



SAINT JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDERBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

SEPTEMBER 6, 2026 THE TWENTY-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

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SCHOOL

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PRAYER REQUESTS

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Vanderburgh County"



Dear friends,

If today you hear God's voice, harden not your hearts. Those are the words we hear in the scripture readings for today. Where will you hear God's word. Turns out just about everywhere. I heard it this week in a reflection from Kate Bowler, an associate professor of American religious history at Duke University, a bestselling author, and a podcast host known for her honest writing on faith, suffering, and human resilience. Here is some of what she said:

I recently read Lincoln's Melancholy, which is essentially a very sad book about a very sad—and very beloved—president. But what I loved learning about Lincoln is that he was a tragic realist. He knew from experience that suffering transforms us, though not always for the better. We are shaped by what we survive, by our limitations and peculiarities, by the things we wish had gone differently. We become particular people in these impossibly hard-won ways. AI offers a very different vision. It optimizes. It makes us efficient. It removes friction and corrects every mistake. It promises to smooth out so many of the irritating limitations of being human. Sounds tempting, doesn't it?

But I keep wondering what gets lost in the process. Because we are not robots. And, if that wasn't obvious to you yet, just look around. We live among other imperfect people who disappoint us, misunderstand us, make terrible choices, refuse to change, and occasionally become the person holding up the entire boarding process because they somehow forgot they needed identification.

We have to learn how to live in a world we cannot perfect. But—and here is where things get uncomfortable—not everything can be filed under the category of things we can't control. Sometimes the problem is us. Sometimes we knew better. Sometimes we caused the harm, made the choice, looked away, or handed over a responsibility that belonged to us.

Which brings me to the much less charming question of who's to blame. What does it mean to love people we can never fully know? We can know someone's coffee order, their weird habits, the movie they will watch for the four-hundredth time—and still have absolutely no idea what is going on inside their head.

And this is where the story gets deliciously complicated: everyone seems to be carrying around at least a little bit of the blame. There are no obvious heroes or villains, which sounds like every family I know.

Most family wounds are made up of overlapping failures: what one person did, what another person failed to notice, what someone knew but didn't acknowledge. Everyone has their own version of what happened. Everyone has something they wish they could undo. Together, we all begin to wonder: how do we live in the aftermath of something we cannot fix?

When something terrible happens, we desperately want to know how it happened, why it happened. Who was responsible. What we can do differently so that nothing like it ever happens again. Sometimes we get answers. Sometimes we don't.

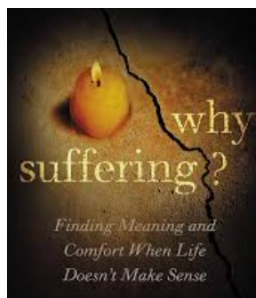
And that's where we're beginning with a new season of the Everything Happens podcast: with conversations about what we do when there is no neat explanation, no clean resolution, no way to make the past add up differently.

You can access Kate Bowler's Everything Happens Podcast through our parish website (stjoeco.org/online-resources) Click on the "Kate Bowler Everything Happens Podcast."

Leaning into the journey of life,

Fr. Gene Schroeder

P.S. This coming Monday is Labor Day. Please note that we will have mass on Monday morning at 7:30 rather than our usual time of 6:30 pm. Because it is a holiday, we will not be having Eucharistic Adoration. However, our church will be open all day so you can come by anytime to spend some time in prayer.



CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5
TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM MASS: Fran Happe,
Joann Schoenstein, Jim & Eve
Geiser, Gene & Marianne Ritter,
Matilda (1965) & Martin Ritter, Ida Dewig (1980), Lamar Mont-
gomery (1995)

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM MASS: Joe Shown, Christian Berneking, Ottis Collier,
Joe & Winnie Schu, Susanna & Martin Hasenour, Susanna,
Roth, Anton Stull

10:30 AM MASS: Gilbert & Rose Adler, Gilbert & Josephine
Adler, Jacob & Pauline Moers, Clem & Rosalie Kirchoff, Dom-
ino Wolf (1868), Ana Marie Brorman (1870), John Erbacher
(1879), Anna Rexing (1891), For all the people in our parish

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NB: 7:30 AM MASS: Robert Witting (1884), Leo Helfrich
(1894), Paula Koch (1973), Evelyn (2000) & Walter Weis
Norma Maurer (2012), Susan Smith-Tyring (2019)

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8

BIRTH OF MARY

7:30 AM MASS: Ernest, Mary Ann & Rose Ann Rasche, Ludovi-
cus Brack (1880), Alberta French (1985)

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

ST. PETER CLAVER

7:30 AM MASS: Louise Frey, Maria Wernet (1881), Marian
(1990) & Bill Elpers, Ella Kijonka (1993), Mel Luigs (2018)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

NO MASS: Joseph Schenk (1871), Elisabeth Bender (1924),
Bill (2012) & Marian Elpers, Goeffrey David (2019) George
David

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

WEEKDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

7:30 AM MASS: Barbara Erbacher (1881), Hildebrandus Frank
(1882), Francis Forstel (1886), Joseph (1923) & Katherine Hil-
lenbrand, Clement Ritter (1973), Chris Clem (2020)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00 PM MASS: Betty White, George Recker, Andreas Laugel
(1878), Andrea Burgart (1891), Joseph (1995) & Katherine
Schenk, Maria Weiss (1872), Philip Frehaut (1875), For all the
people in our parish,

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 AM MASS: Janet Zirkelbach, Sr. Madona Helmer, OSB,
Sr. Catherine Madigan, DC, Joan
Niemeier, Robert & Margie
Harpenau, Dean & Alex
Trowbridge, Carlos Romero

10:30 AM MASS: Frank Happe,
Bob & Charles Shull, Ivan & Ethel
Shull, Junior & Catalina Shull,
Henry Werner (1871), Barbara
Martin (1876), Alphons (1958) &
Irma Baehl, Dina (1968) & Joseph
Ritter, Raymond Steckler (1977),
Judith Jones (2002)



THIS WEEK'S MOWING

CREW: TEAM 1



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STEWARDSHIP: *The Lord's Way*

Am I my sister & brother's keeper? All three
readings today suggest that for the Christian
steward the answer is "Yes!"



AUGUST 30, 2026	\$ 8,510.00
WEEKLY BUDGET	\$ 15,350.00
TOTAL INCOME TO DATE	\$ 105,860.00
BUDGET TO DATE	\$ 138,150.00

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

SVDP FOOD PANTRY	\$ 40.00
HAITI FOOD FUND	\$ 80.00
HAITI STUDENTS	\$2,800.00
VLADIVOSTOK MISSION	\$ 195.00

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to our parish and to our outreach ministries.

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

HERITAGE: Brenda Koester, Jack Fleegeer

HOLIDAY RETIREMENT VILLAGE: Anna Mae Gries

RIVERWALK COMMUNITY: Carl Kempf

NEWBURGH HEALTHCARE: Carolyn Pfaffman

SEPT. 6: Tom Barron, Don Baumgart,

Mike Elpers, Peter Fehrenbacher

SEPT. 7: Kay Arnold, Grace McClarney,

Riley Wqninger, Matthew Willis

SEPT. 8: Dorothy Stratman

SEPT. 9: Emma Dewig, Wil Kirk, Ryan McCauley, Jake Schiff,

SEPT. 10: Ava Backas, Zoey Gates, Jenna Johnson,

Silas Nisley, Karen Stewart

SEPT. 11: Jim Harl, Carolyn Huchison, Matthew McDonald,

Agnes Reckelhoff, Greg Shuble, Amy Stewart

SEPT. 12: Dean Altman, Charlotte Altstadt, Andrea Backas,

Bob Fehrenbacher, Dave Schmitt

SEPT. 13: Pauline Elpers, Juliet Gibson, Alyius Howe,

Ima Ntewo, JD Wargel, Todd Wingert

SEPT. 8: Tom & Clara Raben

SEPT. 9: Chad & Alison Martin

SEPT. 10: Tom & Sarah Glaser,

Evan & Stephanie Freeman

SEPT. 11: Dan & Mary Ruth Lasher

SEPT. 12: Al & Janet Debes, Joe and Mary Mayer (75 Years!)

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



Children's Liturgy



BEGINNING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20,
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



CARING FOR OUR
COMMON HOME

From contemplating creation and encoun-
tering its creator, there arises an awareness
of our particular place within God's wondrous
plan, and of the responsibility that we bear
both personally and collectively for preserv-
ing the original harmony, Let us pray for the
conversion of many people, inside and out-
side of the church, who still do not recognize
the urgency of caring for our common home.
Pope Leo

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

Let's remember in our prayers, Rodney Baehl and
Tom Blythe and the other members of the Cursillo team
who will be leading the Cursillo weekend for thirty two
men this coming Thursday through Sunday. May it be a
fruitful weekend for everyone.



Liturgical Ministers

LECTOR (L) EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 5-6 5 PM (L) Toni Askins (EM) Eric & Karen McDonald, Butch & Linda Feulner 8

AM (L) Tom Blythe (EM) Tom & Dolores Folz, Imogene Baehl, Michael Elpers 10:30

AM (L) Shane Wessel (EM) Jena Wessel, Steve Jung, Al Debes, Angie Will

WEEKEND OF SEPTEMBER 12-13 5 PM (L) Sis Jarboe, (EM) Diane Woods, Eric Reffett, Peter & Jodi Fehrenbacher 8 **AM (L)** Terry Drone, (EM) Randy & Kathy Fehrenbacher, Austin & Ryan Frey 10:30 **AM (L)** Chad Martin (EM) Jane Scheller, Diane Bassemier, Danielle Welage Doris Taylor

INTERESTED IN BECOMING CATHOLIC?

Come join us as we explore what it means to be part of our Catholic Faith Tradition. We will meet on Tuesday, Sept. 22nd at 6:30 PM in the school meeting room.

FOUNDATIONS OF THE Faith

This fall we will continue to learn about the Catechism of the Catholic Church using *The Foundations of Faith*. There will be 10 sessions starting on Wednesday, September 16th at 6:45 pm in the St. Joe school meeting room. If you would like to join in, we have books available, please contact Paula Baehl (812-598-9056)



"That Man Is You" men's group will continue to meet this fall beginning on Wednesday, September 16th at 5:30 pm in the school meeting room. The year's focus: Journey from fear to fearless worship, from a lifeless corpse hanging on the cross to an empty tomb, from Apostles hiding in the upper room to proclaiming the risen Lord to the ends of the earth! Beginning with Christ to the Apostles, to the Apostolic Fathers, to the men of our day, Contact Rodney Baehl, (812-598-9062) for more information.

Mater Dei Parents Rooted in Prayer is a new prayer community that will gather one Friday each month to pray for Mater Dei's school staff, students, faculty and families. All parents, grandparents, friends and faith denominations are welcome to join. Meetings will start with 7:30 am Mass at Sacred Heart, and prayer meeting to follow. The first Friday will be September 11. The prayer outline will be shared after each meeting so those who cannot make it can still pray with the group on their own time. Contact Jessica Kassenbrock jkas-senbrock@evdio.org or join in GroupMe using this QR Code.



COME CHECK OUT THESE UPCOMING SOCIAL/EVENTS

St. Wendel—September 12-13
St. Mary (Ireland)—September 13
St. Bernard (Snake Run)—September 13

This week we continue reading Pope Leo's letter (encyclical) *Magnifica Humanitas: On the protection of the human person in the age of artificial intelligence*

SEEKING THE COMMON GOOD

The Second Vatican Council affirmed that the common good consists in the sum total of social conditions which allow people, either as groups or as individuals, to reach their fulfillment more fully and more easily. This definition provides us with a valuable initial reference point, because the common good cannot be reduced to a mere list of conditions or institutions. It is not the sum total of individual benefits, nor the intersection of their particular interests; it is a greater good that belongs to everyone, and it can only be achieved, nurtured and protected by our collective efforts. We can say that social action reaches its fullness when it is directed toward this shared good, just as a person's moral action finds its fulfillment in the choice of the true good.

In this sense, we can say that the whole is greater than the sum of its parts and that, for this very reason, the mere sum of individual interests is not capable of generating a better world for the whole human family. Indeed, it is an illusion to think that simply pursuing one's own progress without caring for others is sufficient for contributing to the good of all. This view ignores the inherent and specific value of the common good, which is the result of an "interdependence" that creates a network of social good that expands and has an impact on people. The common good is a "plus," the result of interaction and mutual influence that connects various actions, initiatives, efforts and decisions. If we were to add up the individual goods, we could not explain the existence of this "plus" that transcends them and, at the same time, enriches them.

It is the pursuit of the common good that gives life to a people, understood not as a mere collection of individuals, but as a living reality in which people learn to recognize that they themselves are interconnected and jointly responsible for the *res publica*. In this sense, every person contributes to the building up of one's people through a slow and arduous effort calling for a desire for integration and a willingness to achieve this through the growth of a peaceful and multifaceted culture of encounter. Working together for the common good means having a shared vision. It is clear that there are many ideological and practical differences among people, as well as differing interests and frequent disagreements, but that does not mean it is impossible to engage in dialogue to establish a set of basic agreements that enable the creation of a shared vision, upon which everyone can move forward together.

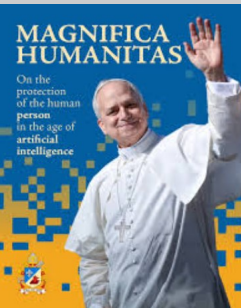
It is the State's responsibility to ensure cohesion, unity and the proper organization of civil society, so that the common good can be pursued with everyone's contribution. In practical terms, this means that public authorities have the delicate duty to harmonize the different sectoral interests with the requirements of justice, seeking a balance between individual interests and the common good, without leaving behind the most vulnerable. When politics abandons a long-term perspective and reduces itself to short-term calculations or sterile polarizations, then the language of the common good loses credibility, and, at the same time, social inequalities and divisions grow.

This also applies to international politics. As the divide between nations widens, a mentality of confrontation and aggression begins to take hold, and the difficult path toward a more united and fraternal world suffers new and painful setbacks. In this context, speaking of a shared journey toward a more just development for the entire human family sounds like madness. Yet we must not lose hope. I invite everyone to conceive of ways of cooperating and of more effective international institutions, capable of safeguarding the global common good without compromising the legitimate diversity of peoples and nations. Indeed, the promotion of the common good can never be separated from respect for the right of peoples to exist, to preserve their own identity and to contribute their unique qualities to the family of nations. [84] Moreover, any attempt or plan to eliminate or subjugate a nation is gravely immoral and therefore unacceptable.

THE PRINCIPAL OF THE UNIVERSAL DESTINATION OF GOODS

Among the numerous implications of the common good, immediate significance is taken on by the principle of the universal destination of goods. First of all, this principle reminds us that the earth's goods — soil, water, air and natural resources — are given by God to the entire human family to sustain the lives of all, and that every person has an inherent right to the use of such goods, both now and in the future.

TO BE CONTINUED You can read the whole document at <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/encyclicals/documents/20260515-magnifica-humanitas.html>



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