RETALMOST THERE! MAKE YOUR PLEDGE AND TO GO! HELP US GET OVER THE TOP!

ONLY 1%

In the darkness before dawn. the yearning heart lies waiting. Not asleep. The dark night speaks of emptiness., of solitude. Waiting for He who is to come. For nine months. the Lady waits, wondering.... Each moment pregnant with unknown possibilities. We wait, wondering, yearning. The Sun rises, incrementally. The Child grows, day by day. Slowly, oh so very slowly, that which is hidden becomes more clear.... The way before us opens up... To the Presence in which we, all unknowing, are immersed. We step forth now, in increasing radiance, no longer quite as blind. —Christina V.

An Advent Poem



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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 Tieken, Barthel Bender (1959)



MONDAY, DECEMBER 8 FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

7:30 AM MASS (IN CHURCH): Leo & Marie Gumbel, Rose & Leroy Weiss, Freddie Weiss, Hank & June Preske, Dorothy Kroeger, Elmer & Stan Schapker, Kenny & Marcia Hipp

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9 **ADVENT WEEKDAY**

7:30 AM MASS: Walter Reherman (1989), Donald (2003) & Charlotte Titzer, Sr. Dorothy Steckler, O.S.F. (2013)

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10 **ADVENT WEEKDAY**

7:30 AM MASS: Elisabeth Stoeckle (1862), Lillian Hillenbrand (1938), Paul (1942) & Maria Kissel, Boobie & Betty Maurer, Kenneth Maurer (2013), Cyril (2015) & Wilma Ubelhor

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11 **ADVENT WEEKDAY**

NO MASS: Bernard Heerdink (1863), Christian Deichelbohor (1863), Joseph Berhardt (1863), Infant Trunk (1863), Infant Sheiner (1863), Infant Steinnetz (1863), Infant Kohl (1871), Mary Kissel (1942), Elmer Debes (1982), Val Pfaffman (2011), Dolores (2013) & Joe Elpers (2013), Gus (2018) & Verena Ben-

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12 **OUR LADY OF GUADELUPE**

7:30 AM MASS (IN THE RECTORY): Fred Goebel (1947), Judy Stevens (2008)

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13 THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5:00 PM MASS: Bill & Lula Townsend, Margaret Adler (1888), Maria Rexing (1898), William Wolf (1918), Raymond (1958) & FFrancis 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, For all the people in our parish

10:30 AM MASS: 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)



STEWARDSHIP: The Lord's Way

We must be good stewards of God's gifts to us, receiving them gratefully and cultivating them with care lest we be the ones about whom John the Baptist speaks today: "Every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

NOVEMBER 23, 2025 10,261.00 **WEEKLY BUDGET** 15,350.00 TOTAL INCOME TO DATE 274,031.76 **BUDGET TO DATE** 337,700.00 CHILDREN'S COLLECTION

> Saluting our young stewards: Beatrice, Paul, Peter, Bernadette & John Reckelhoff

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI 40.00 HAITI STUDENTS SPONSORSHIPS 400.00 HAITI FOOD FUND \$ 2,340.00 **VLADIVOSTOK MISSION** 141.00 ST. VINCENT DePAUL 30.00

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 \$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. 7: Bill Cody, Tom Glaser, Becky Jung, Sarah Kissel, Evan Loehrlein, Eugene Schmitt

DEC. 8: Karen Angermeier

DEC. 9: Julie Fehrenbacher, Ansley Singer,

Linda Whelan

DEC. 10: Sophie Lamble, Bill Duncan,

Lucas Macke, Diane Wunderlich

DEC. 11: Julie Conley, Jaycee Curtis, Betty Hartz, Jon Straus, Madeline Williams

DEC. 12: Victor Austin, Andy Deweese, Landon Gaiser, Nikkie Mayer, Michael Weber

DEC. 13: Sherry Genet, Cole Happe, Eric Reffett, Paul Hillenbrand, Eric Reffett, Mihret Whitehouse

DEC. 10: Jeff and Cindy Meyer





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

Join us This Sunday December 7 for

Breakfast With Santa Serving 9 am - Noon





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 & ECTOR (I) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM) Stephaine Frey, 10:30 AM (L) Jane Scheller, (EM) Becky Dosher Rachel Schnaus, Debra

Baumgart Al Debes

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, Michael Elpers Chick Duncan 10:30 AM: (L) Chad Martin (EM) Shane Wessel Diane Bassemier, Danielle Weledge Doris Taylor

IT'S LOTTERY TIME

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Parents Night Out is coming- Saturday December 13th from 6-9 pm. If interested, contact Jessica Reckelhoff (812-598-1151) to register by Dec. 8th. \$10.00 per child.

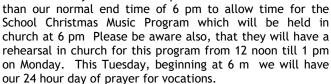
CHRISTMAS FLOWER MEMORIALS

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. Send the name or names of people

you want to remember along with your donation to the parish office by Dec. 16. The names will be printed in the Christmas bulletin.

MONDAY, December 8, is the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, a holy day of obligation. We will have mass at 7:30 am.

A NOTE ABOUT EUCHARISTIC ADO-RATION THIS WEEK: Eucharistic adoration on Monday will end at 5 pm rather



THIS CHRISTMAS GIVE 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

COME JOIN US THIS WEEK.....

--Knights of St. John--Monday 7 pm --Altar Society Christmas Dinner Thursday 6 pm Call 812-483-4799) for reservations

--St. Joe Senior Citizen Christmas Pot Luck Dinner Friday at Noon in the Meeting Room



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

We find a clear ecclesial example of sharing goods and caring for the poor in the daily life of the first Christian community. We can recall in particular the way in which the question of the daily distribution of subsidies to wid-



ows was resolved (cf. Acts 6:1-6). This was not an easy problem, partly because some of these widows, who came from other countries, were sometimes neglected because they were foreigners. In fact, the episode recounted in the Acts of the Apostles highlights a certain discontent on the part of the Hellenists, the Jews who were culturally Greek. The Apostles do not respond with abstract words, but by placing charity towards all at the center, reorganizing assistance to widows by asking the community to seek wise and respected people to whom they could entrust food distribution, while they take care of preaching the Word.

When Paul went to Jerusalem to consult the Apostles lest somehow he "should be running or had run in vain" (Gal 2:2), he was asked not to forget the poor (cf. Gal 2:10). Therefore, he organized various collections in order to help the poor communities. Among the reasons for which Paul makes this gesture, the following stands out: "God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:7). The word of God reminds those of us not normally prone to benevolent and disinterested gestures, that generosity to the poor actually benefits those who exercise it: God has a special love for them. In fact, the Bible is full of promises addressed to those who give generously to others: "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full" (Prov 19:17). "Give, and it will be given to you... for the measure you give will be the measure you get back" (Lk 6:38). "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly" (Is 58:8). Of this, the early Christians had no doubt.

The life of the first ecclesial communities, described in the pages of the Bible and handed down to us as God's revealed word, has been given to us as an example to imitate, but also as a witness to the faith that works through charity and an enduring inspiration for generations yet to come. Throughout the centuries, those pages have moved the hearts of Christians to love and to perform works of charity, which, like fruitful seeds, never cease to produce a rich harvest.

CHAPTER THREE: A CHURCH FOR THE POOR

Three days after his election, my predecessor expressed to the representatives of the media his desire that care and attention for the poor be more clearly present in the Church: "How I would like a Church which is poor and for the poor!"

This desire reflects the understanding that the Church recognizes in those who are poor and who suffer, the likeness of its poor and suffering founder. Indeed, since the Church is called to identify with those who are least, at her core there can be no room for doubt or for explanations which weaken so clear a message... We have to state, without mincing words, that there is an inseparable bond between our faith and the poor. In this regard, we have numerous witnesses from disciples of Christ spanning almost two millennia.

Despite their poverty, the early Christians were clearly aware of the necessity to care for those who were most in need. . Already at the dawn of Christianity, the Apostles laid their hands on seven men chosen from the community, integrating them into the ministry for the service - diakonía in Greek - of the poorest. It is significant that the first disciple to bear witness to his faith in Christ to the point of shedding his blood was Stephen, who belonged to this group. In him, the witness of caring for the poor and of martyrdom are united. TO BE CONTINUED

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