



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDEBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

MARCH 22, 2026 THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

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

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and "St. Joseph School
Vanderburgh County"



Dear friends,

Having considered all things, be joyful. Quite a number of things to consider in the life of the parish. Lots of people helped with our annual fish fries (we did very well, serving 1570 dinners). Other folks are getting all our mowing equipment ready for mowing season on the parish campus. Other folks spent last Saturday getting the baseball

fields and concession stand all ready for the spring and summer baseball, softball and T-ball seasons. Along with this are the tasks of registering participants and getting the requisite number of coaches for each team. Meanwhile, another group of folks are preparing for our annual Easter Egg Hunt coming up on April 4th. People love this, especially the children and folks are happy to do the work involved, but it takes time and effort and making sure an endless list of items are taken care of.

Still other folks put together an evening of prayer and sacred music this past Friday. Our Haiti Ministry Committee has been hard at work preparing for our Caribbean Nights dinner, dance and auction on May 2.

Aside from all the classes, school lunches and extracurricular activities going on in school, this time of the year also involves planning for the next school year. That means getting staff members in place and planning budgets. That is never an easy thing as they try to juggle needs and wants with available financial resources. Doing the work of running a school gets more and more complicated with forms to fill out, tests to be taken, programs to be managed, and endless reports to make. It can be a bit overwhelming.

And then there are the folks who keep looking after all the buildings on our parish campus. Even with the small number of buildings we have, there is rarely a day that goes by that something does need taken care of—a toilet that needs fixing, a light switch that doesn't work, hot water systems that need to be fixed, air conditioning units that need constant maintenance and care—and the list goes on and on. All important work, to be sure. And people are always willing to offer their help which is great.

That is just some of the things that are going on in our parish. While all this is going, we hear everyday more news of wars especially in the Middle East, several countries in Africa and Ukraine. Wars involve people dying and most of them are women, children and the elderly. Buildings destroyed, infrastructure in shambles, all of which leaves people homeless and hungry. And there are, as well, the financial and health challenges that effect so many of our friends and neighbors.

Lots of things to consider, and having done so, be joyful. Why be joyful? This is not some naïve sentiment, a sort of "let's just look on the bright side of things." We are joyful because God promised to be with us always. That means God is with us in all the things we do and in the midst of all the things that cause us to be anxious and afraid. And the power and presence of God is great. As we read in the Gospel of John, the light (God) came into the world and the darkness did not overcome it. (John 1:5) As Julian of Norwich said, in the 1300's, all things will be well. If she could say this at a time when millions of people were dying because of the black plague, when England and France had been fighting a war for over a hundred years, and the Catholic church was in disarray with three men claiming to be Pope at the same time, surely we can say as well, "in the end all things will be well." So, having considered all things, be joyful." Leaning into the journey of life, Fr. Gene Schroeder

HAVING CONSIDERED
ALL THINGS.....



NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 29

GIVE BLOOD

GIVE LIFE

8 --NOON IN THE GYM



SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF

SEMINARIANS FOR MARY MOTHER OF
GOD MISSION IN VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00 PM MASS Ron Sorg, Tim Blandford, Infant Beckerle (1869), Anna Oshsner (1880), Maria Werner (1882), Maria (1907) & Paul Kissel, For all the people of our parish

SUNDAY, MARCH 22
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00 AM MASS: Margaret & Donald Kafel, August and Mary Seibert, Kevin Frey, John Reckelhoff, Bob and Mildred Weber, Clarence, Clem and Charlie Weber, Mary Seib, Kathryn Altstadt

10:30 AM MASS: Laurentius Denninger (1865), Caspar (1934) & Magdalena Hillenbrand (1934), George (1983) & Betty Duncan, Clarence (2000) & Reinildis Botzum (2000)

MONDAY, MARCH 23
WEEKDAY OF LENT

6:30 PM MASS: Charlotte (2016) & Elmer Schapker, Stan Schapker, Doug Schapker

TUESDAY, MARCH 24
WEEKDAY OF LENT

7:30 AM MASS: Infant Rexing (1884), Dennis Fehrenbacher (2017), Ted Kares (2019), Keith Jones (2023)

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25
THE ANNUCIATION OF THE LORD

7:30 AM MASS: Infant Fischer (1860), Marian Romadi (1870), Catharine Trunk (1878), Philip Titzer (1919), Gertrude Smith (1955), Herman (1967) & Esther Hartweck Sr., Allen Hartweck, Mary (1972) & Geroge Reising, Fr. Fred Niehaus (16th Pastor of St. Joe) (1992), Mildred (2019) & Clarence Rexing (2019)

THURSDAY, MARCH 26
WEEKDAY OF LENT

NO MASS: Sophia Drewis (1916), Infant Tepool (1916), Joseph Feudenberg (1931), Rosina (1939) & John Rexing

FRIDAY, MARCH 27
WEEKDAY OF LENT

7:30 AM MASS (RECTORY): Joseph Weiss, (1887), Anton (1913) & Elizabeth Schili, Rosa (1950) & John Schmitt, Bruce Woodward (2023), Bob, Imelda, Leonard & Robert Woodward

SATURDAY, MARCH 28
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

5:00 PM MASS: Nick Lannert, Catharine Hillenbrand (1902), Henry Rumade (1908), Lena (1957) & Valentine Schenk (1957), Jarrod Luigs (2024)

SUNDAY, MARCH 29
PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

8:00 AM MASS: Paul & Marlene Hasselbrinck, Stan & Sheryl Hasselbrinck, Mac & Ann Glasere, Bud & Sharon Werner

10:30 AM MASS: Jim & Delores Niemeier, Butch & Evelyn Raben, Lambert Rexing (1873), Bernard Tepoehle (1888), Mary Briel (1996), Norbert Niemeier (2024)



EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS.... we are inviting you to remember your loved ones at Easter. Please send your contribution along with the names of the people you want to remember to the parish office (through the collection or through the mail) by March 25th. Names will be published in the Easter Bulletin.



When Jesus heard about the illness of His friend, Lazarus, He responded, "This illness does not lead to death; rather it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." Every aspect of our lives—sufferings as well as our gifts—can, if surrendered to Christ, lead to blessing for ourselves and others.



STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

MARCH 15, 2026	\$ 28,882.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 15,350.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 549,758.96
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 567,950.00

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI	\$ 197.00
ST. VINCENT DePAUL	\$ 5.00
HAITI STUDENTS	\$ 1,216.66
HAITI SEWING HOPE	\$ 25.00
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES	\$ 1,325.00

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 RETIREMENT VILLAGE: *Anna Mae Gries, Jim Geiser*
CYPRUS REHABILITATION CENTER (NEWBURGH): *Steve Hasselbrinck*
RIVERWALK COMMUNITY: *Carl Kempf*
RIVER POINTE: *Beverly Jones*
HAMILTON POINTE: *Carolyn Pfaffman*
EVANSVILLE PROTESTANT HOME: *Mary Lou Davis*

MARCH 15: Cecelia & Sophia Costlow, Leo Elliott, Brad Elpers, Tate Kelly, Scotty Kirk, Ella Weber

MARCH 16: Barbara Angermeier, Tom Angermeier, Carol Fechtmeister, Reigns & Sterling Straus

MARCH 17: Josh Clem, Karen Hellenberg, Abby (Stratman) Like, Shane Wessel

MARCH 18: Chase Christie, Katelyn Mochau, Rachel Refenes, Charlie Voelker

MARCH 19: Matt Bishop, Don Kiesel, Jane Scheller, Emily (Seeger) Townsend

MARCH 20: Lindsey Mehlinger, Remington Rexing

MARCH 21: Shari Kempf, Kate Raben, Lesa Raben, Monica Voelker

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



COLLEGE CARE-PACKAGES

Join us as we support our college students by preparing a care package for them as they prepare for semester exams. College Care Packages are available in church today. Please return the care packages no later than Sunday, March 29. Thank you for your continued support of this project.

LENTEN COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICES

Wednesday, March 25th at 7 pm

Friday, March 27th —11:00 am

Come join us in prayer at these special Penance Services. We will be using reflections on the Stations of the cross as our examination of conscience.

Remember too, that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is also celebrated each Saturday from 4:00-4:40 pm Also anytime upon request. Call Fr. Gene (812-499-9074) to arrange a time that is convenient.



PARISH WIDE EASTER EGG HUNT

Saturday, April 4 at 9:30 am Rain or Shine

Open to children in 3rd grade or younger



Liturgical Ministers

LECTOR (L) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)

WEEKEND OF MARCH 21-22: 5 PM (L) Jim Hermann (EM) Diane Woods, Eric Reffett, Mary Loehrlein, Carolyn Hutchinson 8 AM (L) Josh Baehl (EM) Brian and Ann Craney, Marcia Frey, Terry Drone 10:30 AM (L) Shane Wessel (EM) Sally Kempf, Cecelia Koch, Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand

Koch, Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand

WEEKEND OF MARCH 28-29: 5 PM (L) (Special) (EM) Mary Kay Fehrenbacher, Donna Niemeier, Eric and Karen McDonald 8 AM (L) Special (EM) Chick Duncan, Lisa Cook, Rodney and Paula Baehl 10:30 AM (L) Special (EM) Jena Wessel, Rachael Schnaus, Becky Doshier, Steve Jung

COMING THIS WEEK.....

- Family Way of the Cross 5:30 pm
- 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



Join us for **CARIBBEAN NIGHTS** celebrating the culture and people of our sisters and brothers in Haiti. The evening includes a whole hog roast and an evening of dancing and fellowship. Included

with the evening is a chance to bid on some special items through a live and silent auction.

5:30 PM Social Hour

6:30 PM Dinner and Desserts

7:30-10:00 PM Dancing Live and Silent Auction

Attire Island Casual \$50/person \$400/Table of 8

RSVP by April 18. Tickets are limited and will be sold on a first come, first serve basis. Contact Eric (812) 618-5945 or Monie (812) 575-9167. Proceeds benefit our Haiti Ministry.

COME JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK

PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, March 28 5pm
Sunday, March 29 8 & 10:30am



HOLY THURSDAY
APRIL 2
PRAYER SERVICE WITH
CHILDREN—8 AM
PARISH HOLY THURSDAY MASS—7 PM

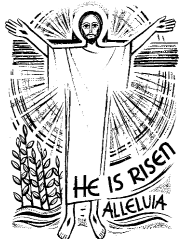


GOOD FRIDAY—APRIL 3

CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY SERVICES
8, 9 & 10 AM
PARISH GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE 7 PM



HOLY SATURDAY APRIL 4
EASTER MASS
AT NIGHT 7 PM



EASTER SUNDAY—APRIL 5
Masses at 8 and 10:30 am

CHILDREN'S EASTER CELEBRATION
FRIDAY, APRIL 10 7:30 AM

Please come and pray with us at any or all of these services. Please note as well the special Holy Week services with children.

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

Structures of sin that create poverty and extreme inequality

At Medellín, the bishops declared themselves in favor of a preferential option for the poor: "Christ our Savior not only loved the poor, but, 'being rich, he became poor.' He lived a life of poverty, focused his mission on preaching their liberation, and founded his Church as a sign of this poverty in our midst... The poverty endured by so many of our brothers and sisters cries out for justice, solidarity, witness, commitment and efforts directed to ending it, so that the saving mission entrusted by Christ may be fully accomplished."

The bishops stated forcefully that the Church, to be fully faithful to her vocation, must not only share the condition of the poor, but also stand at their side and work actively for their integral development. Faced with a situation of worsening poverty in Latin America, the Puebla Conference confirmed the Medellín decision in favor of a frank and prophetic option for the poor and described structures of injustice as a "social sin."

Charity has the power to change reality; it is a genuine force for change in history. It is the source that must inspire and guide every effort to resolve the structural causes of poverty, and to do so with urgency. It is my hope that we will see more and more politicians capable of sincere and effective dialogue aimed at healing the deepest roots — and not simply the appearances — of the evils in our world. For it is a matter of hearing the cry of entire peoples, the poorest peoples of the earth.

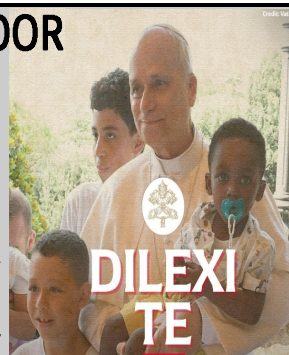
We must continue, then, to denounce the dictatorship of an economy that kills, and to recognize that while the earnings of a minority are growing exponentially, so too is the gap separating the majority from the prosperity enjoyed by those happy few. This imbalance is the result of ideologies that defend the absolute autonomy of the marketplace and financial speculation. Consequently, they reject the right of states, charged with vigilance for the common good, to exercise any form of control. A new tyranny is being born, invisible and often virtual, which unilaterally and relentlessly imposes its own laws and rules.

There is no shortage of theories attempting to justify the present state of affairs or to explain that economic thinking requires us to wait for invisible market forces to resolve everything. Nevertheless, the dignity of every human person must be respected today, not tomorrow, and the extreme poverty of all those to whom this dignity is denied should constantly weigh upon our consciences.

In his Encyclical *Dilexit Nos*, Pope Francis reminded us that social sin consolidates a "structure of sin" within society, and is frequently part of a dominant mindset that considers normal or reasonable what is merely selfishness and indifference. This then gives rise to social alienation. It then becomes normal to ignore the poor and live as if they do not exist. It then likewise seems reasonable to organize the economy in such a way that sacrifices are demanded of the masses in order to serve the needs of the powerful. Meanwhile, the poor are promised only a few "drops" that trickle down, until the next global crisis brings things back to where they were.

A genuine form of alienation is present when we limit ourselves to theoretical excuses instead of seeking to resolve the concrete problems of those who suffer. Pope John Paul II had already observed that, a society is alienated if its forms of social organization, production and consumption make it more difficult to offer the gift of self and to establish solidarity between people.

TO BE CONTINUED



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