



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDEBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

MARCH 29, 2026 PALM SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION

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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SCHOOL

6130 W. Saint Joseph Road
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PRAYER REQUESTS

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Dear friends,

Wars continue in our world, despite pleas to end them. War has a very strange logic to it that makes sense to those involved but seems completely insane to those who look on from a distance. In his book, *To End All Wars*, Adam Hochschild, describes one such event. It seems that in the early years of WW I, England was in desperate need of binoculars which could help their soldiers better aim their guns and cannons. Unfortunately, the one country that could supply binoculars was Germany. Undaunted by the fact that Germany was the country they were fighting, representatives from England approached the German manufacturers of binoculars, who, incredible as it may seem, agreed to sell them thousands of pairs. Germany, it seemed, needed something for their war effort as well, and that was rubber. They needed it for such things as tires, fan belts, and telephone wire. The Allied blockade was preventing Germany from getting this raw material. England, however, agreed to ship tons of rubber to Germany in exchange for the binoculars. Strange, but true

What is one to make of this and what, if anything does this have to with our faith journey. Reading this story reminds me of the absurdity of life. There is much about life that is confusing and just doesn't make any sense. Sometimes we want God to make sense out of it. We ask "Why does God allow things to happen in life." God is not some grand manipulator of human events. One of the great images we revere in our faith is Jesus hanging on the cross. Scripture tells us that he was crucified, with arms outstretched, between the good thief and the bad thief. I think this was Jesus way of embracing everything in life—the things that are good and bad, the things that made sense and that remain a mystery. He embraced it all. His death on the cross reminds us that He can take the most absurd and seemingly useless things in life, and use them to bring life. Nothing in life is wasted, Everything belongs.

There are lessons for us to learn as we embrace our faith journey. First, God is in all the events of our life, or as one spiritual writer has put it "God comes to us disguised as our life." Second, God uses everything in life to teach us and invite us to grow in our faith. And he especially uses the things that make the least sense to us and the things we are most embarrassed by and even ashamed of. That challenges us to embrace especially the painful and confusing events of our life. Third, God invites us to sit with mystery in life, to be able to live with things that don't have easy answers or even any answers at all. He invites us to be comfortable with saying "I don't know" while trusting the God is making everything work out for everyone!

Something for all of us to think and pray about as we enter this Holy Week.

Leaning into the journey of life,

Fr. Gene Schroeder



BLOOD DRIVE TODAY



8 --NOON IN THE GYM



SPECIAL COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND
TO SUPPORT THE EDUCATION OF

SEMINARIANS FOR MARY MOTHER OF
GOD MISSION IN VLADIVOSTOK, RUSSIA

THE POET THINKS ABOUT THE DONKEY



On the outskirts of
Jerusalem
the donkey waited.
Not especially brave,
or filled with
understanding,
he stood and waited.

How horses, turned out

into the meadow leap with delight!
How doves, released from their cages,
clatter away, splashed with sunlight.

But the donkey,
tied to a tree as usual, waited.
Then he let himself be led away.
Then he let the stranger mount.
Never had he seen such crowds!
And I wonder if he at all imagined
what was to happen.

Still, he was what he had always been:
small, dark, obedient.

I hope, finally, he felt brave.
I hope, finally, he loved the man
who rode so lightly upon him,
as he lifted one dusty hoof
and stepped, as he had to, forward.

—Mary Oliver

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

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 Glaser, Bud & Sharon Werner
10:30 AM MASS: Fran Happe, im & Delores Niemeier, Butch & Evelyn Raben, Lambert Rexing (1873), Bernard Tepoehle (1888), Mary Briel (1996), Norbert Niemeier (2024)

MONDAY, MARCH 30

MONDAY OF HOLY WEEK

6:30 PM MASS: Sr. Diane Fischer, OSB, Rosina Scholau (1868), Joan Will (1869), Infant Salzmann (1874), Leo Bender (1891), Rose (1955) & John Kraft, Carl Elpers (1967), Jeanette (2001) & Orville Hall

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

TUESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

5:30 PM CHRISM MASS AT ST. BENEDICT: Caroline (1950) & Frank Goebel, Mary (1965) & Charles Alsop, John (1993) & Leota Effing (1993)

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1

WEDNESDAY OF HOLY WEEK

7:30 AM MASS: Henry Hoefling (1889), Josephina Adler (1904), Josephine (1974) & Henry Niemeier, Patricia (1974) & John Kissel, Francis Kormeling (1982), Janice (2017) & Bill Kempf, Albert (2021) & Aletha Vollman, Sr.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2

HOLY THURSDAY MASS OF THE LAST SUPPER

8:00 AM CHILDREN'S HOLY THURSDAY PRAYER SERVICE

7:00 PM HOLY THURSDAY MASS: Otila (1964) & Henry Baehl, Leo (1975) & Alice Hillenbrand, Nancy (2019) & Lawrence Gumbel

FRIDAY, APRIL 3

GOOD FRIDAY OF THE LORD'S PASSION AND DEATH

8, 9, & 10 AM CHILDREN'S GOOD FRIDAY PRAYER SERVICES

7:00 PM GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: Francis Rexing (1858), Paul Will (1875), Verena Mayer (1918), Janet Englert (1972), Wilbur (2015) & Marian Fehrenbacher, Loretta (2020) & Daryl Whelan

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
 EASTER MASS AT NIGHT

(NB) **7:00 PM:** Easter Flower Memorial Names, Valentin Meyer (1881), Herman Hassing (1889), Van Thomas (1953), Elizabeth Williams (1997)

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
 EASTER SUNDAY OF THE LORD'S RESURRECTION

8:00 AM: Easter Flower Memorial Names
10:30 AM: Easter Flower Memorial Names: Theresa Beckerle (1877), Bernard Ulrich (1887), Henry Will Sr. (1890), Elisabeth Muhs (1905), Josephina (1969) & Joseph Goebel (1969)



"Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord!" shout the crowds in today's Gospel. May we be always ready to share our blessings when we are sent in His name!



STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

MARCH 15, 2026	\$ 10,961.82
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 15,350.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 560,720.78
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 583,300.00
CHILDREN'S COLLECTION	\$ 5.00
MAINTENANCE	\$ 20.00

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

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

HAITI	\$ 108.30
ST. VINCENT DePAUL	\$ 5.00
HAITI FOOD	\$ 666.00
HAITI SEWING HOPE	\$ 75.00
VLADIVOSTOK MISSIONS	\$ 20.00

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 29: Erin Zirkelbach

MARCH 30: Mary Lou Davis, Wesley Dick, Ellie Luigs, Ellyson Fehrenbacher, Linda Kempf, Paul Murray

MARCH 31: Sr. Bridget Arnold, OFM

APRIL 1: Jack Dalrymple, Evan Hurlbut, Kevin Pennington, Morris Schiff

APRIL 2: Ryan Fehrenbacher, Zach Geodde, Mmeken Nitewo, Michelle Reffett

APRIL 3: Jordan Elpers, Luke Fehrenbacher, Michael Jung, Parker Kuester, Katherine Roemke

APRIL 4: Debra Daugherty, Linda Englert, Jennifer Fehrenbacher, Ashley Gaiser,

Susan Helmer, Jena Lutz, Joe Lutz
 APRIL 4: Fred & Judy Gries



COME JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE HOLY WEEK

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
 Pray with us at any or all of these times.
 Please note as well the special Holy Week services with children.

Liturgical Ministers

LECTOR (L) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)

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

WEEKEND OF APRIL 4-5 7 PM (L) Tom Blythe (EM) Butch and Linda Feulner, Sis & Katie Jarboe 8 AM (L) Marcia Frey (EM) Darlene Appler, Kylie Frey, Stephanie Frey, Jalane Weber, Bryan & Ann Craney, Lisa Cook 10:30 AM (L) Chad Martin (EM) Shane Wessel, Debra Baumgart Al Debes, Angie Will

COMING THIS WEEK.....

- 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



PARISH WIDE EASTER EGG HUNT

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

Open to children in 3rd grade or younger



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



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.

SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR THE HOLY LAND ON GOOD FRIDAY



Pope Leo asks us to support the annual Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the church minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, and offer religious education. The Pontifical Good Friday Collection also helps

to preserve the sacred shrines.

The ongoing military intervention of Gaza by Israel has made life particularly difficult for the Christian community of Jerusalem which is located in the West Bank. In these times of crisis it is difficult to meet the basic needs of the People of God still living in this Land where the Church was born. When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land.

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



We need to be increasingly committed to resolving the structural causes of poverty because society needs to be cured of a sickness which is weakening and frustrating it, and which can only lead to new crises. Welfare projects, which meet certain urgent needs, should be considered merely provisional responses. I can only state once more that inequality is the root of social ills. Indeed, it frequently becomes clear that, in practice, human rights are not equal for all.

As it is, the current model, with its emphasis on success and self-reliance, does not appear to favor an investment in efforts to help the slow, the weak or the less talented to find opportunities in life. The same questions keep coming back to us. Does this mean that the less gifted are not human beings? Or that the weak do not have the same dignity as ourselves? Are those born with fewer opportunities of lesser value as human beings? Should they limit themselves merely to surviving? The worth of our societies, and our own future, depends on the answers we give to these questions.

Either we regain our moral and spiritual dignity or we fall into a cesspool. Unless we stop and take this matter seriously, we will continue, openly or surreptitiously, to legitimize the present model of distribution, where a minority believes that it has the right to consume in a way which can never be universalized, since the planet could not even contain the waste products of such consumption.

One structural issue that cannot realistically be resolved from above and needs to be addressed as quickly as possible has to do with the locations, neighborhoods, homes and cities where the poor live and spend their time. All of us appreciate the beauty of those cities which overcome paralyzing mistrust, integrate those who are different and make this very integration a new factor of development! How attractive are those cities which are full of spaces which connect, relate and favor the recognition of others! Yet, at the same time, we cannot fail to consider the effects on people's lives of environmental deterioration, current models of development and the throwaway culture. For the deterioration of the environment and of society affects the most vulnerable people on the plane.

All the members of the People of God have a duty to make their voices heard, albeit in different ways, in order to point out and denounce such structural issues, even at the cost of appearing foolish or naïve. Unjust structures need to be recognized and eradicated by the force of good, by changing mindsets but also, with the help of science and technology, by developing effective policies for societal change. It must never be forgotten that the Gospel message has to do not only with an individual's personal relationship with the Lord, but also with something greater: "the Kingdom of God" is about loving God who reigns in our world. To the extent that he reigns within us, the life of society will be a setting for universal fraternity, justice, peace and dignity. Both Christian preaching and life, then, are meant to have an impact on society. We are seeking God's Kingdom.

We find a reflection that remains timely today: The defenders of orthodoxy are sometimes accused of passivity, indulgence, or culpable complicity regarding the intolerable situations of injustice and the political regimes which prolong them. Spiritual conversion, the intensity of the love of God and neighbor, zeal for justice and peace, the Gospel meaning of the poor and of poverty, are required of everyone, and especially of pastors and those in positions of responsibility. The concern for the purity of the faith demands giving the answer of effective witness in the service of one's neighbor, the poor and the oppressed in particular, in an integral theological fashion.

TO BE CONTINUED



THIS WEEK'S MOWING CREW: TEAM 3



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