



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

FEBRUARY 1, 2026 THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

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SCHOOL

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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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Vanderburgh County"



Dear friends,

The routine of life got disrupted a bit this past week. That's what 12 inches of snow will do. I am very grateful for all the folks who came last Sunday afternoon to clear our parking lot. Even with all the tractors and snow blowers, it was still quite a task. Special thanks to Tom Strupp,



Jim Elsner, Patrick Fehrenbacher, Ryan Niemeier, Peter Fehrenbacher, Dennis Niemeier, Zach Fehrenbacher, and Bob & Mary Kay Fehrenbacher.

Special thanks as well to Debbie and Tom Clem who have been preparing our monthly newsletter for mailing for the past several years. Now this job has been taken over by another great group of folks who gathered after mass this past Wednesday to prepare our February newsletter for mailing. Super job!

The snow and cold weather were not the only things we have had to cope with this week. The troubling issues surrounding immigration enforcement and threats from our government to take over countries can leave us with heavy hearts. As Pope Leo said in his address to diplomatic corps on Jan. 9, "A diplomacy that promotes dialogue and seeks consensus among all parties is being replaced by a diplomacy based on force, by either individuals or groups of allies. War is back in vogue and a zeal for war is spreading."

This past January 22, people gathered for the national right to life day. At the heart of this gathering is recognizing the dignity of all human life. We can't just recognize the dignity of an immigrant but fail to recognize the dignity of an unborn fetus. And, likewise, we cannot just recognize the dignity of an unborn fetus and be indifferent to the migrant, the person starving to death and the victims of war. It all goes together. When we stand for life, we have to be willing to stand for all life. And if we take this to heart, then it will cause us to think long and hard about what we do with our time and energy, what we do with our money, and who we vote for.

We face many difficult situations in our world and they do not have easy solutions. But we have to be willing to wrestle with them and let them challenge what we believe and how we live. I find it interesting that when people come face to face with a real person and not just "some other nameless people," things have a way of changing.

I remember talking with a person who was complaining about how there were too many people just wanting a handout from the government. When I talked with him about a young man who became a quadriplegic as a result of a car accident and would likely be dependent upon the government to fund his care in a nursing home for the rest of his life, my friend said, "well, that's different."

Perhaps our greatest challenge is to allow ourselves to get to know real people, migrants searching for a better life, a young woman contemplating an abortion, or the nameless fetus that is aborted. They are all sons and daughters of God and we are called to see them and uphold their dignity.

Leaning into the journey of life

Fr. Gene Schroeder

COFFEE, DONUTS AND MORE
FROM THE ALTAR SOCIETY
TODAY AFTER THE 8 AM MASS

GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE

TODAY 8 --NOON IN THE GYM

Shoulders

A man crosses the street in rain,
stepping gently, looking
two times north and south,
because his son is
asleep on his shoulder.
No car must splash him.
No car drive too near
to his shadow.

This man carries the
world's most sensitive cargo
but he's not marked.

Nowhere does his jacket say
FRAGILE, HANDLE WITH CARE.
His ear fills up with breathing.

He hears the hum of a boy's
dream deep inside him.
We're not going to be able
to live in this world
if we're not willing to do what he's
doing with one another.

The road will only be wide.
The rain will never stop falling.

—Naomi Shihab Nye



**CELEBRATION OF
THE EUCHARIST**
SATURDAY, JANUARY 31
FOURTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM MASS: Pat Koch, Jan Hermann, Lee Askins, Mary Seiler (1888), George (1957) & Mary Reising, Joan (2013) & Charles Roberts, Mary (2013) & Eugene Butler



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM MASS: William & Dorothy Martin, Bud & Sharon Werner, Dolly Werner, John Koch, Joe & Mag Eickhoff, Joe & Dolores Elpers, Paul, Marlon & Ella Mae Kroeger, Delores Strupp

10:30 AM MASS: For all the people in our parish, Catharina Fischer (1872), Samuel Fischer (1889), Henry Schorlan (1894), Joseph Urich (1931), Louis (1945) & Elizabeth Happe, Leo (1958) & Oliva Schapker, Phyllis Mangold (1974), Veronica Mayer (1981), Chester (1993) & Donna Fenwick, Albion Inkembardt (2012), Kevin Glaser (2012)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2
THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

6:30 PM MASS: Rob, Francis & Norma Maurer, Maria Trunk (1889), Don (2016) & Darlene Baumgart

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3
ST BLAISE

7:30 AM MASS: Paul Hillenbrand (1922), Walter Schneider (1965), Albert (1977) & Thelma Scheu, Mary Preske (1984), Elnora Wolter (1986), Kaysie McGehee (1991), Esther (2003) & Ray Will

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4
WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM MASS: Peter Sohmer (1861), Eva Weiss (1883), Edwin Bender (1949)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5
ST. AGATHA

NO MASS: Hieronymus Fischer (1883), Christina Angermeyer (1884), Magdalene (1968) & Frank Baumgart, Delores Strupp (2023)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6
ST. PAUL MIKA AND COMPANIONS

7:30 AM MASS: Regina Spitzer (1892), Valentine Effinger (1913), Charlie Bergwitz (1992), Brenda & Charles Bergwitz, Gerald Drone (2001), Imelda (2022) & Bob Woodward, Bruce, Leonard & Robert Woodward

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM MASS: Mark Zirkelbach, Magdalen Lambers (1905), Gertrude Schenk (1913), Evelyn (2003) & Butch Raben, Ray (2007) & Betty Fischer For all the people in our parish

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM: Wilfred, Helen, Anton & Mary Gress Andrew Schentrup, Walter & Idaann Schentrup, Adam, Clara, Kenny, Adam Jr. & Fr Jim Blessinger

10:30 AM MASS: Francis Seiler (1886), Crescentia Hassing (1900), Donatius (1917) & Magdalena Baumgart, Sylvester (1951) & Leona Niemeier, Anthony Seib (1965), Theodore (1991) & Virginia Conner, Wilfred(1999) & Henrietta Baehl

You are the light of the world
Matthew 5:14

Blessed are they who are what they are and do what do for the sake of the kingdom! The Gospel today assures good stewards that their suffering and their service on behalf of the Kingdom will be rewarded!



STEWARDSHIP: The Lord's Way

JANUARY 25, 2026	\$ 28,175.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 15,350.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 427,364.61
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 460,500.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	\$ 5.00

Saluting our young stewards, Beatrice, Peter, Paul, John, & Bernadette Reckhoff

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI	\$ 90.00
HAITI SWING HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 75.00
ST. VINCENT DePAUL	\$ 5.00
HAITI FOOD FUND	\$ 4,100.00
MARY MOTHER OF GOD MISSION	\$ 1,000.00

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

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

HERITAGE: Brenda Koester, Jack Fleeger

HOLIDAY RETIREMNT VILLAGE: Anna Mae Gries

BETHEL MANOR: Margaret Kafel

CYPRUS REHABILITATION CENTER (NEWBURGH): Steve Hasselbrinck

RIVERWALK COMMUNITY: Carl Kempf

RIVER POINTE: Beverly Jones

HAMILTON POINTE: Carolyn Pfaffman

EVANSVILLE PROTESTANT HOME: Mary Lou Davis

FEB. 2: Christy Atherton, Ben Gries, Logan Kassenbrock, **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** Grayson Luigs, Trey Schultz, Jena Wessel

FEB. 3: Amy Back, Joe Back, Neil Kassenbrock, Joe Mayer (96 years old!), Eric Waninger



FEB. 4: Carol Gries, Randy Tenbarge

FEB. 5: Quinton Keil, Julie Keller, Allen Rexing, Edna Spaetti

FEB. 6: Hugh Arnold, Hannah Kares,

Pat Kempf, Bryan Roemke, Mark Schulze

FEB. 7: Jess Quinlin, Fr. Gene Schroeder, Bill Steiner, Alex Will



FEB. 4: Phil & Becky Dosher

FEB. 5: Bryan & Karen Trimborn

Please remember in your prayers **Wilfred Gress**, the grandfather of Stephanie Hostetler, **Mark Zirkelbach**, the father of Zach Zirkelbach and **Andrew Schentrup**, the brother of Lawrence Schentrup who died last week. May God's peace be with all the members of her family.

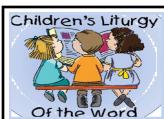
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**CHILDREN (age 4 thru 2nd grade) ARE INVITED
TO JOIN US FOR THE LITURGY OF THE WORD
AT THE 10:30 AM MASS EACH SUNDAY**

Liturgical Ministers

LECTOR (L) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)

WEEKEND OF JAN. 31-FEB. 1: 5 PM (L) Susie Schapker, (EM) Butch and Linda Feulner, Diane Woods, Eric Reffett 8 AM: (L) Marcia Frey (EM) Kylie & Stephanie Frey, Tom and Dolores Folz 10:30 AM (L) Shane Wessel (EM) Jane Scheller, Steve Jung, Al Debes Rachel Schnaus

WEEKEND OF FEB. 7 & 8 5 PM (L) Sis Jarboe, (EM) Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher, Donald & Brandon Werner 8 AM (L) Jalene Weber, (EM) Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers, Randy and Kathy, Fehrenbacher 10:30 AM (L) Steve Jung (EM) Danielle Weledge, Doris Taylor, Diane Bassemier, Debra Baumgart

COMING THIS WEEK.....

- **Women's Bible Study Friday 8:30-10 am** We will meet in the school meeting room. We're studying the Acts of the Apostles. Childcare Provided
- **That Man is You Wednesday, at 5:30 pm** in the school meeting room.
- **Foundations of Faith** covering the catechism through videos and reading. **Wednesday at 6:30 pm in the meeting room**

For information contact Jessica Reckelhoff, email jreckelhoff@evdio.org, 812-598-1151

SIGN UP NOW FOR ST. JOE COMMUNITY BASEBALL/SOFTBALL



Sign Up now, for the 2026 St Joe Community Baseball & Softball teams. Boys and girls age 3-12. <http://www.leaguelineup.com/stjbaseball>. Questions? Call Jon Eickhoff at 812-455-3361.

Coming....March 7 & 8, 2026

HOPE

Women's Retreat

Join us for this exciting 2 day retreat. We will host motivational talks brunch, dinner, snacks, drinks crafts, music and a spa hour. This retreat is a time to get away from all the daily distractions, deepen your faith, all the while sharing in love for the Lord.

We can't wait for you to join us!

Register on line at St. Joe Facebook. \$50/person Or contact Jessica Reckelhoff (jreckelhoff@evdkio.org) or Rachel Schnaus (rschnaus@yahoo) to register or for questions.



PARISH FISH FRYS COMING FEBRUARY 27 and MARCH 13

JANUARY LOTTERY WINNERS: (THANKS to all those who bought Lottery Tickets this year and THANKS TO ALL OUR TICKET SELLERS) **ST. JOE:** \$750-Clarence Brosmer, \$300-Toni Askins, \$200-Bruce Wehr, \$100-Haiti Food Fund **MATER DEI TRADITION:** \$10,000-Jared Hillenbrand & Emily Lamb, \$1,500-Karen Lively, \$1000-Stan Weinzapfel, \$500-Toni Askins

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*

Saint Dominic de Guzmán, a contemporary of Francis, founded the Order of Preachers, with a different charism but the same radicalism of life. He wanted to proclaim the Gospel with the authority that comes from a life of poverty, convinced that the Truth needs witnesses of integrity. The example of poverty in their lives accompanied the Word they preached.

Free from the weight of earthly goods, the Dominican Friars were better able to dedicate themselves to their principal work of preaching. They went to the cities, especially the universities, in order to teach the truth about God. In their dependence on others, they showed that faith is not imposed but offered. And by living among the poor, they learned the truth of the Gospel "from below," as disciples of the humiliated Christ.

The mendicant orders were therefore a living response to exclusion and indifference. They did not expressly propose social reforms, but an individual and communal conversion to the logic of the Kingdom. For them, poverty was not a consequence of a scarcity of goods, but a free choice: to make themselves small in order to welcome the small.

As Thomas of Celano said of Francis: "He showed that he loved the poor intensely... He often stripped himself naked to clothe the poor, whom he sought to resemble." Beggars became the symbol of a pilgrim, humble and fraternal Church, living among the poor not to proselytize but as an expression of their true identity. They teach us that the Church is a light when she strips herself of everything, and that holiness passes through a humble heart devoted to the least among us.

THE CHURCH AND THE EDUCATION OF THE POOR

Since ancient times, Christians have understood that knowledge liberates, gives dignity, and brings us closer to the truth. For the Church, teaching the poor was an act of justice and faith. Inspired by the example of the Master who taught people divine and human truths, she took on the mission of forming children and young people, especially the poorest, in truth and love. This mission took shape with the founding of congregations dedicated to education.

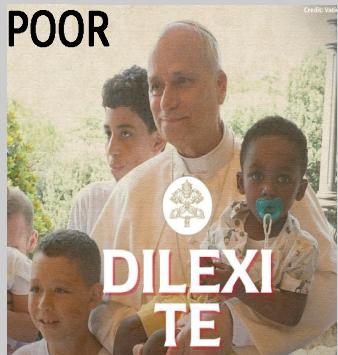
In the sixteenth century, Saint Joseph Calasanz, struck by the lack of education and training among the poor young people of Rome, established Europe's first free public school in some rooms adjacent to the church of Santa Dorotea in Trastevere.

This was the seed from which the Poor Clerics Regular of the Mother of God of the Pious Schools would later emerge and develop, though not without difficulty. Their goal was that of transmitting to young people "not only secular knowledge but also the wisdom of the Gospel, teaching them to recognize, in their personal lives and in history, the loving action of God the Creator and Redeemer." In fact, we can consider this courageous priest as the "true founder of the modern Catholic school, aimed at the integral formation of people and open to all."

Inspired by the same sensitivity, Saint John Baptist de La Salle, realizing the injustice caused by the exclusion of the children of workers and ordinary people from the educational system of France at that time, founded the Brothers of the Christian Schools in the seventeenth century, with the ideal of offering them free education, solid formation, and a fraternal environment.

De La Salle saw the classroom as a place for human development, but also for conversion. In his colleges, prayer, method, discipline and sharing were combined. Each child was considered a unique gift from God, and the act of teaching was a service to the Kingdom of God.

TO BE CONTINUED



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