



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDEBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

FEBRUARY 15, 2026 THE SIXTH 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

Evansville, IN 47720

812-963-3273

SCHOOL

6130 W. Saint Joseph Road

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812-963-3335

WEBSITE

www.stjoeco.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

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Dear friends,

Lent is upon us again and with it a fascinating list of rituals and traditions that have been passed on to us through the years. The tradition that most people are familiar with is receiving ashes on Ash Wednesday. The ashes comes from burning palms used on Palm Sunday. On Palm Sunday people waved palms and spread them on the road as Jesus came through. The very people that gave Jesus such a rousing welcome into the city, would days later, demand that Jesus be crucified. As a reminder that we too, often turn our backs on the very things that Jesus asks of us as His disciples, we have the ashes placed on our heads in a very public way. Upon receiving these ashes, we hear the very traditional words "remember you are dust and unto dust you shall return."

Lent was, and still is filled with days of fast and abstinence. Fasting has to do with partially or completely refraining from eating while abstinence has to do with refraining from eating certain foods. Traditionally Ash Wednesday and Good Friday were, and still are, days of fast (eating less than we normally do) and abstinence (in our case, not eating meat). Friday's during Lent were, and still are, days of abstinence. One of the great unintended consequences of this tradition is the introduction of a whole other tradition—"Lenten Fish Frys."

Interestingly, all kinds of folks in the world of healthy living, have seen the benefits of fasting. They don't necessarily talk about it as fasting, but instead use terms like "cleansing the toxins from our body." While fasting clearly can become a means of strengthening one's will through self-discipline, it has always been something more than a mere exercise in self-denial. An obscure second-century text entitled "The Shepherd of Hermas" makes fasting purposeful: in fasting, one is to deny oneself in order to become more generous to those in need. When fasting, the author suggests, it is appropriate to calculate what one would have spent on food and offer it to "a widow, an orphan, or one in need," echoing the Old Testament idiom for the most vulnerable in society.

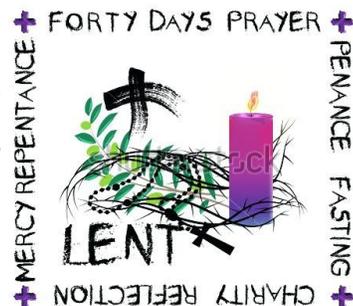
Ideally, fasting places us in solidarity with those in need and prompts us to act on their behalf from our surplus. The slight annoyance we might feel at not enjoying some treat or in foregoing a meal is but a small twinge that reminds us from the inside out that there are many each day who would gladly feast of what we so blithely throw away. Fasting is fruitless if it simply makes us irritable or self-absorbed. It is a concrete means both of self-discipline and a tangible reliance upon God's grace and the growth in charity that it engenders, rather than as an end in itself.

If you are looking for a way to make a practical connection between fasting and being generous to those in need, why not consider going out for dinner one less time and then give the money you would have used for that meal to our Haiti Food Fund. The money you give will help us provide a noon meal for the six hundred children who are in the grade school and high school at St. James Parish. For us it might just be the inconvenience of doing without for a short time. For the children in Haiti, the meal we provide is often the difference between having something to eat for the day or going hungry.

So, as we prepare for another Lenten Season, let's pray for each that this time be a fruitful and life-giving time for all of us.

Leaning into the journey of life

Fr. Gene Schroeder



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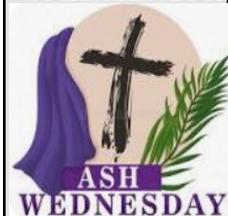
LENT BEGINS THIS COMING

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Mass at 7:30 am
with distribution
of Ashes

Penance Service
with distribution
of Ashes

11 am & 7 pm



ASH WEDNESDAY

This year, we will be following a much older Catholic tradition of having ashes sprinkled on our heads.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM MASS: Paul & Betty Horak, Esther & Dennis Dossett, Infant Schili (1889), Henry Grawe (1890), Anthony Reising (1925), Margory Thornton (1934), Joyce Riedford (1934), Blanch Harting (1949)



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM MASS: John Reckelhoff, Basil, Marie, Dennis, Luke & Ali Mehringer, Bill Bennett, Don Buckhsm For all the people in our parish

10:30 AM MASS: Jerry Shekell, Elmer, Luiclle, Joy, Jan, Zeke, & Debbie Zirkelbach, Robert Wagner, Regina Urich (1861), Maria Lunkenheimer (1888)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 16

WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

6:30 PM MASS: Cyrilla Recker, John Nau (1869), Anna (1954) & John Steckler, Clarence (1974) & Clara Baumgart, Matthew Kares (1978), Frank (1995) & Luella Jones, Sr. Mary Martha Baumgart (Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart) (2003), Everett "Bub" Baylor (2025)

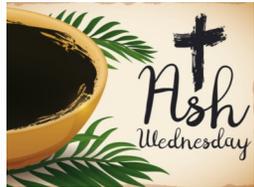
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17

WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM MASS: Nicholas Bauer (1865), Christina Effinger (1899), Sr. Ildephonsa O.S.F. (Anna Wolf) (1942), Edward Whiting (1958), Frank (1960) & Theresa Maurer, Theresa (2011) & Frank Arnold (2011), Jim (2011) & Delores Niemeier

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

ASH WEDNESDAY



7:30 AM MASS: Rosina Effinger (1886), Margaret Hillenbrandt (1902), Judy Barnett (1953), Don Flick (2013)

11:00 AM PENANCE SERVICE

7:30 PM PENANCE SERVICE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

NO MASS: Francis Bergwitz (1877), Maria (1913) & Nicholas Kissel

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

7:30 AM MASS: Gary, Vicotr & Mae Hasenour, Frank (1956) & Bertha Gerteisen, Francis Gries (1987), Elsie (1995) & Albert Hillenbrand, Millie (2006) & Earl Hoefling

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 PM MASS: Ray Hamner, Lawrence & Drusie Hamner, Martha Steele, Joyce McNally, Mildred, Lawrence, Ben, JB, & Steve Hamner. Joseph Rexing (1876)



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM MASS: Jim Butler, Joe & Nannie Schmitt, Daryl Schmitt, Eileen Heerdink, Joe Bassemier

10:30 AM MASS: David Mohr, Loretta Hoehn, Ollie Stoutland, Joseph Fogel (1921), Lucille Angermeier (1992)

JOIN THE ALTAR SOCIETY AS THEY MAKE KUCHENS NEXT SATURDAY, FEB. 21 at 7:30 AM



Stewardship involves more than just the gift we bring to the altar. Today's readings say clearly that it is fidelity to God's law that makes our offering acceptable.



STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

FEBRUARY 8, 2026	\$ 18,963.60
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 15,350.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 457,105.96
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 491,200.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	\$ 5.00
MAINTENANCE COLLECTION:	\$ 45.00

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

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI	\$ 225.00
HAITI SWING HOPE SCHOLARSHIPS	\$ 75.00
ST. VINCENT DePAUL	\$ 205.00
HAITI FOOD FUND	\$ 20.00
LATIN AMERICA	\$ 5.00

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. 15: *Mary Mayer*

FEB. 16: *Emily Daugherty, Mia Link*

FEB. 17: *Brian Bates, Debbie Clem, Jake Iannert, Blake Weidner*

FEB. 19: *Jonathan Eickhoff, Nick Helmer, Cameron Lappe, Owen Traylor*

FEB. 20: *Natalie Kassenbrock, Jaxson Kuester*

FEB. 21: *Stephanie Bates, Joyce Lewis, Julie Market, Conner Niemeier*

FEB. 17: *James & Shelly Ruedlinger*

FEB. 18: *Paul & Karen Stewart*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY



Please remember in your prayers several relatives of Sarah Kissel, her uncle *David Mohr*, her great aunt *Loretta Hoehn*, and her grandfather *Ollie Stoutland* and *Eileen Heerdink*, the cousin of Donna Blythe, Karla Deweese and Kelly Pennington. May God's peace be with all the members of her family.

Coming.....March 7 & 8, 2026



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. 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.

Liturgical Ministers

LECTOR (L) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)

WEEKEND OF FEB. 14-15: 5 PM (L) Jim Hermann, (EM) Mary Loehrlein, Carolyn Hutchinson, Donald & Brandon Werner 8 AM (L) Tom Blythe, (EM) Bryan and Ann Craney, Marcia Frey, Terry Drone 10:30 AM: (L) Chad Martin (EM) Debra Baumgart, Sally Kempf, Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig

WEEKEND OF FEB. 21-22: 5 PM (L) Sis Jarboe (EM) Diane Woods, Eric Reffett, Mary Loehrlein, Carolyn Hutchinson 8 AM (L) Chick Duncan (EM) Bryan and Ann Craney, Marcia Frey, Terry Drone 10:30 AM (L) Jane Scheller, (EM) Sally Kempf, Cecelia Koch, Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand

COMING THIS WEEK.....

- Women's Bible Study Friday 8:30-10 am
 - That Man is You Wednesday, at 5:30 pm
 - Foundations of Faith Wednesday at 6:30 pm
- For information contact Jessica Reckelhoff, 812-598-1151 or email jreckelhoff@evdio.org

Our first Lenten Fish Fry is coming up on February 27. Price for the dinners will be \$15. As we have done in the past, it will all be carryout dinners.

Once again we are calling upon people to help get things ready. Here's where you can help.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

7 AM: Cook the potatoes for the German Potato Salad. Meet at the storage building.

1 PM: Prepare ingredients for the potato salad and slaw Meet in the cafeteria

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26

7 AM Set out fish to thaw

1 PM Prepare the Potato Salad and Slaw Meet in the cafeteria

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27

1 PM Make the corn bread

3 PM Set up serving line

5-7 serve the carryout meals

6 PM Clean up begins

Check your emails for updates. You can also volunteer by calling the parish office (812-963-3273) or simply by showing at the various times help is needed.

INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US FOR A GREAT DINNER



SPECIAL COLLECTIONS AID FOR THE CHURCH IN EASTERN EUROPE

ASH WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 18

Since 1991, the collection has provided more than \$75 million to Catholics in post-communist Russia and Central and Eastern Europe, including communities in Ukraine. Visit their website: <https://www.usccb.org/committees/church-central-eastern-europe>

SUPPORTING BLACK AND NATIVE AMERICAN PARISHES IN NEED

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT FEBRUARY 22

The Black and Indian Mission Collection exists to help local African American and Native American Diocesan Communities throughout the United States. For more information visit their website: www.blackandindianmission.org



JOIN IN THESE AREA FISH FRYS

Feb 20— Holy Cross (Ft. Branch)

FEB. 20 & MAR. 6 Holy Redeemer

MAR. 13— St. Matthew's Mt. Vernon

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

In the nineteenth century, when millions of Europeans emigrated in search of better living conditions, two great saints distinguished themselves in the pastoral care of migrants: Saint John Baptist Scalabrini and Saint Frances Xavier Cabrini. Scalabrini, Bishop of Piacenza, founded the Missionaries of Saint Charles to accompany migrants to their destinations, offering them spiritual, legal and material assistance. He saw migrants as recipients of a new evangelization, warning of the risks of exploitation and loss of faith in a foreign land. Responding generously to the charism that the Lord had given him, "Scalabrini looked forward to a world and a Church without barriers, where no one was a foreigner."

Saint Frances Cabrini, born in Italy and a naturalized American, was the first citizen of the United States of America to be canonized. To fulfill her mission of assisting migrants, she crossed the Atlantic several times. Armed with remarkable boldness, she started schools, hospitals and orphanages from nothing for the masses of the poor who ventured into the new world in search of work. Not knowing the language and lacking the wherewithal to find a respectable place in American society, they were often victims of the unscrupulous. Her motherly heart, which allowed her no rest, reached out to them everywhere: in hovels, prisons and mines. In the Holy Year of 1950, Pope Pius XII proclaimed her Patroness of All Migrants.

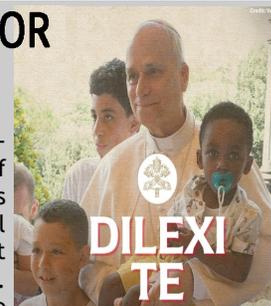
The Church's tradition of working for and with migrants continues, and today this service is expressed in initiatives such as refugee reception centers, border missions and the efforts of Caritas Internationalis and other institutions. Contemporary teaching clearly reaffirms this commitment. Pope Francis has recalled that the Church's mission to migrants and refugees is even broader, insisting that "our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. Yet these verbs do not apply only to migrants and refugees. They describe the Church's mission to all those living in the existential peripheries, who need to be welcomed, protected, promoted and integrated."

He also said: "Every human being is a child of God! He or she bears the image of Christ! We ourselves need to see, and then to enable others to see, that migrants and refugees do not only represent a problem to be solved, but are brothers and sisters to be welcomed, respected and loved. They are an occasion that Providence gives us to help build a more just society, a more perfect democracy, a more united country, a more fraternal world and a more open and evangelical Christian community." The Church, like a mother, accompanies those who are walking. Where the world sees threats, she sees children; where walls are built, she builds bridges. She knows that her proclamation of the Gospel is credible only when it is translated into gestures of closeness and welcome. And she knows that in every rejected migrant, it is Christ himself who knocks at the door of the community.

AT THE SIDE OF THE LEAST AMONG US

Christian holiness often flourishes in the most forgotten and wounded places of humanity. The poorest of the poor — those who lack not only material goods but also a voice and the recognition of their dignity — have a special place in God's heart. They are the beloved of the Gospel, the heirs to the Kingdom (cf. Lk 6:20). It is in them that Christ continues to suffer and rise again. It is in them that the Church rediscovers her call to show her most authentic self.

TO BE CONTINUED



JOINS US AT THE MEN'S CLUB MONTHLY MEETING--MONDAY, FEB. 16 AT 7 PM

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